**Walking Tour**

Using the map to the right, follow the walking tour route marked in red.

1. **City of Portland Archives**

The City of Portland Archives and Record Center (PARC) is the official repository of historical municipal records, dating back to 1851. The items in this exhibit come from a variety of archival sources including police surveillance photographs, police reports, and letters to and from the Mayor's office. The case facing the elevator is filled with many iconic images of the event, taken by city and police photographers. The images, along with the timeline, provide an idea of the events that occurred May 6-11, 1970. Inside the Archives is another display case highlighting the role of technology and communication during the strike, with police reports about the pirate radio station, issues of the Willamette Bridge (the precursor to Willamette Week), and an expense report on how much the strike and riot cost the city in both overtime wages and damage to city equipment. PARC is open Monday – Friday, 8-4:30. Please ring the doorbell to view the interior display.

Before you leave the fifth floor, walk out to the terrace. Looking west towards the campus, imagine the PSU campus as it was in 1970. There were four buildings facing Broadway: Old Main (Lincoln), Cramer Hall, Smith Center, and South Park Hall (Meubingers). Shattuck Hall was Portland Community College and the library was half its size. Descend to the first floor and into the Urban Plaza. Walk towards the streetcar tracks and follow their path as they curve towards SW 6th and Mill. Follow SW Mill Street two blocks west to our first location, Fort Tricia Nixon.

2. **Fort Tricia Nixon**

In 1970, the streets running through the PSU campus were still open to vehicle traffic. In order to disrupt traffic, striking students erected ten barricades along the Park Blocks. Fort Tricia Nixon was the largest barricade and became a gathering spot for striking supporters. Located between Cramer Hall and “Old Main” (now known as Lincoln Hall) on SW Mill Street, it was named in honor of President Richard Nixon’s daughter after she naively stated she did not know why students were so upset with her father. The fort was created out of park benches and stolen building supplies from nearby construction projects. Other barricades included: the Bobby Seale memorial (operated by White Panthers), One Way, Alan Peterson, and The Pentagon/Wipe Out Alley. Two unnamed barriers were collectively run by various activist groups, including the Society of Strangers, a softball club who were politically active at the time.

Continue walking in the pedestrian boulevard toward Smith Hall as you pass between Cramer and Smith imagine another the Bobby Seale Memorial barricade.

3. **Smith Hall**

Smith Hall is the student union and was the location for a number of strike events, including The Great Hamburger Rip Off. Some of the activists, who were angry that the cafeteria was still serving food during the campus shut down, began a food fight which turned into a brawl between strikers and anti-strikers. Smith was also the location of the Strike Committee office and the campus newspaper, the Vanguard. These communication centers were the reason President Gregory Wolfe had originally allowed 24 hour access to the building during the early days of the strike. A group of students took advantage of the access to take over the building and host large parties for PSU students and students from local colleges and high schools. One student was injured when he fell through a skylight and landed on the ballroom floor. Damage from these parties ran into the thousands of dollars.

With your back towards Smith, face the Park Blocker: you will notice a walking path that cuts diagonally across the park heading northeast. Head that way and stand in the triangle it makes and imagine twenty walking path that cuts diagonally across the park heading northwest. With your back towards Smith, face the Park Blocker: you will notice a walking path that cuts diagonally across the park heading northeast. Head that way and stand in the triangle it makes and imagine twenty walking path that cuts diagonally across the park heading northwest.

4. **Medical Tent & Riot**

At this location, around 4:30 PM on Monday, May 11, 1970, the most intense strike event occurred. A homemade geodesic dome tent occupied a large area in the narrow park space. Activists used the tent for first aid, and allowed out-of-town protesters to sleep in it at night. Due to a series of miscommunications the activists believed they had received permission to extend their permit for the structure. When the police started dismantling the tent, students felt betrayed and decided to take a symbolic stand by occupying the tent. Expecting to be arrested, they were instead cleared from the spot by members of the Tactical Operations Squad armed with 42” batons. Within minutes the tent was destroyed and 27 protesters were sent to the hospital for treatment; five of the TOC squad also received medical care after the crowd began throwing rocks, wood, and bags of feces at them.

Walk one block south to our final destination, the Branford Price William Library. On the first floor near the elevators you will find the second part of the exhibit as well as the Special Collections office.

5. **Portland State University Archives**

The collection exhibited here provides some context for the clash between the students and the police. Most of the materials were gathered by Dr. Gregory Wolfe, the PSU president at the time of the strike, and donated to the PSU Special Collections and University Archives. In the cases you will find examples of student writing collected by Professor Tony Wolf, Vanguard articles, flyers, leaflets and posters created by various and sometimes conflicting student protest groups. Also included are examples of the public communication received by Wolfe after the riot, the yearbook with photo essays of the strike, the Grand Jury report, and a copy of the PhD thesis defended in 1993 about the event.

City of Portland Archives, Oregon, A2004-005.2540

City of Portland Archives, Oregon, A2004-005.2518

City of Portland Archives, Oregon, A2004-005.2360

City of Portland Archives, Oregon, A2004-005.2381
The Portland State Strike of 1970

Two unique exhibits researched by PSU Honors College Seminar Students

Between the Park Blocks and City Hall

City of Portland Archives, Oregon, A2004-005.2620

After several days of demonstrations that closed the public Park Blocks at PSU in May 1970, Portland city government moved from monitoring to response. Miscommunication between strikers and City Hall ultimately played a leading role in tipping the non-violent demonstration into a clash between the police and the strikers. Items on display in the City of Portland Archives lobby, including iconic images captured by city and police photographers and citizens’ letters to the Mayor’s office, provide a glimpse of how events unfolded and tensions escalated during the PSU strike.

The display continues inside, highlighting the role of technology and communication during the strike: posters, independent newspapers, pirate radio, and individual testimony. An expense report also shows how much the strike cost the city in wages and damage.

The City of Portland Archives and Records Center (PARC) is the official repository for historical municipal records, dating back to 1851.

“Business as Usual is No Longer Tenable”

Portland State University Library, First Floor Elevator Lobby

Portland State University joined thousands of college campuses across the country by closing after the shootings at Kent State University on May 4, 1970. Demonstrators barricaded the Park Blocks and refused to attend classes. The Portland State University Archives exhibit presents context for the strike through student and faculty writing, articles from the PSU Vanguard, and leaflets created by various and sometimes conflicting activist groups.

The PSU exhibit also shows the extensive correspondence received and answered by PSU President Gregory Wolfe from the public after the strike; photo essays from the Viking yearbook; flyers for strike activities and “teach-ins”; the Grand Jury report; and a 1993 doctoral thesis on the event.

Portland State University Archives collects, preserves, and provides access to the historical records of Portland State, including materials from student organizations, academic units, and administration.

University Archives, PSU Library. Viking 1970

A collaboration between the City of Portland Archives and Portland State University Archives
Curated by Corinne Rupp