

Mount Tabor Interpretive Program

July 2019

Project Overview and Goal

The Mt. Tabor Interpretive Program (MTIP) will develop public education displays in the park that tell the history of the Mt. Tabor Reservoirs and the City of Portland's water system. PWB strives to develop an interpretive program that benefits all park visitors.

Public education displays are planned at five locations in the park (3 reservoirs, visitor center, and summit) to tell the story of the Mt. Tabor Reservoirs and the City of Portland's water system. The interpretive program will include:

- History of the City's water system/conveyance to Mt. Tabor.
- Development and role of the Mt. Tabor reservoirs.
- Changes in use of the Mt. Tabor Reservoirs

Background

- The reservoirs are part of the Mt. Tabor Park Reservoirs Historic District. Both the Reservoir District and Mt. Tabor Park District are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
- To comply with drinking water regulations, PWB disconnected Mt. Tabor's original uncovered, open reservoirs from the drinking water system in 2015.
- The 2014 land use decision for the Mt. Tabor Disconnect Project required an interpretive program that *'tells the story of the Mt. Tabor reservoirs and the City of Portland's water system.'*
- Portland City Council Resolution #37146 directed PWB and MTNA to work together on maintenance and preservation work and to "collaborate with the MTNA to develop an interpretive program that tells the history of the Mt. Tabor reservoirs and the City's water system."
- Resolution #37146 committed funding of \$4 million over four years to implement maintenance, repair and preservation work at the reservoirs. **The interpretive program is funded by PWB.**
- Project completion June 2021.

Planned Project Activities:

- **May – September 2019** – Complete draft interpretive designs and content for interpretive displays proposed at each park location using Commissioner-developed principles for interpretive signage.

October 2019 – February 2020 – Meet with Historic Landmarks Commission for design advice. Complete a second round of public/stakeholder outreach, building on initial outreach already conducted. Finalize all interpretive displays for all park locations. Begin drafting and submit a Type II land use application for Historic Review.

- **March 2020 – February 2021 – Construction phase begins.** Includes bidding project, contract, fabrication, permitting, and installation.
- **June 2021** – Project completion.

Initial Public/Stakeholder Outreach

- **Office of Equity and Human Rights (OEHR)** – Nickole Cheron, Tatiana Elejalde, Jonathan Simeone
- **City Tribal Relations Director** – Laura John
- **Native American Community Advisory Council (NACAC)**
- **Portland Parks & Recreation** – Barbara Hart, George Lozovoy, Emily Roth, Art Hendricks
- **First Public Open House** (April 2018)
- **Online Survey** (April 2018)
- **Education Outreach** - Zoo Animal Presenters (ZAP) and Franklin HS Cross Country Team
- **Parks Accessibility Advisory Committee (PAAC)**