The Portland Water Bureau restored the geyser fountain at Reservoir 6 to operation in 2006.

Portland Water Bureau
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Randy Leonard, Commissioner
David G. Shaff, Administrator

Water Bureau Security: 503-823-6084
General information: 503-823-7404

Portland Water & Sewer Utilities Customer Services:
503-823-7770

Website: portlandonline.com/water
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Daily Blog: www.portlandonline.com/water/blog

To help ensure equal access to City programs, services and activities, the City of Portland will reasonably modify policies/procedures and provide auxiliary aids/services to persons with disabilities. Call 503-823-7404 with such requests.

City TTY: 503-823-6868

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Mt. Tabor Park
RESERVOIRS

PORTLAND WATER BUREAU
FROM FOREST TO FAUCET

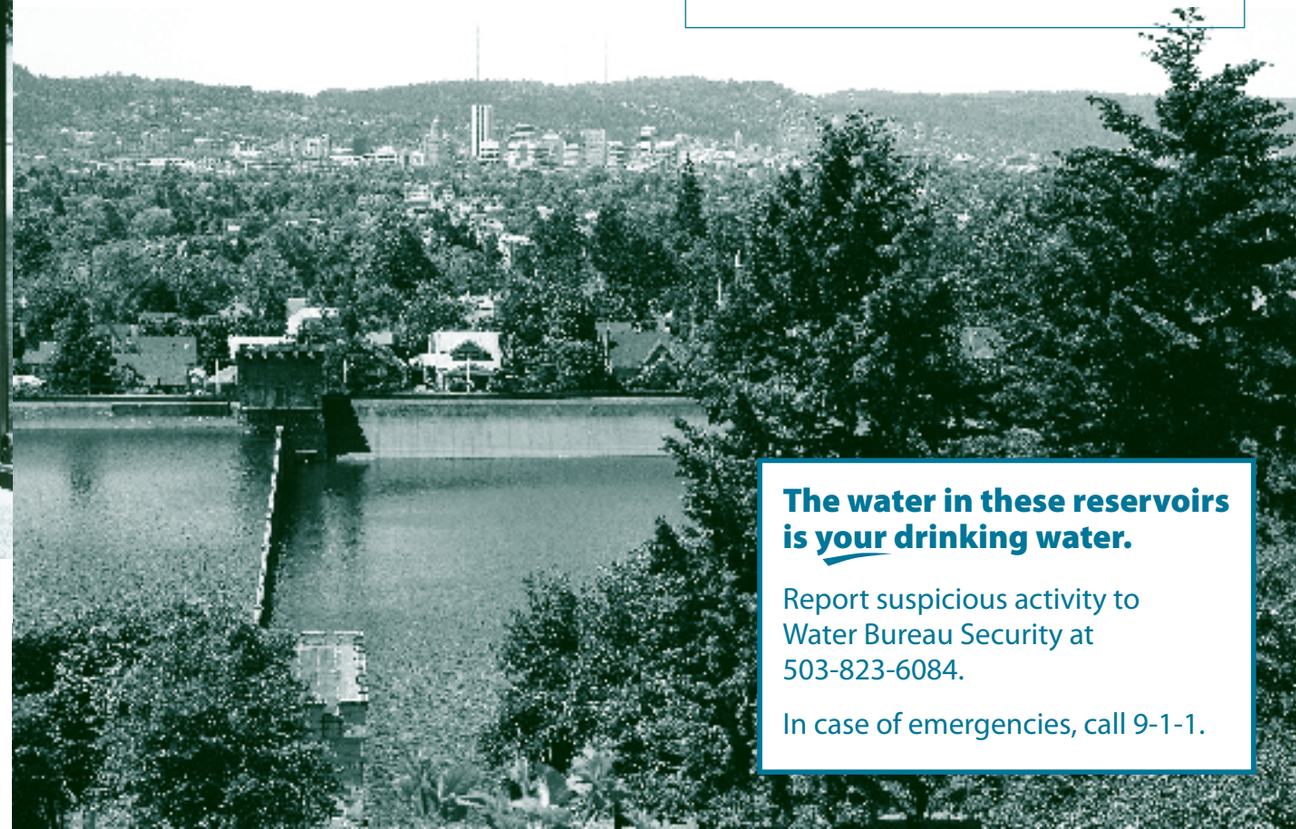
Mt. Tabor Park's three drinking water reservoirs are tranquil backdrops for views of the park and the city skyline. Trails and walkways near the reservoirs offer vistas in several directions.

Portland has five open drinking water reservoirs — three at Mt. Tabor (Reservoirs 1, 5, and 6) in southeast Portland and two (Reservoirs 3 and 4) at Washington Park on Portland's west side. Reservoir 2, which was at the corner of SE 60th Avenue and Division, no longer exists.

These reservoirs represent the combination of elegant design and function. The Mt. Tabor Park reservoirs are part of a historic district listed in the National Register that includes gatehouses, wrought-iron fences, walkways, lampposts, and reservoirs.

RESERVOIR FACTS

- Finished drinking water flows through these reservoirs to serve large portions of Portland on both sides of the Willamette River. The Portland Water Bureau's Control Center monitors flows to make sure there is adequate water to fight fires, provide reliable supply (including during hot weather high-demand periods,) and to provide water that is cold, fresh, and clean at your faucet.
- The Portland Water Bureau cleans every open reservoir twice a year.
- The water temperature varies between 35˚ and 50˚ F.
- Though the gatehouses appear to be made of rock, they are actually concrete. The Romanesque-style gatehouses harmonize with the contours of the reservoirs.



The water in these reservoirs is your drinking water.

Report suspicious activity to Water Bureau Security at 503-823-6084.

In case of emergencies, call 9-1-1.

Reservoir 1 is nestled at the top of the southern flank of Mt. Tabor Park. It fills what was once a natural small ravine. Water from this reservoir flows to the distribution system and Portland's west side.

During an economic depression, construction laborers worked for $1.50 a day. The first water flowed into the reservoir from the Bull Run Watershed on January 2, 1895. The Oregonian (1895) described its walkway as "…one of the most popular promenades in the city during the evenings of the warmer months of the year."

The Gatehouse: The wall surface gives the impression of being stone blocks, but it is hammered and tooled concrete made according to a Ernest Leslie Ransome patented construction method.

Construction date: 1894
Capacity: 12 million gallons
Maximum depth: 32 feet
Walking circumference: .2 mile

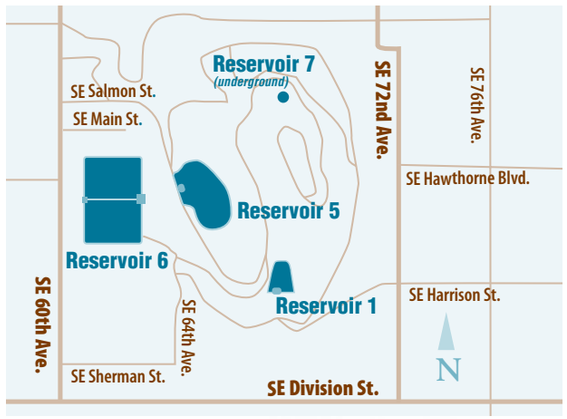
Reservoir 5 is a kidney-shaped reservoir partway up the slope on the western flank of Mt. Tabor built in 1911. About 14 million gallons a day flow from Reservoir 5 to Reservoir 6. Since 1985, the Portland Water Bureau has generated hydroelectric power from this water flow to power lights and equipment at Mt. Tabor. Any excess electricity is sold to PGE. In 1998, the Portland Water Bureau installed a flexible liner in the reservoir to reduce leakage and conserve water.

Construction date: 1911
Capacity: 49 million gallons
Maximum depth: 39 feet
Walking circumference: .4 mile

Reservoir 6 is located below and to the west of Reservoir 5 and parallel to SE 60th Avenue. A wall separates this rectangular reservoir into north and south basins. The Portland Water Bureau only fills one basin at a time to ensure water freshness and switches the basin in use every six months, following reservoir cleaning. This reservoir serves lower elevation areas on Portland's east side. The water pressure from Reservoir 5 feeds the fountain geyser in the active basin of the reservoir. The Portland Water Bureau turns off the fountain during severe winter weather or as reservoir operations require.

Construction date: 1911
Capacity: Each of the two basins can hold up to 37 million gallons.
Maximum depth: 17 feet (to the top of the dividing wall)
Walking circumference: .53 mile

Reservoir 7 is a covered, underground tank built in 1912 with a capacity of 200,000 gallons.




Reservoir 1, 1894

Historical View of Mt. Tabor

Although they were once a common engineering design, open drinking water reservoirs in the United States like the five in Portland's Mt. Tabor and Washington Parks are now unique. Most were constructed between the 1890s and the early 1940s. Only a few dozen remain in operation.


Reservoir 6, 1910


Reservoir 5, 1910


Building forms for Reservoir 6, 1910


Reservoir 5, 1910


Reservoir 6, 1911


Reservoir 6, 1912