

TERWILLIGER PARKWAY and the WEST WILLAMETTE CORRIDOR TIMELINE

1903: A report outlining a "System of Parkways, Boulevards, and Parks for the City of Portland" by the "Olmsted Bros., Landscape Architects" proposed a "South Hillside Parkway" extending from the South Park Blocks into the hills in a southerly direction. "It should be carried through to Riverview cemetery, or even further to a forest park on the beautiful ridge south of the cemetery."

1912: Terwilliger Parkway opened; it was one of the few park projects proposed by the Olmsted's plan to be implemented in Portland, and the only parkway of the several proposed that got built.

1953: First Portland design district designated along Terwilliger Parkway...

1983: Terwilliger Parkway Plan and Design Guidelines adopted in the face of increased residential development pressures on large un-developed forest tracts along the parkway.

c. 1983: Marquam Trail segment of the 40 Mile Loop trail system completed. The Marquam Trail comes up through George Himes Park, travels along Terwilliger Parkway for about a mile, and goes up and over Marquam Hill above OHSU before reaching the summit of Council Crest.

2002: Marquam Hill Plan adopted by City Council, greatly expanding OHSU development potential and enshrining OHSU's un-fettered use of Terwilliger Blvd. for vehicular access. Aerial Tram approved crossing over Terwilliger Parkway.

1996 – 2005: 120 acres in the Terwilliger Creek watershed along Terwilliger Parkway purchased or protected as greenspace by Metro, Portland Parks and Recreation, and OHSU. Three Rivers Land Conservancy takes possession of the 37 acre "Keller Woodland" adjoining Terwilliger Parkway previously owned by The Nature Conservancy. Total protected area over 155 acres (not including Terwilliger Parkway itself.)

2006: Three Rivers Land Conservancy initiates the West Willamette Restoration Project to remove invasive species from natural areas in the West Hills stretching from Forest Park to Tryon Creek Park. The focus of efforts is the parks and greenspaces along Terwilliger Parkway including the parkway itself (Friends of Terwilliger), Marquam Nature Park (Friends of Marquam Nature Park and Homestead NA), Keller Woodland (Three Rivers Land Conservancy), and George Himes Park (Hillsdale NA).

2007: Portland Parks and Recreation plans 2.5 miles of new trails in newly protected greenspace adjoining Terwilliger Parkway and the Marquam Trail.

Planning Commission Tour
July 22, 2008

Homestead NA / Terwilliger Parkway segment

Stop 1 - South Park Blocks – south end at Jackson St. & I-405:

Potential connections between South Park Blocks and Terwilliger Parkway for Bicycles and Pedestrians, possibly including parkway elements;

Bridge across I-405 at Park Ave. already exists;

Only 2 blocks separate Park Ave. and 6th Ave/Terwilliger Pkwy.

Actions: Pathway in I-405 ROW from SW Park to Broadway;
Extension of Terwilliger Design District to S. Park Blocks with requirement for inclusion of parkway elements with new development.

En Route:

High concentration of park land and sensitive natural areas adjacent to Central City;

Loss of views at designated Terwilliger Pkwy. viewpoints due to growth of trees.

Action: View Restoration program, including Enviro. Review;

Stop 2 – Terwilliger Parkway turnout at Campus Dr.:

Impacts of OHSU development and Tram on Parkway;

Traffic issues and lack of awareness about unique and historic nature of parkway;

Need for signage, gateways, and other markers to indicate the scenic and recreational primacy of Terwilliger Parkway.

Action: Signage and Improvement Plan for Terwilliger Parkway;

Stop 3 – Terwilliger Parkway turnout at Marquam Trail trailhead:

Recent property acquisitions and protections in Terwilliger Creek watershed;

Trail planning in Marquam Nature Park addition;

Watershed issues & BES initiative;

Restoration activities by multiple groups.

Actions: Comprehensive planning for contiguous parks and natural areas under various ownerships and jurisdictions;

En Route:

Out-dated Terwilliger Parkway Plan and Guidelines;

Terwilliger Parkway is the spine of the West Willamette Wildlife Corridor

Actions: Up-date Terwilliger Parkway Plan and Guidelines to reflect current conditions;
Extend Terwilliger Parkway Plan south to Lake Oswego city border to provide identity and recreational access to the West Willamette Wildlife Corridor.