



Friends of Mt. Tabor Park (FMTP)
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February 2020

TO: PORTLAND MAYOR and CITY COUNCIL: Ted Wheeler, Mayor and Commissioners JoAnn Hardesty, Chloe Eudaly, and Amanda Fritz

PORTLAND PARK and RECREATION: Adena Long, Parks Bureau Director; Todd Lofgren, Deputy Director; Maximo Behrens, Recreation Services Division Manager; Scott Domine, Parks East Zone Manager; Tonya Booker, Stewardship Coordinator and Nature Manager; Andre Ashley, City Nature East Manager; Michael Oliver, Natural Area East Supervisor; Steve Pixley, Volunteer Manager; Vicente Harrison, Security and Emergency Manager

PORTLAND POLICE: Jami Resch, Police Chief; Tashia Hager, Commander, East Precinct; Adi Ramic and Ryan Mele, District officers, East Precinct

PORTLAND OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AND CIVIC LIFE: Suk Rhee, Director

SOUTHEAST UPLIFT (SEUL): Leroy Eadie, Executive Director

PORTLAND WATER BUREAU: Michael Stuhr, Director

OREGON LEGISLATORS: Alissa Keny-Guyer, District 46 Representative; Michael Dembrow, District 23 Senator

OTHER: Kris McDowell, Editor, Southeast Examiner; Andrea Cook, WarnerPacific University; Neighborhood Associations: Laura Smith, MTNA; Duane Hanson, STNA; Board address NTNA Board; Louise Hoff, MONTAVILLA.

FRIENDS OF MT. TABOR PARK, ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2019

From the Board of FMTP: Martrese Beck, Web master and coordinator; Rachel White, treasurer; Laura Mason, secretary; Gil Wistar, parks coordinator, newsletter editor; Bing Wong, liaison with MTNA; Dennis Puetz, Foot Patrol; Suzanne McCarthy, membership chair; Annie-Crispino-Taylor; Tar'n'trail; Linda Fogerson, communications committee chair; Hannah Dondy-Kaplan, city coordinator; Mary Kinnick, Weed Warriors. Ex officio, Lise Gervais, Dave Hillman, Randy Lawler.

Friends of Mt. Tabor Park Annual Report for the year 2019

February 2020

The Friends of Mt. Tabor Park are pleased to present our report of activities and outstanding events of 2019. The Friends continue to work with city agencies, neighborhood associations, and other community groups. To contact FMTP you may phone 503-512-0816 or email taborfriends@gmail.com. Visit the website at www.taborfriends.org to learn more about the organization.

FMTP Board

The Board members for 2019 are:

Martrese Beck
Anne Crispino-Taylor
Hannah Dondy-Kaplan
Linda Fogerson
Mary Kinnick
Laura Mason
Suzanne McCarthy
Dennis Puetz
Rachel White
Gil Wistar
Bing Wong

Friends of Mt. Tabor Park Purpose Statement

The purpose of the organization shall be to improve and/or help maintain Mt. Tabor Park for the benefit of individuals, organizations and the Park Bureau of the City of Portland, to identify and solve problems, and to fund and participate in park projects. FMTP also offers programs to educate the public about the park's ecological health, and its unique geological and rich cultural history. Finally, FMTP works with Portland Parks and Recreation (PP&R), the Mt. Tabor Neighborhood Association, and other neighborhood, community, and user groups to monitor park use and operation, support effective management and maintenance of the park, and the vision and goals of the Mt. Tabor Park Master Plan, dated January 2000.

Special Awards and Memberships

The Friends' Annual Meeting was held in Copeland Commons (Mt. Tabor Presbyterian Church) on Tuesday, March 12. We were pleased to recognize Pat Morgan as Friend of the Year. She was instrumental in keeping many aspects of the organization running smoothly for a number of years. Mary Kinnick received a special award for spearheading a campaign which raised more than \$100,000 to help support a part-time coordinator for the Weed Warriors. Rotating off the Board were Isabel Johnson, treasurer and Chris Olinger, liaison with Portland Parks and Recreation officers. Newly elected to the Board were Linda Fogerson, Rachel White, and Gil Wistar.

FMTP Advocacy Role

Bing Wong is our representative on the Mt. Tabor Reservoirs Preservation Project, which meets monthly with representatives from Mt. Tabor Neighborhood Association, FMTP, city officials representing the Portland Water Bureau, an official from Portland Parks and Recreation, plus an at-large member. FMTP continues to be a member of the Intertwine Alliance, a coalition of public, private, and nonprofit organizations working to integrate nature more deeply into the Portland-Vancouver metropolitan region. Dave Hillman is the chair of the Citizens Advisory Council for SE Portland which meets monthly to work with the Portland Police Bureau.

Volunteer Efforts and Accomplishments

Volunteers in three main branches of activity in the Friends - the Foot Patrol, the Weed Warriors, and staffing the Visitor Center spend thousands of hours working in and for our park. In addition, the time spent plus the time in meetings attended and administration adds hundreds more hours. Examples of these are 839 hours for the Foot Patrol, 2565 hours for the Weed Warriors, and 90 hours for the Membership record-keeping.

Foot Patrol - Dennis Puetz, Coordinator

Annual Report for Foot Patrol for Year 2019

The Foot Patrol (FP) had another successful year in 2019 keeping the park clean and orderly; we are focused on creating a safe environment with our presence in the park. There are important updates on FP operation in 2020, so please read further. 2019 became a new standard for Foot Patrol. Since late 2017, the park has reached a trash-free status. Visitors to the park can see & experience this, and are doing their part to keep it clean. I am very proud of this achievement! We plan to continue this high level of cleanliness, with almost every foot patrol receiving compliments from visitors, such as: "thanks for cleaning up the park;" "you are

awesome;” “thanks for what you do;” or “this is the cleanest park in the city.” FP volunteers are motivated to keep up the great work they do, and as a result, Mt. Tabor Park is immaculate!!

FP continues to find a certain amount of graffiti, campers, and dogs off leash, but I am glad to say there are fewer needles/syringes than in previous years. Smartphones are being used frequently to report problems to Portland Parks’ website Parkscan.org, and to communicate with park employees and management.

2019 also saw eight new people join the Foot Patrol.

This year the Trails Committee was busier than in any previous year. Ten trail & tree posts were made, repaired, or reinstalled. (The posts were originally installed in 2009.) This work is very time consuming and difficult. As a result, the FMTP Board approved the hiring of a carpenter to help maintain the posts. The carpenter’s focus is making, repairing, and installing trail & tree posts as directed by the Trails Committee. (See the companion article in this issue of Tabor Times about our new carpenter, Steve Slusarski.)

These Foot Patrol members have adopted a trail: *Red Trail: Ellen Simmons*; *Blue Trail: Dave Beltz*; *Green Trail: Steve Bingold*.

TOP Foot Patrol volunteers for 2019, based upon patrols completed are:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Patrols during 2019</u>
Dennis Puetz	65
Steven Bingold	45
Terrence E.Jenness	31
David Beltz	30
Beau Russell	28
Glenn Kayes	25
Ellen Simmons	14
Joe Mealey	12
Glenda Fay Chaite	8
Gayle & Bunny Marechal	8
Julia Smith	7
Stasia Honnold	7
Donna French	6
Bridget Stollfus	5
Ellen & Jim Simmons	4
Joel Stibbe	4
Kristen Hope	2
Dave Fogerson	2
Beau & Nancy Russell	2
Patricia Morgan	2
Nancy LaPaglia	2

Jacob Rose	1
Kristin Jackson	1
Adriane Puetz	1

Foot Patrol stats for 2019

Total number of members at end of 2019: 63 (email list)

Total patrols by members: 318

Total volunteer hours for foot patrol members: 839

Total number of foot patrols since year 2000: 4,823

Dennis Puetz

Foot Patrol Coordinator

Friends of Mt. Tabor Park

taborpatrol@gmail.com, 503-819-3662

FMTP Visitor Center Report for 2019, Dave Hillman, Chair

2019 has been another very successful year, thanks to the 13 motivated and dedicated volunteers who staffed the Visitor Center (VC) throughout the calendar year. They allowed us to be open between 3 and 6 hours a day, for 313 days throughout 2019! With more volunteers, more days being open, and more hours per day, a record 12,138 visitors came through the door during the year!

The VC has really become a critical landmark for those seeking maps, information, directions, or wanting to buy cards, posters, magnets, hats, shirts, or other items available for sale and/or a donation. Some visitors come in to report a problem or seek an item they lost; we do collect an array of lost keys, glasses, clothing, wallets, phones, jewelry, etc., and are delighted when we can reconnect such items with their true owners. (See also the article in this issue on the Park's Lost & Found program.)

Of course, we also have our four-legged visitors, and love when they come and visit, especially those who consider the VC a main stop on their walk in the park. Dogs seem to have an uncanny knack for finding exactly which drawer contains treats. It's also interesting to hear stories about dogs showing up at the VC door, only to find it closed. That's always a r-r-ruff experience for the pooches, since they came primarily for their treat and – doggone it – no one was home!

Note that we can always use more volunteers, especially those already connected to the park in some way, such as FMTP members! The VC is a fabulous place to meet, greet, and welcome people, whether they're local or visitors from another state or country. We welcome all new volunteers, if only for an hour or two each week or month; it's a fun and rewarding experience to meet our park visitors, be they adults, children, or hungry pets.

FMTP 2019 Weed Warriors Report

January 2020

Lise Gervais, Volunteer Program Coordinator

The Friends of Mt. Tabor Park's Weed Warriors continue to improve the park's ecological health by removing invasive species, planting native plants, and encouraging the many wonderful volunteers who come out each month to help us with this mission. In 2019 we removed invasive vegetation manually from Units 1, 2, 8, 14, and 15, and planted native plants in Units 8 and 15.

Emily Lytle, in her role as Stewardship Coordinator, continues to do a terrific job coordinating projects, and guiding Crew Leaders and other volunteers with enthusiasm and skill. Total volunteer hours for 2019 were 2,565, compared to 2,422 in 2018; 2,106 in 2017; 1,650 in 2016; 2,056 in 2015; 2,345 in 2014; 2,001 in 2013; 1,870 in 2012).

Last-Saturday events

Total volunteer hours for Last Saturday of the month stewardship events in 2019: 1,480 hours, compared to 1,558 in 2018; 1,516 in 2017; 1,282 in 2016; 1,340 in 2015; 1,157 in 2014 and 381 in 2009 when regular WW reporting started.

An average of 58 people volunteered at Last-Saturday events, compared to 61 in 2018; 59 in 2017; 53 in 2016; 54 in 2015; 36 in 2014; 32 in 2013; 42 in 2012; 37 in 2011; and 27 in 2010.

The Nature Conservancy/PP&R/Weed Warrior event in October went very well. Traditionally our biggest work party of the year, 150 volunteers attended this one, including 15 Crew Leaders. Plans are in the works to continue this annual tradition.

Crew Leaders continued to give generously of their time to help ensure other volunteers were comfortable, safe and appreciated. Between 9 and 16 participated at each event. A big Thank You to Dick Anderson for again volunteering himself and his pickup truck for Last-Saturday events.

Crew Leader trainings were held in February and March, both at the Visitor Center and in the field. Training included: 1) history of the park; 2) origins of Friends of Mt. Tabor Park; 3) plant identification; 4) tool safety; and 5) effective and inclusive ways to work with volunteers. New Crew Leaders were paired with seasoned Crew Leaders during stewardship events. We continued to see volunteers returning and becoming regulars.

We've been joined in our efforts by many volunteers who come to our events as individuals, with friends and family members, and from groups such as ADT, Blueprint Foundation, Boy Scouts Troop 432, Childpeace Montessori, Cleveland High School Honor Society, Franklin High School Key Club, Franklin High School AVID, Lincoln High School Honor Society, Point B, Portland State University Sustainability Group, and Warner Pacific University.

Special events

In addition to working at our eight Last-Saturday events, several Crew Leaders also participated in special work parties. These included two middle school groups from Bridger K-8, 20 groups from Franklin High School, a group of 85 students from Madison High School, 30 students from Portland Adventist High School, and a 4-H group from Columbia County.

In September, we again participated in Warner Pacific's Common Day of Service. Despite the heavy rain, students and staff cheerfully removed a large amount of invasive blackberry, and untangled bindweed from young trees and native shrubs in Unit 2.

In late September, invertebrate data was collected at Mt. Tabor Park as part of a district-wide high school science project. With a permit from Portland Parks & Recreation, biology students from Franklin High School sifted through soil samples and recorded all invertebrates that emerged. The data was uploaded to the iNaturalist app, where entomologists identified the invertebrates. This is expected to be an annual project that may provide interesting data on the kinds of creatures living in the park – especially in areas with ongoing restoration work.

Donations

Bipartisan Café donated coffee for our Last-Saturday events. RainOrShine Coffee House donated coffee and New Seasons market on SE Hawthorne donated lunch for Crew Leader trainings.

Looking forward

For the upcoming Weed Warrior Season, Stewardship Coordinator Emily Lytle has been developing work plans with our Portland Parks liaison David Grandfield and ecologist Steve Lower. These plans are responsive to the park's overall ecological goals.

This year's Crew Leader training will take place on Saturday, Feb. 29, from 9am to noon. If you or anyone you know is interested in attending or have any questions, please contact Emily Lytle at emily.fmtp@gmail.com. Our first stewardship event is on Saturday, March 28, 9am – noon.

Challenges for 2020

Making the best use of a finite number of volunteer hours, and impressing upon volunteers how much we value their efforts and accomplishments.

Finding more ways to inform the community about continuing volunteer opportunities at Mt. Tabor Park.

Continuing to reach out to people of ethnic, racial and cultural groups who have traditionally not been included in mainstream conservation efforts.

Continuing effort will be needed to remove invasive species re-starts, and to engage in early detection and removal of opportunistic introduced plants.

Planning alternative stewardship activities for dry summer months when yellow jackets and rock-hard soil are a concern. Some community science projects, such as monitoring Western red cedars in the park, might be a good alternative.

With the high level of climate anxiety that many people are feeling, participating in climate action by improving the park's health can be helpful. We try to convey to our volunteers that their efforts can bring better air and water quality to the whole city. I continue to be impressed with and grateful for all volunteers who devote their time and take such great care of the park – and park visitors who appreciate how special Mt. Tabor is.

FMTP Tar 'n' Trail Run Report

January 2020

Annie Crispino-Taylor, coordinator

2019's Tar 'n' Trail benefit run was held on September 29th, and although it was chilly and wet, and might have deterred some folks, many let their Mt. Tabor spirit shine. This year, we saw a turnout of 90 race participants, as well as more than 15 volunteers, and many local businesses donated goods for the post-race raffle. With the support of our community and participants, the race raised \$1,400 for FMTP.

A special shout-out to families who ran together! One family even traveled long distances to get to Tar 'n' Trail, with parents making the journey from Huntington Beach to run the race with their daughter, who traveled here from Seattle. We're honored by those who made Tar 'n' Trail a destination race!

Bakrin Ajibade and Mara Kramer placed first in the men's and women's 5K races, and Alan Teo and Leah Brown placed first in the 10K. Thank you to everyone who made it to Tar 'n' Trail 2019! Your ongoing support helps us maintain our trails and keep the park beautiful. The 2020 race is tentatively set for Sunday September 20, pending permit approval. For more information, please go to www.runannie.net.

FMTP Communications Committee Report

January 19, 2020

In 2019, FMTP created a Communications Committee to help us encourage visitation to Mt. Tabor Park, better connect with our members, raise awareness of the good work FMTP does, and

grow our membership base. Four Board members volunteered to serve: Martrese Beck, Hannah Dondy-Kaplan, Linda Fogerson, and Rachel White.

All previously established communication activities will continue. These include our quarterly newsletter Tabor Times (compiled and edited by Board member Gil Wistar), articles in the Southeast Examiner, our website (<https://www.taborfriends.org/>, maintained by Martrese Beck), email account (taborfriends@gmail.com), and social media pages (Facebook, Instagram). In addition, the committee decided to start using Constant Contact, an email marketing platform that makes mass email communication easier and more consistent. Since we started using Constant Contact, we have sent monthly or bimonthly email “blasts” to members about upcoming events in the park. In addition, we used the platform to supplement our paper-based year-end membership drive. We believe more frequent communications and the ability to remind members to renew and donate online was a significant factor in our membership renewals increasing by 47 percent this year. Constant Contact e-blasts are now reaching over 350 people regularly, allowing us to communicate with our membership and volunteers at significantly lower cost and increased frequency than using direct (snail) mail. Special thanks go to Board member Linda Fogerson and our Communications Intern Caitlin Lyons for taking on the job of getting Constant Contact up and running and providing content.

FMTP Treasurer’s Report for 2019, Rachel White, Treasurer

January 2020

Friends of Mt. Tabor Park got a lot accomplished in 2019, and we continue to maintain a sound financial base to fund our volunteer stewardship activities in Mt. Tabor Park. This report summarizes our fiscal year, including the establishment of our stewardship fund, our budget planning efforts, and our income and expense totals for the year.

We started 2019 with a bank balance of \$39,602 and ended with \$37,762. Notable expenditures in 2019 included the purchase of Directors and Officers insurance for Board members (\$1,042), and we also printed 10k revised tree brochures (\$2,593) and 25k newly redesigned trail maps (\$2,063), both of which are available free to all at the Visitor Center.

Oregon Community Foundation (OCF) Stewardship Fund

In 2018, the FMTP Board authorized a special fundraising campaign to ensure the sustainability of the FMTP Weed Warrior program and increase the ecological health of the park. The fundraising efforts resulted in a deposit of over \$100,000 to serve as our endowment. Fundraising ended in 2019. In 2020, the Board will begin taking annual distributions of \$4,400 from the fund to pay our Weed Warrior Coordinator’s salary. Our intention is that the

distributions from the OCF fund will cover approximately 2/3 of the annual salary for this position, which is our biggest expenditure.

Budgeting

The Board held a special budget working session on October 24, organized by Linda Fogerson, to establish a process for prioritizing how we spend our resources. Attended by a majority of the Board, the two-hour meeting included discussion of the vision and goals of FMTP, a review of our past accomplishments in the park, and a presentation of FMTP's spending history and income for the last five years.

Based on our anticipated annual expenditures and income, the group came up with a ranked "wish list" of spending projects. We organized the project list into independent projects (which we could do without Portland Parks and Recreation funds), partnership projects (which would require funding and permission from Parks and Rec), and visionary projects (which might require many years to accumulate the required funds). Additional discussion included setting spending caps for each of the core stewardship programs (Foot Patrol, Weed Warriors, Visitor Center).

Income and expenses

2019 was a record year for total donations from individual members, bringing in \$13,997. That's 47% more than 2018! This was the fifth year in a row we increased membership dues and donations.

The Visitor Center continues to pay for itself, but with a relatively small overall profit margin. In 2019, the Visitor Center bought and sold approximately \$4k more than in 2018.

This year's annual Tar 'N' Trails race brought in \$1,400, in spite of rainy weather on race day.

Friends of Mt. Tabor Park Statement of Income and Expenses for year ending December 31, 2019 (not including the funds raised and expended for the endowment fund):

<u>Income</u>	<u>Dollars</u>
Individual membership dues	2,730
Donations	12,596
Visitor Center product sales	8,854
Tar 'n' Trail Run	1,400
Total Income	25,580

<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Dollars</u>
Weed Warrior Program	6,847
Foot Patrol Program	1,037
Visitor Center products	9,469

Administrative expense	1,756
<u>Park projects</u>	<u>3,247</u>
Total Expenses	22,355
<u>Net Income:</u>	<u>\$3,225</u>

Net assets as of December 31, 2019:

US Bank:	\$ 37,762.00
Oregon Community Foundation:	\$ 117,041.00

Membership Report, Suzanne McCarthy, Membership Chair

Our Friends of Mt. Tabor Park organization has begun the New Year with enthusiasm. The renewal drive which began in November 2019 has been very successful and we have a number of new members as well. The ease of signing up through the website has caused many people to sign up or renew that way, reducing the number of actual checks received. If you wish to sign up through the website, visit www.taborfriends.org/membership and click the “Join FMTP” button.

This past year the Friends made a move for more continuity in our address by obtaining a box for our mailing address. Our new mailing address is: FMTP, 4110 SE Hawthorne Blvd, #312, Portland OR 9214. This should provide a constant address on brochures or when needing to reach us by mail.

The year 2019 closed with a healthy membership of 169 people. This compares favorably with 118 members for 2018.

Although basic membership is \$15 per annum per household, many people generously donate more than the minimum. Those who give \$25 or more are placed on our honors list, with giving levels named after trees in the park. For 2019, the numbers of donors in each group are as follows:

- Linden: \$25 to \$49.99: 32
- Red Leaf Maple: \$50 to \$99.99: 29
- Red Alder: \$100 to \$249.99: 36
- Madrone: \$250 to \$499.99: 9
- Sequoia: \$500 and up: 4

Other Services

- * FMTP has a website (www.taborfriends.org) and a Facebook page, ably maintained and updated by Martrese Beck.
- * The annual potluck picnic was held on September 10th in the park. Organized by Laura Mason, open to the public, this event was enjoyed by 'Friends' and visitors alike.
- * Sales of clothing with the FMTP logo at the Visitor Center are managed by Randy Lawler. The line includes shirts, sweatshirts, and ball caps with embroidered logos.

Publicity

Many thanks to those who make sure that the Friends' news reaches the public:

- * Editor Kris McDowell of the *Southeast Examiner*
- * Martrese Beck, Friends Website and Facebook Page manager
- * Emily Lyttle, Weed Warrior Facebook Page

Improvements and Accomplishments

- * The lamppost on the south front of the mountain was replaced by Portland Parks and Rec.
- * The Friends contributed to the installation of a sign directing park visitors to the nearby restrooms near the main parking lot.
- * A new product, a laser-cut ornament depicting an evergreen tree, was a big success at the Visitor Center. A second design, depicting the Mt. Tabor lamppost, is in the works.
- * Thanks to the good works of Pete Botke, owner of Bud's Expert Tree Care, the caldera wall is cleaned of excessive plant growth, and is now clearly visible from the amphitheater area. Thanks are also due to Jan Caplener, who graciously gave financial support to the project.
- * A membership survey, completed by Gil Wistar, identified the most critical improvement needs in the park. The Board is currently developing a summary report of priority needs that will be shared with members and PP&R staff and will guide FMTP resource expenditures.

Special Challenges

Although the park's stewards, both professional and volunteer, diligently work to keep the park in good condition, maintaining generally high standards of cleanliness and attractiveness, there are always problems, many of which are long-standing. These include:

The beautiful and iconic lampposts, 90 in all, are still in need of replacement, a high cost item.

The roads in and around the park are in terrible shape, not only unpleasant but also unsafe. Some roads are park roads and others belong to the City, which creates confusion and delay in conducting repairs. Although this is clearly a high cost item, it should be a high priority one.

Off-trail biking and the creation of 'bandit', or un-authorized, trails continue to be a problem.

Several other vehicle-related problems demand attention. Controlling car prowls and break-ins continues to be important. In addition, keeping drivers from driving down the hillside north of the main parking lot to exit after hours must be a priority. This damages the hillside, the sidewalk on Yamhill Street, and annoys the local residents.