

1990 Reservoir 2, on Division and SE 60th Avenue, was sold to a private developer. The gatehouse was sold as a separate tax lot as a personal dwelling and was placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

1998 Mt. Tabor master planning process, involving many citizens, was undertaken.

1999 The playground near the picnic shelter was remodeled and bricks were sold for \$50 each and stamped with the names of the benefactors.

2000 The non-profit organization Friends of Mt. Tabor Park (FMTP) was established to help improve and maintain the park.

2002 Friends of the Reservoirs was established in response to the city's plans to cover the reservoirs.

The main basketball court was refinished using recycled athletic shoes, courtesy of Nike's Reuse-A-Shoe program.

2003 The Friends of the Reservoirs sponsored a Hands Around the Reservoirs event that drew more than 1,500 people to encircle Reservoir 6.

2004 Neighborhood volunteers, with support from the Mount Tabor Neighborhood Association (MTNA) and led by advocate Cascade Geller Anderson, were successful in getting Reservoirs 1, 5, and 6, and later the entire park, listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

2006 The Environmental Protection Agency's Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule (LT2) was released, creating another threat to the reservoirs. Members of the MTNA and others stopped the sale of the maintenance yard and nursery to Warner Pacific College.

2009 Friends of Mt. Tabor Park hosted a centennial celebration for the park.

2010 FMTP received the Volunteer Service Award from the Oregon Recreation and Park Association

2011 FMTP opened a park visitor center, which provides information, gifts, maps, and historical photos.



2012 The FMTP Weed Warriors received the Spirit of Portland Award for outstanding environmental stewardship.

2013 The proposed covering of the park's open reservoirs generated an "Occupy Mt. Tabor" protest event attended by several hundred people.

2016 In compliance with federal regulations, three open-air reservoirs on Mt. Tabor were disconnected and taken off line as water sources.

2017 Thanks to voters approving the Parks Replacement Bond, the historic restroom building at the top of Mt Tabor was restored and reopened to the public.

2020 The COVID-19 pandemic significantly impacts park procedures. The statue of Harvey W. Scott at the summit is demolished by vandals.



Join us on facebook to stay informed about park events and volunteer opportunities.
Friends of Mt. Tabor Park
Friends of Mt. Tabor Park Weed Warriors



MEMBERSHIP

The Friends of Mt. Tabor Park (FMTP) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization whose volunteers care for Mt. Tabor Park for the benefit of current and future generations. **Donate online at taborfriends.org/membership or complete the form below.**

- \$15 Douglas Fir (basic membership)
- \$25 Linden
- \$50 Red Leaf Maple
- \$100 Red Alder
- \$250 Madrone
- \$500 Sequoia

Name _____

Street Address _____

City, State, Zip Code _____

Phone Number _____

e-mail _____

Please contact me about volunteering with:

- Foot Patrol
- Visitor Center
- Weed Warriors
- email me with park updates

Join online at taborfriends.org/membership or mail a check payable to FMTP and this application:

FMTP, 4110 SE Hawthorne Blvd., #312
 Portland, OR 97214-5246

Thank you to our neighbors at The Caplener Group and Warner Pacific University for underwriting the printing of this brochure.

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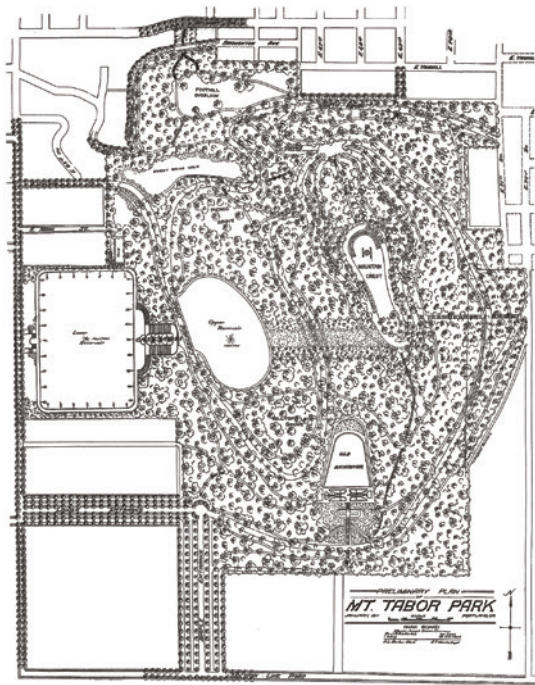
Mt. Tabor Park TIMELINE

Significant Events in the History of
 Portland, Oregon's Dormant Volcanic Park



Edited by the Friends of Mt. Tabor Park from original text by Cascade Anderson Geller, Diane Redd, and Shannon Loch.

A Friends of Mt. Tabor Park Publication.



1888 Buell and Helen Lamberson dedicated a tract of land to the city as designated "park." This land appears to correspond with the site of Reservoir 1.

1889 Rail service came to Mt. Tabor and residences increase to 200. Portland's population exceeded 18,000 residents.

1899 Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. wrote *The Relation of Reservoirs to Parks.*, which includes Mt. Tabor Park.

1903 John C. Olmsted (1852–1920), in his 1903 report to the Park Board, recommended that the city acquire "considerable land on this prominent and beautiful hill" known as Mt. Tabor.

1905 With the Lewis and Clark World Exposition, Portland's population burgeoned and the Mt. Tabor area was annexed to the city.

1906 E. T. Mische is hired as park superintendent. His pedigree included training at the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew. Mische developed a propagation nursery on the south side of Mt. Tabor.

1909 More than 40 private properties, at a cost of \$426,000, were procured, including the land where Reservoirs 5 and 6 were constructed. Some people deeded their land to the city for nominal amounts, \$1 or \$10, with the stipulation that it was only to be used as a public park. Pittock sold his land for more than \$60,000. A goal was to control "views in the four directions." Charles Paul Keyser was hired as Mische's principal assistant. The acquisition of parkland in Portland coincided directly with President Teddy Roosevelt's campaign and policies for conservation that helped implement the National Parks Service and the U.S. Forest Service.

1910 Despite citizens' protests over changing the historic name, which dated back to at least 1854, City Council passed an ordinance (#21070) "providing that the public park on Mount Tabor shall be known and designated as Williams Park" (April 28, 1910) honoring George Henry Williams (1823–1910), a lawyer, judge, and senator from Oregon.



Construction of Reservoir 5 - June 4, 1910

1911 A lengthy article, with Mische's design and a map of the park (upper left), ran in the May 21 Sunday Oregonian. An ordinance, dated February 1911, was drafted and apparently never signed: "providing for the change of name of the public park located on Mount Tabor...hereby changed from Williams Park to Mount Tabor Park."

1913 Mische received a gift from a noted plant collector of 500 species from China that were planted in the nursery. Stock was also obtained from the Vanderbilt's Biltmore Estate in Asheville, N.C. Mische ordered a shipment of young sequoia trees from California, and some of these, like the large one above Reservoir 6, still grace neighborhoods across the city.

1914 The east side concrete stairs to the summit were completed. Sixty percent of Portland's population lived on the east side of the Willamette River.

1917 Charles Paul Keyser, assistant to E.T. Mische, became Portland's park supervisor, a position he held until his retirement in 1949. Keyser carried out Mische's design of Mt. Tabor, and other parks, to the best of his ability and resources. A park caretaker lived at the summit of the butte.

1920 The caretaker house, built within the park boundaries at the Salmon Street entrance, was completed for about \$3,000. This house is now a rental property.

1920s The 88 concrete lampposts lining the original roads and pathways and serviced by underground wires were installed. Following Mische's original design, power for the lighting, pumps, and any other needed electricity was to be generated from the fall of water between Reservoir 5 and 6. The tennis courts and four comfort stations were built during this period.

1930s Mt. Tabor Park was used for trail rides. There was a stable for renting horses near NE Glisan St.

1932 Relief workers installed hard surfaces on drives in the park.

1933 Gutzon Borglum's bronze statue of Harvey W. Scott, former editor of *The Oregonian*, is unveiled on July 22 at the park summit.

1937 The SE Harrison Street entrance drive was constructed with Works Progress Administration funds.

1938 The art deco-designed administrative building, along with numerous other buildings, were added to the older structures already existing in the maintenance yard on SE Division St.

1941 The park was closed to protect the water reservoirs after the Pearl Harbor attack.

1941 The park reopened with barbed wire fencing around the reservoirs.

1952 A geological plaque was installed in volcanic rock at the caldera.

1954 A park map showed a ski-tow rope on the hill southeast of Reservoir 5.

1961 The U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey (now the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) installed a triangulation station and reference markers at the summit. These markers were used for surveying and map-making, and today they're often sought during geocaching.

1960s/1970s The radio tower (135 ft. tall) at the summit (elevation 643 ft.) was installed, and the comfort station converted to water bureau use. The picnic shelter was constructed near the crater. The road to the summit was closed to motor vehicles. Park hours were diminished in reaction to destructive nighttime activities in the park.



Aerial view of the four open reservoirs, 1971. Reservoir No. 2 (foreground) was decommissioned and sold to a private developer.