March 2016

News and Updates

Shamrock Run March 13

The Parkway will be closed Sunday, March 13, from 7:15 to 10:30 AM for the annual Shamrock Run. See our Spring 2015 newsletter for the history of this event and its ties to Terwilliger Parkway.

Duniway Park Improvements

In response to comments from Friends of Terwilliger and several other groups, Portland Parks & Recreation has decided not to move forward at this time with proposed field lighting and parking lot improvements at Duniway. They will be implementing improvements this year to track, field, and turf, as well as pedestrian lighting. You can read the full January announcement of their plans here. Ongoing updates will be posted on the Duniway Park web page.

Neighborhood Conversations

We are continuing our conversations with Terwilliger neighbors: learning what you like about Terwilliger Parkway and what you’d like to

In this Issue

Duniway Park Update
Neighborhood Conversations
Planting at Eagle Point
Parkway History

Volunteer on Terwilliger

Saturday March 19, 8:45 - noon
Meet at SW Terwilliger and Hamilton St. at 8:45 AM
All eager workers welcome!

We provide the tools, gloves, and snacks.

You bring your energy and passion for the Parkway! And we all have a good time!

Future Dates:

Saturday, April 16, 8:45 - noon
Saturday, May 21 8:45 - noon
Always meeting at SW Terwilliger and Hamilton Street

Info from Our Partners

SW Watershed Resource Center links you to useful information on invasives, native plants, and stormwater
see improved. You can also provide input at your convenience by completing our brief online survey.

If you are interested in restoration efforts on your own property or the public land, we can connect you with resources from our partners, including the SW Watershed Resource Center, the Back Yard Habitat Program, and West Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District (our funder for this project.) See the Info section in the side bar at right for a couple good places to start.

Restoration

Spring Planting at Eagle Point

Over the past 2 years, FOT volunteers and Portland Parks & Recreation (PP&R) staff have removed many invasive plants and trees from Eagle Point. That effort was in preparation of the planned native plantings that occurred the past two months.

During this January and February, FOT volunteers "restored" the Eagle Point area with almost 1,000 native plants. WOW, what an accomplishment in just 6 hours of work!!! It's amazing what 25 ambitious volunteers can accomplish. With 14 different species, the advance organization by PP&R staff was key to getting the right plants in places where they should thrive.

The young plants in the ground include: Douglas
aster, Sword fern, Canada goldenrod, Fringe-cup, Piggy-back plant, Inside-out flower, Wild lilac, Salal, Oceanspray, Mock orange, Oregon grape, Red flowering currant, Trailing snowberry, Vine maple, and Evergreen huckleberry.

Many thanks to volunteers from Homestead Neighborhood, University of Portland, Hands on Greater Portland, and the Portland community. We couldn’t have done it without everyone’s support and dedication!!

Please stop by Eagle Point to look at what’s been accomplished and to “talk” to the newly established plants .......... They like it when you talk to them!

Parkway History

From ORNC to OHSU

How Portland’s largest medical centers ended up on top of Marquam Hill

The mistaken purchase of Marquam Hill by the company building the first transcontinental railroad line into Portland lead to the creation of both Terwilliger Parkway and Oregon Health and Sciences University. An oft-told story is that an out-of-town railroad company bought land for a rail yard “sight unseen” in Portland in 1880 and then discovered its hilltop location was unsuitable for the purpose. The truth is not so simple.

The Oregon Railroad and Navigation Company’s president, Henry Villard, was no stranger to Portland. He had visited Marquam Hill six years earlier, and several prominent Portland citizens served on his company’s board. Nevertheless, someone did not do their due diligence on the property purchase, and ORNC found itself with 360 acres of unusable land.

“I had heard much praise for the situation of Portland, but its attractiveness went much beyond my anticipations. Paul Schulze … took me up on Marquam Hill the first day, and the grand panorama I saw spread out before me from that height with the three snow-clad giants of
Mt. Hood, Mt. St. Helens, and Mt. Adams clearly visible in their mighty splendor, seemed to me one of the finest sights I had ever enjoyed.

- Henry Villard, recalling his 1874 visit

23 years later the Olmsted Brothers presented their famous master plan for city parks to the people of Portland, calling for a “hillside parkway” on the slopes of Marquam Hill. Then, in the election of 1909, the citizens of Portland passed a bond measure to fund development of the proposed parks and parkways. They also elected Joseph Simon, a seasoned politician and businessman, to be mayor. Seizing the opportunity, Simon used his business connections and political skills to acquire, through donation or condemnation, the necessary land to start construction of Terwilliger Parkway during his short tenure as mayor.

Simon was a railroad attorney and had served as the corporate secretary for ORNC, so he no doubt had an inside track to convince the company to donate 41 acres of their unusable land for the parkway (it also probably helped that he offered to give them city right-of way along the Willamette that they desired.) The parkway first opened in 1912, shortly after Simon’s tenure as mayor ended.

In 1917 the ORNC donated 20 acres to the University of Oregon Medical School (now OHSU). A few years later the widow of Oregon Journal owner C. S. “Sam” Jackson bought the remaining ORNC land and donated it to the school in her late husband’s memory.

[Visit the History page of our website for a more detailed account of this interesting tale.]