



Friends of Mt. Tabor Park (FMTP)
6135 SE Taylor Ct.
Portland, OR 97215

www.taborfriends.org

February 7, 2011

TO: *PORTLAND MAYOR & CITY COUNCIL* - Sam Adams, Mayor
Commissioners: Nick Fish, Amanda Fritz, Randy Leonard, and Dan Saltzman
PORTLAND PARKS AND RECREATION - Zari Santner, Parks Director
Eileen Argentina, Parks Services Manager; Doug Brenner, Parks Zone Manager;
Louie Guerrero, Parks Maintenance Supervisor; Dave McAllister, City Nature Manager;
Kathleen Murrin, City Nature East Manager; Lynn Barlow, Natural Area East Supervisor; Susan
Hawes, Stewardship Coord.-City Nature East; Steve Pixley, Parks Volunteer Coordinator; and
Art Hendricks, Parks Safety/Security Manager
PORTLAND POLICE – Mike Reese, Police Chief; Bill Walker, Commander, East Precinct;
Gary Manougian, District Officer, East Precinct
PORTLAND OFFICE OF NEIGHBORHOOD INVOLVEMENT
Jenni Bernheisel, Crime Prevention Program Coord; Patrick Philpott, ONI Admin.; and
Katherine Anderson, Crime Prevention Program Coord.
SOUTHEAST UPLIFT (SEUL), Anne Dufay, Executive Director and Kristen Hagstrom, Deputy
Director
PORTLAND WATER BUREAU
Bill Sinnott, Water Safety/Security Mgr & Roger Hediger, Water Asst. Security Mgr
OREGON LEGISLATIVE
Ben Cannon, District 46 Portland, Representative
Jackie Dingfelder, District 23, Senator
OTHER
Nancy Tannler, Editor Southeast Examiner
Bruce Treat, Mt. Tabor Neighborhood Association

SUBJECT: 2010 ANNUAL REPORT, Friends of Mt. Tabor Park (FMTP)

PREPARED BY:

Mary Kinnick, FMTP Chair (m.kinnick@comcast.net)

With the support of the FMTP Board and Committee Chairs

2010 FMTP Board Members and Committee Chairs

Chair: Mary Kinnick. *Vice-Chair:* Beau Russell. *Treasurer and Web Master:* Frank Gorshe.
Membership: Pat Morgan. *Recorder:* Theodora Tsongas. *Other Board members:* Liz Leavens,
Susan Baumgardner, Patty Turner, and Phyllis Weih. *Foot Patrol Chair:* Dave Hillman (also
July Concert Parking and Security). *Trail Stewardship:* Bertha Guptill with Patty Turner
assisting. *Weed Warriors:* Mary Kinnick, project manager. *Newsletter:* Sue Sell. *FMTP
Products:* Mary McWilliams & available at Mt. Tabor Realty, SE 69th & Belmont, Isabelle
Zifcak.

2010 Annual Report

Friends of Mt. Tabor Park (FMTP)

The *2010 Annual Report for Friends of Mt. Tabor* identifies significant accomplishments as well as challenges. FMTP strives to build strong relationships with many city agencies, local organizations, 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).

FMTP Recognized by State and Local Awards

FMTP received the prestigious statewide **2010 Volunteer Service Award from the Oregon Recreation and Park Association (ORPA)** at its statewide conference. Thank you to Portland Parks & Recreation staff for nominating FMTP for this award! In addition the Portland Water Bureau gave an **award of recognition to the FMTP Foot Patrol at its 10th Anniversary Celebration** event. It’s gratifying to receive such recognition for our collective efforts!

Special Recognitions

At its March Annual Meeting/Program FMTP surprised two of the original founders of FMTP with a park bench dedicated in their honor. The refurbished bench is right below and to the south of the Harvey Scott statue. Their plaques read: “Dave Hillman, For Dedicated Service to Mt. Tabor Park, Friends of Mt. Tabor Park” and “Bertha Guptill, Devoted Friend of Mt. Tabor Park, Friends of Mt. Tabor Park.” Thanks to Colleen Keyes and Don Athey and his staff for the splendid job of refurbishing. At this same meeting Tim Van Vactor was recognized as the FMTP Friend of the Year for his dedicated service as Park Tech in Mt. Tabor Park. And Warner Pacific College and Western Seminary were extended honorary FMTP membership for their continuing support.

Significant Accomplishments

- ***FMTP Foot Patrol 10th Anniversary Celebrated!***

At the November 10th Anniversary celebration of the Foot Patrol **Commissioner Nick Fish said the group was *the* “leader and model for foot patrols in the city.” Since its founding, Foot Patrol volunteer hours have totaled 23,000 or the equivalent of 40 hrs. a week for 11 years! At the event the Foot Patrol received a special award for its**

service from the Water Bureau. This year **46 individuals conducted 294 foot patrols**, along with service during the July concerts in the park and other special events, **for a total of 1,432 volunteer hours** (including meetings, training, admin., the total was 1,917 hours!). The Foot Patrol continues to help 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. Long-time chair Dave Hillman stepped down from this role at the end of 2010 but will continue his active involvement. Nancy and Beau Russell will provide overall leadership with others taking on specific roles. *See Appendix 1 for further detail on Foot Patrol accomplishments.*

- ***Projects Funded Due to Generous Donations by Members***

\$10,684 funded six now completed projects that added new facilities or improved services: two bike racks, a water source for Picnic Area A, timbers to repair timber steps, 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, an off-leash dog park water source and a recycling bin. 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 continued prudent funds management by Treasurer Frank Gorshe. Projects under consideration for funding in 2011 include: more recycling bins, additional bike racks, and refurbishing an historic lamp.

- ***FMTP” Weed Warrior” Volunteers & Hours Increase***

11 crew leaders volunteered to supervise groups of volunteers in invasive vegetation removal as part of the last Saturday morning of the month volunteer service projects that ran from April through October. **Over 200 volunteers** (up from 100 in 2009) **contributed 624 hours of service** (up from 380 in 2009) over the 7 months, targeting several sites identified by Parks’ staff. Our first ever part-time paid volunteer service coordinator, Alexa Todd, was hired to coordinate the service projects using matching funds from the Bureau of Environmental Services (BES) and FMTP. Mary Kinnick is serving as the project manager. A new advisory committee was formed and the name FMTP “Weed Warriors” adopted. **Hands on Greater Portland and SOLV** (who again donated \$100 for tools) **were instrumental in recruiting many of the volunteers.** Other Weed Warrior partners were **Warner Pacific College (520 volunteer hours)** and **Mt. Tabor Middle School (75 hours)**. FMTP joined with BES and Portland Audubon to submit a grant application that would enable more invasives removal & revegetation effort in the park and a monitoring of bird habitat. A special thanks to all crew leaders (Tony Cole, Jane Eichenberger, Kay French, Nora Hanna, Mary Kinnick, Liz Leavens, Darvel Lloyd, Gayle Marechal, Steve Pixley, Alexa Todd, and John Wish) as well as Kathleen Murrin, Louie Guerrero, Lynn Barlow, Johannes Venghaus, Mart Hughes, and Susan Hawes from Portland Parks for their time and support on behalf of this effort. A special thanks also to BES staffers Ryan Duroucher, Ken Finney, and Naomi Tsurumi for their significant collaboration with and support of FMTP as BES launched a major habitat restoration effort beginning fall 2010.

- ***Trails/Trail Map and Trail Stewardship***

A map of the three marked trails (Blue, Green and Red) in the Park continues to be in high demand. **Many thanks to Providence Health & Services for donating the**

printing of 5000 maps! Maps may be picked up at the kiosk next to the main parking lot. Thanks to Bertha Guptill, our Trail Steward who, along with Patty Turner, is in the process of forming a new Trail Stewardship group. When last seen, on a very cold and rainy day, Bertha was measuring the distances between trail markers for future signage on the trail posts.

- ***Off Leash Dog Park***

Dog park users, along with FMTP members, stepped up to contribute **\$964 to fund the new message board** for this 5.5-acre area of the park. The board is located in the large main area of the park. A posting on the board indicates how to have messages/fliers posted. Special thanks to all those who contributed funds and solicited the donations, and to Teresa Miller and Heidi Gambee who have played key roles in jump-starting the current effort to identify a new steward and form a new stewardship committee for the dog park. A steward and stewardship committee are called for in the *2005 Good Neighbor Agreement* between Portland Parks & Recreation and the Mt. Tabor Neighborhood Association. ***Nancy Norby stepped down as steward after many years of dedicated advocacy and service on behalf of off-leash dog park improvements and will serve as advisor to the future steward & committee.*** She continues to replenish the doggie bag supply, with help from neighbors. A new bag holder is slated for installation due to the efforts of Roger Heidiger of the Water Bureau. And further thanks to students, faculty and staff at Warner Pacific College and Parks horticulturist Vince Moore for special service efforts in this area removing invasive vegetation and planting natives.

- ***Bikes in the Park & Soil Erosion***

Significant progress was made assessing and mapping areas of soil erosion caused by off-trail bikes. Solutions to date have included split rail fencing in several select areas. The Mt. Tabor Park Master Plan guidelines were reviewed that relate to bicycle use in the park. As a result, new signage is being installed regarding bicycle use on marked park trails. Thanks to Beau Russell for his leadership on this issue and Louie Guerrero and Johannes Venghaus for their counsel and help.

- ***Other Forms of Service by FMTP volunteers***

--Parking, security and informational support by Foot Patrol members for four July Concerts in the Park

--Off-Leash Dog Park—continuing effort to keep area supplied with doggie bags and to keep the area maintained

--Pie sales (with pies from Bipartisan Café) at the Concert series--\$354 generated

Membership & Services

- As of December 31, 2010, membership stood at **269, up 25% from 2009!**

- FMTP Newsletter (semi-annual) – mailed to all FMTP members in February & August; edited by Sue Sells

- Membership Meeting March 18, 2010 - our 10th Annual Meeting and community educational program (open to the public). This year's program featured well known local author Laura O. Foster speaking on "Mt Tabor: Volcanoes, Orchards, Streetcars and Stairs, A Talk about the Many Faces of One of Portland's Favorite Parks" along with the annual

meeting and special awards for Friend of the Year Tim Van Vactor, Bertha Guptill and Dave Hillman.

- Board member Phyllis Weih became the **FMTP Archivist**.
- Added a new Board member, Patty Turner, and re-elected a current Board member, Pat Morgan (each for 3 yr. terms). Board members Liz Leavens and Susan Baumgardner resigned their posts due to work and other conflicts. Thanks to Liz for reminding us to observe good sustainability practices and to Susan for contributing innovative ideas and identifying business and community groups with interest in assisting with FMTP efforts.

End of Year Financial Report

2010 was a good year financially for the Friends of Mt. Tabor Park; we took in \$9,271 and spent \$10,028. We spent somewhat more than we received, but this was a positive since over \$8,000 of the spending was for projects to improve the park. We had a large carryover of funds from 2009, a record income year, much due to income from the Park's Centennial celebration.

As in prior years we saw a continued spirit of giving from our membership, with many members donating over and above their basic \$15 dues in support of the park. In 2010 FMTP members submitted \$3,135 in basic dues along with \$4,285 in the higher-level donation categories. **We are impressed that the optional extra donation portion was significantly more than that of the base level dues!**

Products

- Raised \$383 from the sale of products with FMTP logo such as t-shirts, sweatshirts, note cards, etc. Products are available at Mt Tabor Realty at SE 69th & SE Belmont thanks to Isabelle Zifcak.

Publicity

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

Challenges/Concerns

This report concludes with the identification of a number of challenges that warrant our attention. We welcome members and others who care about Mt. Tabor Park to suggest ideas to help address these challenges and to identify new ones we may be neglecting. And, we look forward to conversations with Parks' staff as we work together to address these challenges.

- the continuing challenge of off-leash dogs (though much less than before the off-leash dog park was established); minimal off-leash animal enforcement (seldom see any animal control officers in the park)—observed by FMTP Foot Patrol
- the lack of trash cans (trash is dumped on the ground rather than packed out)—observed by FMTP Foot Patrol

- the poor condition of many of the historic lamps
- the need for more recycling bins assuming the success of one recently installed
- an increase in soil erosion in large part due to off-trail bikes;
- monitoring the incidence of car break-ins now that better signage is in place cautioning drivers to keep valuables of any kind out of their cars
- the need for a new Steward for the off-leash dog park and formation of a new Stewardship Committee
- the need to form a new Trails Stewardship group
- recruiting and training more crew leaders to support the increasing number of volunteers turning out for the Weed Warrior service projects

APPENDIX 1
2009 FRIENDS OF MT TABOR PARK FOOT PATROL REPORT

Prepared by Dave Hillman, Chair

By the Numbers

Total number of foot patrols in 10 years.....	2754
Total number of hours on foot patrol.....	23000
Total number of foot patrols in 2010.....	294
Total number of hours on foot patrol.....	1432
Total participants on active roster in 2010.....	46
Total hours of by foot patrol members.....	1917
On patrol.....	1,432
Training & Meetings.....	365
Administration.....	120

Other Foot Patrol Statistics:

Average patrols per month.....	24	High month-July with 34	Low month Sept. with 17
Patrols in:			
--morning (6a.m.-noon).....	213		
--afternoon (noon-6p.m.).....	65		
--evening (6p.m. plus).....	16		
Patrols during weekdays.....	258		
Patrols during weekends.....	36		