

2009 Annual Report

Friends of Mt. Tabor Park (FMTP)

The 2009 *Annual Report for Friends of Mt. Tabor* identifies significant accomplishments as well as challenges. FMTP strives to build strong relationships with all of the different city agencies and our other “friends.” Thank you for your past support, and we look forward to future discussions on ways we can help to better serve the public in Mt. Tabor Park. The current FMTP chair may be reached on the FMTP cell phone: 503-512-0816 or a message may be left via email at taborfriends@gmail.com. Our web site is: www.taborfriends.org

FMTP Purpose

FMTP was founded by interested citizens in early 2000 with the completion of the Mt. Tabor Park Master Plan. FMTP is a 501(3) non-profit organization.

The purpose of FMTP “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 participate in park projects. FMTP works with the Park Bureau, 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 January 2000 Mt. Tabor Park Master Plan” (FMTP Bylaws, updated June 8, 2008).

Significant Accomplishments

- *Centennial Celebration in August*

Thousands attended this August 1-2 event, participating in many activities and events, including Plein Air painting, a Volkswalk, an historical photo display, classic and vintage automobiles, ice cream social, nature walks and much more. The 23 planning committee members and chair Dave Hillman met 16 times over two years planning the event. Many local businesses and community groups sponsored booths and donated funds. The event raised \$4500 beyond costs. These funds were invested in a number of Park improvement projects approved at the Board’s October meeting.

- *Foot Patrol—Eyes and Ears for the Park*

We learned recently that the FMTP Foot Patrol is currently *the only foot patrol functioning in a City of Portland park*. Amazing! This year 48 individuals conducted 286 foot patrols for a total number of 1,390 volunteer hours. The Foot Patrol continues to be the best known “face” of FMTP and over the years has helped to make the Park a safer and cleaner environment for all to enjoy. As eyes and ears for the park, its motto is: “Observe, record, report.” And it does, working closely with Portland Parks & Recreation, Police, and Water Bureau staff and officers. **Please read (Appendix 1)** the 2009 annual report for the FMTP Foot Patrol prepared by chair Dave Hillman. Accomplishments and concerns are highlighted. The concerns need our attention.

- *Projects Funded*

During the year the Board developed a “themes” and “future priorities” document to help guide its work and determine where to invest its resources. The overarching theme identified was, “Improve and help maintain Mt. Tabor Park for public benefit and future generations.” With this and a series of sub-themes in mind, in October the Board

allocated **\$10,684 to fund six projects that add new facilities or improve services**: several bike racks, a water source for Picnic Area A, timbers to complete trail stairways, a new trail map for distribution at the FMTP kiosk, a stipend for a volunteer service coordinator to oversee FMTP Saturday volunteer service projects aimed at invasive vegetation removal and monies for needed supplies, and an off-leash dog park drinking fountain (contingent on a pending donation). Funding of these projects was possible because of generous donations made by FMTP members above and beyond membership dues, Centennial Celebration fundraising efforts, a highly successful garage sale, and prudent funds management by our Treasurer and Chair, Frank Gorshe.

- *Efforts to Remove Invasive Vegetation Ramped Up*
12 crew leaders (including PP&R staff members Steve Pixley and Jane Eichenberger) volunteered to supervise groups of volunteers in invasive vegetation removal as part of the last Saturday morning of the month volunteer service projects that run from April through November. Over 100 volunteers contributed 400 hours of service over the 9 months targeting several sites identified by Parks' staff. *Hands on Greater Portland* was instrumental in recruiting many of the volunteers. Volunteers from SOLV, a local Boy Scout troop and a local school also provided enthusiastic support. A very large area of English ivy was removed from the upslope side of the trail going west behind the amphitheatre. Battle was also waged with clematis (vitalba) and Himalyan blackberry along the Red Trail on the east side of the park. The Bureau of Environmental Services (BES) was approached and asked to match the \$3000 allocated by FMTP over the next two years to hire a Volunteer Service Coordinator. They responded favorably, and a new coordinator should be in place in early March 2010. Mary Kinnick will serve as project manager. A special thanks to Parks staff Louie Guerrero, Tim Van Vactor, Mart Hughes, Cindy Wright, Steve Pixley, Jane Eichenberger, and Louise Shorr for their time and support on behalf of this effort. *Naomi Tsurumi at BES* must be singled out for her encouragement and support and the BES donation of a large number of *Weed Watcher ID Guides* and copies of *GardenSmart Oregon* to FMTP for use with identifying non-natives. And a *special thanks to Alexa Todd* who arranged for SOLV to donate gloves for the service projects.
- *Trails and Trail Map*
Installation of markers for the Red Trail was completed (following installation of markers for the Green and the Blue trails). A map of the trails was made available from the kiosk next to the main parking lot. Maps have been in high demand suggesting that park visitors are finding them very useful. We've been challenged to make sure we keep the supply coming. Thanks to Bertha Guptill and "crew" for making this happen. Work is continuing to make further improvements to the map design and accessibility.
- *Other Forms of Service by FMTP volunteers*
 - Parking, security and informational support by Foot Patrol members for 3 Concerts in the Park and a make-up concert in August (one concert was cancelled due to hot weather).
 - Off-Leash Dog Park—continuing effort to keep area supplied with doggie bags and to keep the area maintained
 - Sponsorship of an Ice Cream Social as part of the Centennial Celebration (in lieu of the annual picnic for members)

- Foot Patrol volunteer support for the annual soap box derby, Taylor Court parade, the Centennial Celebration, bicycle races, Sunday Parkways, evening walk sponsored by Metro, and more
- Garage sale a huge success (\$1172 raised) thanks to many donations and the leadership of Pat Morgan
- Pie sales (with pies from Bipartisan Café) at the Concert series--\$445 generated

Membership

- 214 dues paying members (up from 137 in 2007, a 62% increase)
- Continued additions to the website (www.taborfriends.org), including images from the Centennial Celebration (thanks to Frank Gorshe and Guin Hillman) and 2 video clips
- Cell phone discontinued with addition of a google number with Google Voice (free); voice mail is directed to e-mail. Savings for FMTP=\$24 a month!
- FMTP Newsletter (semi-annual) – mailed to all FMTP members; edited by Sue Sells
- Membership Meeting (Winter) - sponsored our 9th Annual Meeting and community educational program (open to the public). This year’s program featured staff from Parks and Bureau of Environmental Services presenting information about the challenges facing Mt Tabor Park because of the intrusion of non-native vegetation.
- FMTP Friend the Year Award to Nancy Norby* in recognition of her dedication to the welfare of the 5-acre Off-Leash Dog Park and her service as its steward. Nancy is a founding member of FMTP and has also served as a chair.
- Added three new Board members (each for 3 yr. terms)—Susan Baumgardner, Liz Leavens and Phyllis Weih bringing the total Board to nine members

End of Year Financial Report

2009 was a good year financially for the Friends of Mt. Tabor Park, as we took in \$12,664 and spent \$2,501, resulting in a net gain of \$10,163. We saw a continued impressive spirit of giving from our membership base, with many members donating over and above their basic dues in support of the park. In 2009, FMTP members submitted \$3,325 in basic dues, along with \$3,290 in the higher-level dues categories, for a total of \$6,525. We also took in \$4,571 from the Centennial Celebration, \$1,172 in a garage sale and \$445 from pie sales at the park Concerts. Our expenses were in the categories of membership recruitment, summer concert fees, trails, and administrative (cell phone, postage, etc.). As a result, the Board obligated \$10,684 to spend on projects designed to add new or improve current park facilities and services.

Products

- Raised \$135+ from the sale of products with FMTP logo such as t-shirts, sweatshirts, note cards, etc. Products available at Mt Tabor Realty at SE 69th & SE Belmont many thanks to Isabelle Zifcak.

Publicity

- Provided articles for Mt. Tabor Neighborhood Association quarterly newsletter.
- Provided articles to the Southeast Examiner

Challenges/Concerns

This report concludes with the identification of a number of challenges that warrant attention. Many of these have been identified by members of the Foot Patrol.

1. the continuing challenge of off-leash dogs (though much less than before the Off-Leash Dog Park was established)
2. a trash problem—we need more trash cans in the park
3. the need for recycling containers—let's give them a try!
4. the continuing take-over of the park by non-native vegetation and the lack of sufficient resources to address the problem at the scale necessary to make a difference in the long term; outside funding is imperative
5. an increase in car break-ins suggesting the need for more and better signage urging drivers to keep valuables of any kind out of their cars
6. the need for Foot Patrol members who can walk in the later afternoon and early evening hours
7. increasing areas of soil erosion (or scarring of the landscape) due to off-trail or off-road bikes
8. the need to find a way to involve more Off-Leash Dog Park users to support (via volunteer hours, \$ donations, etc.) the upkeep of this 5 acre area and the addition of needed amenities (permanent bench at the main entrance, bulletin board, etc.)

We look forward to conversations with Parks' staff and others as together we work to address these challenges.

APPENDIX 1

2009 FRIENDS OF MT TABOR PARK FOOT PATROL REPORT

Prepared by Dave Hillman, Chair

The information noted below was compiled from my records including our foot patrol monthly calendar, monthly patrol training/meetings, our foot patrol log book and information obtained from park personnel, our police bureau representative and water bureau security staff. I find this information useful as a tool for my decisions that will insure the continued safety for my foot patrol members as well as for the safety of all Mt Tabor Park guests. I hope that you will also find the information of value to you in your role as it relates to this gem within our Mt. Tabor Neighborhood.

Dave Hillman, Chair
Mt Tabor Park Foot Patrol

BY THE NUMBERS

Total number of foot patrols in 2009.....	286
Total number of hours on foot patrol.....	1,390
Total participants on patrol in 2009.....	48
Total number on current, active roster.....	44
Total number of foot patrols conducted from 2000 thru 2009.....	2,462
Total hours contributed by members on patrol from 2000 thru 2009.....	16,672
The 2009 foot patrol hours in total...(details below).....	2,065
On patrol.....	1,390
Training & Meetings.....	330
Administration.....	180
Concert Assistance.....	115
Misc Events.....	50

Not counted in above total, the Mt. Tabor Centennial Celebration. Hours contributed by everyone are countless. My own would be perhaps somewhere between 800 and 1,000. Many of the foot patrol members also contributed a huge amount.

Some of the significant accomplishments throughout 2009:

1. Picked up approximately 600 bags of litter bringing our nine year total to about 7,550 bags.
2. Provided extra foot patrols for the 4th of July and Halloween nights.
3. Made 224 entries in our log book. Some significant ones noted below.
4. Provided assistance for all summer concerts as well as other events such as soap box derby, Taylor Court parade, the Centennial Celebration, bicycle races, Sunday Parkways, evening walk sponsored by Metro, etc. etc..
5. Reported on problems e.g. broken equipment, leaks, unlocked facilities, etc..
6. Maintained the park kiosk information center.
7. Turned in many lost items found while on foot patrol.
8. Removed two or three homeless shelters/camps.
9. Provided first aid as requested by visitors. (band aids most frequently)

Concerns noted:

1. We continue to have a problem with off-leash dogs, though not as significant as it was prior to the establishment of the official off-leash park. The log book this year noted 47 entries that specifically identified off-leash dogs, with the number usually more than one dog. At times the reports noted up to six dogs.
2. We continue to have a trash problem, with over 70 log book entries addressing this issue. We need more trashcans, as well as recycling containers, throughout the park. Granted, it is a problem to dump them, but it is a greater problem to continually have litter throughout the park.
3. We also continue to have problems with out of control (?) and/or speeding bicycles and skateboarders. I noted 7 specific entries in the log book resulting from problems and complaints of park guests. As you will note, most of our patrols are in the morning vs afternoons and evenings when these problems are more frequent. This also tends to happen after the park staff leave for the day.
4. The park continues to be a haven for those focused on theft from unsuspecting visitors. We noted many, many car windows broken. We really need signs posted in parking lots and along the roadway to notify everyone to not leave valuables within sight. There are excellent examples of such signs in the Arboretum Park's parking lot on the west side. Why not here???

Other Foot Patrol Statistics:

Months on patrol: Range from low of 16 per month, to a high of 32

<u>Times of Foot Patrols</u>	<u>Number of Patrols</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
6:00 AM – 9:00 AM	9	3.1%
9:00 AM – 12:00 Noon	225	78.8%
12:00 Noon – 3:00 PM	25	8.7%
3:00 PM – 6:00 PM	25	8.7%
6:00 PM – 9:00 PM	2	.7%

<u>Days of Week on Patrol</u>	<u>Number of Patrols</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Sunday	13	4.6%
Monday	57	19.9%
Tuesday	48	16.8%
Wednesday	53	18.5%
Thursday	44	15.4%
Friday	44	15.4%
Saturday	27	9.4%

Concluding thoughts and notes:

1. Come December of 2010, the foot patrol will conclude 10 years of service to Portland Parks and Recreation. Our first patrols were conducted in December of 2000 with a roster of 7 members.
2. My prediction for the end of 2010: we will have completed over 2,700 foot patrols and contributed over 18,000 on patrol!
3. We all hate more signs in the park, but we need them to get the attention of motorists who leave valuables within sight!
4. We need recycling bins or cans in several places. Why can't we be a leader in this process? They exist in Laurelhurst Park, why not Mt Tabor?