

Mt. Tabor NA & Portland Parks & Recreation
Good Neighbor Agreement Regarding the Mt. Tabor Park Off-Leash Area

This Good Neighbor Agreement ("Agreement") was developed between Portland Parks & Recreation ("PP&R") Owner/ Operator of Mt. Tabor Park, and the Mt. Tabor Neighborhood Association ("Association"). The Association has entered into this Agreement on its own behalf and as a representative of the neighbors and users of the Park.

PP&R has sited an Off-Leash Area (OLA) along the southern boundary of Mt. Tabor Park. After the initial 12 months of operation, modifications were recommended by the City-wide Off-Leash Advisory Committee with the understanding that development of a Good Neighbor Agreement would be required for implementation.

The purpose of this Good Neighbor Agreement is to establish a collaborative and constructive relationship among all stakeholders in order to improve and sustain the Mt. Tabor Park Off Leash Area. This Agreement is founded on the belief that responsibility for a successful dog off-leash area is shared among OLA users, other park users, surrounding neighbors, and Portland Parks & Recreation. The issues addressed in this Agreement were mutually and voluntarily agreed upon in discussions among representatives of all of these groups. This agreement is intended to cover a trial period beginning July 1, 2005 (or as soon as the fence is in place) and ending September 30, 2006. A formal review of the Good Neighbor Agreement will take place in November 2006.

Agreement

1.0 Design - PP&R agrees to make the following modification to the OLA:

(a) Boundaries. The eastern boundary will be moved approximately 100' westward, with the actual boundary line adjusted as appropriate to protect trees and reflect the natural contour lines. The western boundary will be expanded to the west approximately 175' to include a more open meadow area and portion of the cement pad adjacent to the PP&R nursery. This boundary will also be adjusted as appropriate for the landscape and natural contours.

(b) Fencing. Temporary field fencing will be added along the east and west boundaries. Fencing will be added along the southern boundary where major repairs are needed. A short section of fencing will be added along Harrison Street on the northwest side of the OLA.

(c) Gates: Gates will be placed at five locations: a vehicular and pedestrian gate on the west, a pedestrian gate on the northwest and east, and two pedestrian gates along the southern boundary. At this time, no gates will be added at the entrances from the surrounding neighborhood to the east meadow and playground area. The need for gates at these locations will be revisited as part of the evaluation process at the end of the trial period. A boundary marker will be used in place of a gate at the west end of the access road leading to Mt. Tabor Yard.

(d) Trails: West - The trail will be modified on the west to bring the entire loop within the off-leash boundary. East - The entrance trail on the east will be realigned as feasible. The new trail will begin west of the cement parking pullout on SE Harrison St. and generally follow the contours in a southwest direction until it intersects with the east-west trail. The trail will be gated at the OLA boundary. The current entrance trail will serve the playground and meadow area. Northwest - The entrance trail on the northwest will be improved with a retaining wall for safer access from SW Harrison. North Central - The current informal trail leading down into the OLA south of Reservoir One is not improved for general use at this time. PP&R agrees to develop an improved entrance at this location within the next six months. When these improvements are complete, a boundary marker will be installed at the top of the hill.

(e) Amenities: Water will be provided within the OLA near the west boundary gate. It will be an extension of the irrigation line used for watering the PP&R nursery. Because it will not be protected by a backflow device, the water cannot be considered potable. Two to three movable benches will be placed in the area. In lieu of a kiosk, the back side of the temporary OLA signs will be used for posting notices. Plexiglas holders will be provided to protect notices from the rain. No lighting will be added at this time. If lighting is added in the future, it should be placed in the center and/or in the west open area. The lights should be directed away from neighbors and on a timer to coincide with the hours of the OLA. It is not expected that funding for future lighting will be provided by PP&R.

(f) Signage: Two temporary signs will be placed inside the OLA. They will provide information regarding rules and hours. If appropriate, they will be replaced with permanent signs at the end of the trial period. Directional signs will be placed at key locations throughout the park to help users find the off-leash area and remind them to keep their pet leashed outside the OLA. Signs will be placed at park entrances from the neighborhood on the east side to remind people that they are entering a

children's play area and to keep their pets leashed until reaching the OLA. The Association will work with immediate neighbors to develop appropriate signage along the neighborhood streets approaching the park.

(g) Historic Issues: It is recognized that Mt. Tabor Park is on the National Historic Register, and this must be a consideration in planning for the OLA. The modifications discussed in this section have been reviewed with the State Historic Preservation Office and City Historic Design Review staff. Both have determined that building permits will not be required and that the modifications proposed will not alter an attribute that contributes to the park's overall historic value.

2.0 Management

(a) Hours: The hours of the OLA shall be 7:00 AM to 9:00 PM daily. Expansion of the evening hours will be considered as part of the evaluation at the end of the trial period.

(b) Noise: It is understood that sounds associated with people playing with their dogs may be audible to immediate neighbors. The boundary and trail modifications on the east, the boundary location on the west, and the OLA operating hours are intended to minimize noise impacts. In addition, OLA signage will remind users to be respectful of immediate neighbors and play quietly with their dogs in the early morning and late evening hours.

(c) Stewardship: In consultation with the Friends of Mt. Tabor and C-Spot, the Association is responsible for forming an OLA Stewardship Group to assist with education, community building, and maintenance/ stewardship of the off-leash area. It is expected that the Stewardship Group will establish a network for communicating with off-leash users, be a presence in the OLA - informally educating users and encouraging compliance with OLA rules, sponsoring regular clean-ups and working with PP&R to plan and undertake improvements to the OLA. They may also coordinate with PP&R to plan special events in the area and will assist PP&R in getting the word out to OLA users when temporary closures for maintenance or events are scheduled, or when smaller areas within the OLA are temporarily closed for restoration. The Stewardship Group will work with the Association and PP&R to help resolve any problems related to the OLA. They will manage the notice board on the site to keep it tidy and ensure that notices are current.

(d) Enforcement: PP&R and Multnomah County will continue to provide enforcement of dog-related laws and OLA rules as resources allow. Portland Parks & Recreation Park Rangers will work collaboratively with the Association and Stewardship Group to increase compliance and enhance

educational efforts. However, it is understood that resources for formal enforcement are insufficient citywide. Education and peer pressure will continue to play a critical role.

(e) Parking: Parking in and around Mt. Tabor Park is very limited and no additional parking is planned. While many OLA users walk to the park, there are a significant number who arrive by vehicle. It is not expected that these numbers will increase dramatically as a result of the planned modifications to the OLA. However, the parties recognize that parking availability for OLA users is a potential problem and therefore this issue will be monitored during the trial period. Park users (including but not limited to dog owners) currently park on neighborhood streets and this is expected to continue. However, OLA gates off of SE Harrison are intended to encourage users to park in the park.

3.0 Environmental.

(a) Surfacing. A certain amount of wear and tear is to be expected, especially in open areas. This can be mitigated somewhat by allowing grass to grow taller and adding other surfacing materials where appropriate. Within resource limitations, PP&R will work with the Stewardship Group on these issues.

(b) Erosion. The OLA is sloping, making it prone to erosion in certain areas. Areas experiencing significant erosion problems will be temporarily fenced off to allow for restoration.

(c) Habitat. In the Mt. Tabor Master Plan, the OLA area was ranked low for habitat values when compared with other areas of the park. It is recognized that increased use, especially off-trail use, has had a negative impact on wildlife in the park (ex: elimination of pheasant population.) The intent of the OLA is to provide a legitimate place for off-leash use, thus protecting other higher-value wildlife areas in Mt. Tabor Park. Invasive species, such as blackberries and clematis, were recently removed from the OLA and will be replaced over time by native plants. PP&R will temporarily fence off replanted areas until they are established.

4.0 Other Users.

(a) Pedestrians. All pedestrians are welcome to walk through the off-leash area, but should expect to encounter off-leash dogs. Signage at entrances to the OLA will warn visitors of this fact.

(b) Bicycles. Bicycles are allowed but they must be walked through the

OLA between 7AM and 9PM daily. Entrance signage will also make this clear.

(c) Special Events. Occasionally, PP&R may permit a special event, such as a cross-country meet, to come through the OLA. The OLA will be closed temporarily for this purpose and reopened immediately following the event. Notification will be sent to the Association as required by PP&R policy, and will be reviewed in consultation with the Stewardship Group. Prior notice of the temporary closure will be posted at the OLA and on the PP&R web.

5.0 Evaluation

An Evaluation Subgroup leadership team will be appointed by the Association to coordinate the GNA evaluation process. It will include representatives of key community stakeholder groups and Portland Parks & Recreation. Additional members of the Evaluation Subgroup will be recruited to assist with data collection and analysis. All members of the GNA Evaluation Subgroup must be committed to an objective and honest evaluation process. It will be the responsibility of this team to further refine evaluation methodology, including criteria, benchmarks, limits of acceptable change, indicators, and data collection techniques. Findings will be utilized to aid in the assessment of the OLA expansion in October 2006 and to establish priorities for future program refinements and/or off-leash area improvements.

(a) Evaluation Timeline.

Summer '05: Evaluation benchmarks and indicators will be developed, data collection methods will be refined based on the selected indicators and a complete evaluation plan will be prepared. Fall '05 - Evaluation plan will be presented to the GNA Committee. Once approved, the Evaluation plan will be implemented in Fall '05.

Fall '06 - Findings will be presented to the GNA committee. The committee is responsible for recommending modifications as appropriate to The Association.

(b) Criteria.* Criteria are identified for the purpose of assessing the impact of off-leash use on the OLA area, adjacent park grounds, and the residential areas near the park. The criteria include:

* Erosion and site conditions of OLA site, park, and adjacent park areas.

* Usage satisfaction related to access, trail conditions, boundaries, hours, and safety.

* Impact on other park users and park neighbors related to parking, access, hours, noise (as demonstrated by barking and voices), and compliance with the off leash laws.

* Dog waste and dog owner-related garbage management in park neighborhood areas.

* Compliance of dog owners and dog caretakers with all Off Leash rules .

- * Maintenance of OLA area.
- * Implementation of OLA Stewardship.
- * Effectiveness of selected OLA maintenance, education and outreach goals as administered by the
 OLA Stewardship, in cooperation with PP&R, park neighbors, and other park users.

* Note: Criteria for evaluating satisfaction with both the interior of the OLA site and adjacent areas has been developed from the work of the GNA committee. A subcommittee comprised of off- and on-leash park users and park neighbors, hereafter known as the Evaluation Subgroup, developed the proposed criteria and measurement recommendations. The criteria reflect the concerns expressed by stakeholders, who were identified as: MTNA, CSPOT, the City Planning Bureau, PP & R, OLA stewardship, the GNA committee, OLA users, other park users, and neighbors of the park.

(c) Documentation/Measurement.

The Evaluation Subgroup Leadership Team will coordinate data collection and analysis. The goal is to have valid information that reflects both hard numbers and softer trends in meeting the criteria that reflect the goals of the GNA. Data collection will be conducted by volunteers from the various stakeholder groups in cooperation with PP&R staff and the Friends of Mt. Tabor Park, using statistically reliable data collection methods.

Measurement tools are expected to include:

- * Regular rounds of the park by stakeholder teams conducting observation studies.
- * Telephone reporting of compliments, concerns, and complaints. (Concern Logs PP&R 823-DOGS).
- * Satisfaction surveys distributed and collected both inside and outside the park.
- * Enforcement data (PP&R Rangers & Multnomah County Animal Control).
- * PP&R Operations & Maintenance reports

(d) Authority and Timeline. Under the auspices of The Association, the GNA Committee is responsible for monitoring the success of the OLA and recommending modifications to this agreement as appropriate. The GNA will meet in the fall of 2005 and again in spring 2006. They will complete their evaluation of the trial program in October 2006. All meetings of the GNA Committee are open to the public and anyone with an interest is welcome to attend.

(e) Public Review. Any significant changes to the trial program or changes associated with making the OLA permanent must be reviewed at an advertised meeting of the Mt. Tabor Neighborhood Association, with

invitations to South Tabor Neighborhood Association residents as well. A formal public meeting will be held to review the Good Neighborhood Agreement in November 2006. If the OLA becomes permanent, an appropriate amendment to the Mt. Tabor Park Master Plan should be introduced as part of this review. The Association, in partnership with PP&R, will be responsible for continued monitoring and modification of this Agreement.

6.0 Counterparts

Portland Parks & Recreation
Date

President, Mt. Tabor Neighborhood Association
Date

??

??

??

??