

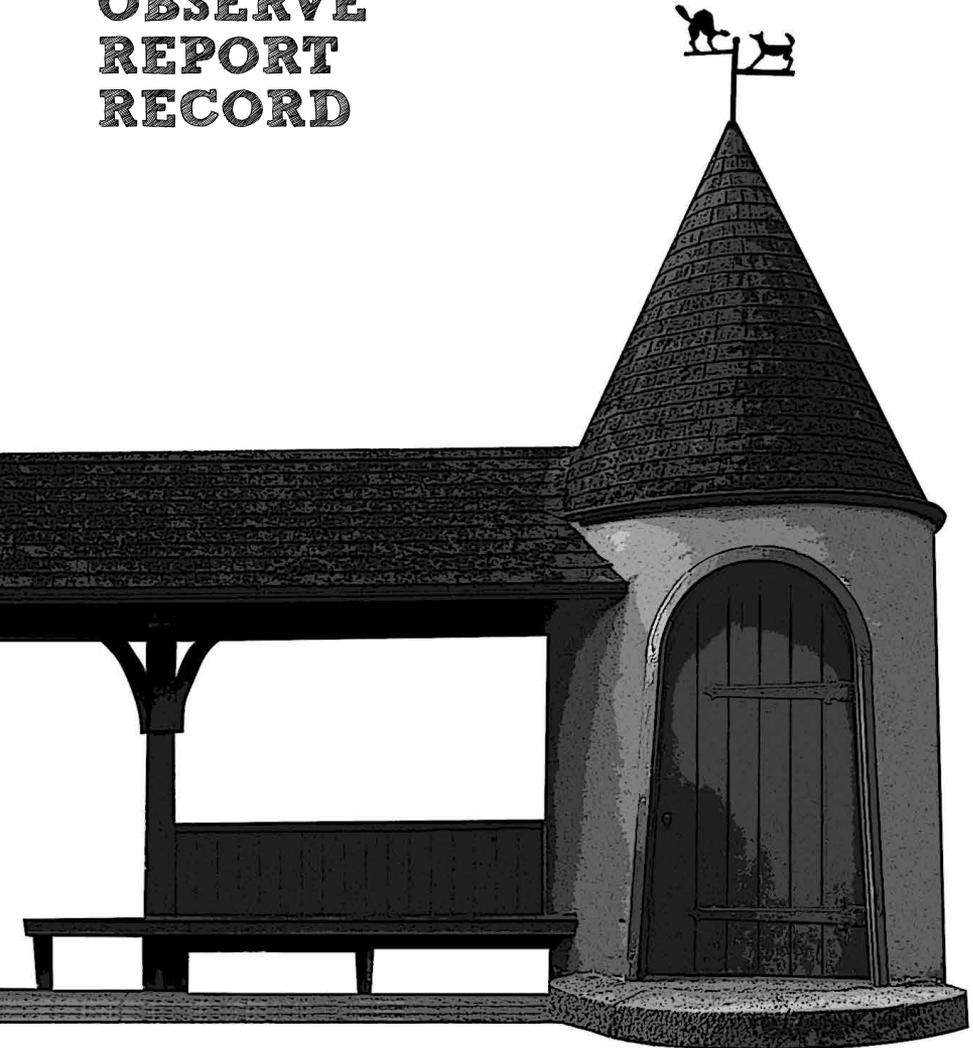


FRIENDS OF
MT. TABOR
PARK

Mt. Tabor Foot Patrol

New Members' Guide Book

**OBSERVE
REPORT
RECORD**



taborfriends.org

The History of Mt. Tabor Park Foot Patrol

The Mt. Tabor Foot Patrol started in the summer/autumn of 2000 when several members completed the foot patrol training program offered by the Office of Neighborhood Involvement (ONI). The first patrols took place in December 2000.

The patrol was a branch of the newly-formed Friends of Mt. Tabor Park (FMTP), which conducted five service projects and one meeting that first year. Always seeking new ways to get members involved, the founding members felt foot patrols would add a strong visibility within the park and increase the partnership with park officials. A strong partnership developed soon thereafter and continues to this day. The park offered a storage room (“the hut”) available for Foot Patrol use and created a fenced area for the tools. Patrol members retrofitted the hut to accommodate their needs, adding shelves, bulletin boards, and a coat rack for hanging the new patrol vests supplied by ONI.

Since its inception, the patrol has grown from the initial seven member team to its current membership of 50+. The patrol has been recognized by the city and state as being a model for other grassroots organizations wanting to take part in the care of their neighborhood parks. We serve as ambassadors of the park and liaisons between the park users and the park agencies charged with maintaining the facility.

What We Do

The main functions of the Foot Patrol are to walk the park in pairs and pick up trash, report problems, answer questions, and serve as a visible Friends of Mt. Tabor Park presence in the park. Our motto is “Observe, Report, Record.”

Before patrolling, inspect the kiosk in the parking lot. See if any fliers are past due and need to be removed. Check the lucite brochure boxes for inventory and replenish as needed. Keys to the cases are on the bulletin board in the hut.

A map on the bulletin board inside the hut indicates the different sections of Mt. Tabor Park. Informally, we attempt to cover all sections as often as possible. Use the map as a guide to help plan your patrol. Also, review

recent entries in the log book on the counter for notes on areas recently covered and, if possible, choose an area that has not been visited recently.

Trash pickup is an important element of our duties. Keeping the park tidy is appreciated by everyone. Trash strewn about the grounds contributes to an abandoned and neglected feel, which none of us encourage. Please use the trash pickup sticks and deposit recyclable materials (cans, bottles) in the appropriate containers, many of which are found throughout the park including in front of the kiosk.

Unfortunately, our trash duties sometimes involve collecting discarded IV needles. Individual needle disposal containers are available and should be taken on patrol. Any needles found should be deposited into the large red medical waste container on the shelf in the hut. We also ask that volunteers bring the “FMTP” and “Off-leash Dog Park” business cards to hand out to visitors. They’re in boxes on the shelf in the hut.

Patrolling the park often involves interactions with visitors, though we take special measures to avoid confrontations. Most of our contact with park users comes in the form of answering questions and giving directions. Approaching a park user who does not have his/her dog on a leash outside the off-leash area, and reminding them of the location of the off-leash area, is encouraged but not mandatory. If you have doubts about approaching someone, then simply do not.

Graffiti must be noted and reported. Make a note of the location in the log book and either report the incident online to www.pdxreporter.org or contact park maintenance employees. Photos of graffiti and other park damage are extremely helpful, and they can be uploaded on the pdxreporter.org website. Log in with the Foot Patrol username: `footpatrol`, password: `FmtpFootPatrol#`. Use our Grid Map to determine the location in the park. The Grid Map is on the wall in the hut.

At the end of each patrol, add notes to the log book, including the names of the members on that day’s patrol, observations, number of dogs on and off leash, and any incident requiring contact with outside agencies.

How to Get Started

Contact Steve Bingold (see page six) for an orientation patrol. Registering for subsequent patrols can be done online via our Google account or by contacting us via the information on page six. To schedule a patrol online via our Google calendar, go to gmail.com and sign in with the email: taborpatrol@gmail.com. Contact the Foot Patrol leader for the password.

If you are an existing Gmail user, sign out of your personal account first. The calendar is for scheduling patrols and allows members to see who else is patrolling. You may want to join them; if so, use the Foot Patrol Roster to let them know. If you don't have a partner, sign up, and enter the time/day so someone else can partner up with you. More detailed instructions are available from the Calendar Coordinator; see page six for contact information.

Off-Leash Dog Area

The off-leash dog area is located on the south side of the park adjacent to the Warner-Pacific College campus. If you encounter a visitor with a dog off leash outside this area, and if the opportunity feels safe, offer the owner a Dog Off-leash info card (found on the shelf in the hut) and direct them to the off-leash dog area.

Other Foot Patrol Opportunities

One of the mainstays of summer in the park is free concerts in the caldera each Tuesday evening in July. Foot patrollers proudly assist in many ways at the concerts. We assist with setup, parking, directing visitors, making sure dogs are not taken into the caldera, and directing those needing special parking to the appropriate lot.

We are an arm of the FMTP. FMTP conducts a Winter Meeting in March when new board members are elected, reports about the year's events are delivered, and a guest speaker presents. Foot patrollers often volunteer to assist with setup for the meeting.

We encourage our Foot Patrol members to support the Friends of Mt. Tabor Park Weed Warriors, who volunteer with invasive plant removal on the last Saturday morning of the month from March–October. This dedicated group needs help with removing invasive plants, obstructing

access to illegal bike or pedestrian trails, and helping with other maintenance work. More information can be found on our website taborfriends.org.

There are two social events each year to celebrate the hard work and accomplishments of our members. Foot Patrol assists with the FMTP summer potluck picnic in the park each August, which is open to all Friends of Mt. Tabor Park. We encourage the general public to bring a dish and join us to learn more about what we do. In addition to the summer picnic, the Foot Patrol hosts a holiday potluck in December, which is exclusively for Foot Patrol volunteers and their families.

For those interested in learning more about the many species of trees in the park, volunteer Bob Rogers offers free Tree I.D. walks on the third Sunday of every month (year 'round, rain or shine). Meet at the Visitor Center at 2:00. Becoming more familiar with park trees may come in handy if asked for such information by visitors while on patrol.

Thank you!

Welcome to the Foot Patrol. If you have any questions or suggestions, don't hesitate to contact us; we are glad to help and we greatly appreciate your support of Mt. Tabor Park!

Map of Mt. Tabor Park



DIRECTORY

FMTF CONTACTS:

Coordinator and Calendar

Dennis Puetz
taborpatrol@gmail.com

New Member Orientation

Steve Bingold
taborpatrol@gmail.com

OUTSIDE AGENCIES:

Park Ranger Office Telephone: (503) 823-1637

Portland Parks & Recreation Public Safety Manager: (503) 823-1637

To report graffiti and non-emergency infrastructure problems, please log in and upload photos to www.parkscanpdx.org.

PORTLAND POLICE BUREAU

Police Emergency: 9-1-1

Fire Dept.: 503-823-FIRE

Portland Police Non-emergency: (503) 823-3333

Gang Hotline (Police/GET): (503) 823-4264

East Precinct: (503) 823-4800

OTHER USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS

City of Portland Abandoned Auto Hotline: (503) 823-7309

City of Portland Graffiti Reporting Line: (503) 823-4824

Multnomah County Animal Services (emergencies): (503) 248-3790

PP&R Park Maintenance Office - Johannes Venghaus: (503) 823-8223

Project Response (mental health): (503) 827-0335



**PORTLAND
PARKS & RECREATION**

Healthy Parks, Healthy Portland



Revised September 2022