

Homestead Neighborhood Association

... Watching out for Homestead's interests for 30 years

In our 30 years, Homestead NA has done much to preserve and enhance the livability of our wonderful neighborhood. We have worked to protect natural areas, get trails built, limit OHSU expansion, reduce the impacts of OHSU and the VA Hospital, participated in the preservation of Marquam Nature Park and in the creation of the Terwilliger Parkway Study and Plan, developed a Neighborhood Master Plan, and much more.

Over the last 3 years we have taken a very active role in the Marquam Hill Plan, the Aerial Tram project, and are closely tracking the development of several new OHSU buildings to assure that their impact on our parks and residences is minimized.

The following is a list of some of our accomplishments over the last 30 years:



Playground Built: In 1993 the Homestead NA supported families with children to get a play structure built in a large grassy area on Terwilliger Parkway at Hamilton Street.

LIMITING OHSU EXPANSION: In the mid-eighties, Homestead took a strong stand against proposed OHSU expansion into the residential area to the west. Since that time, 9th Ave. and VA Hospital Rd. has been the recognized western boundary of OHSU, which became formalized in the recent Marquam Hill Plan. Over the years we have participated in numerous studies, plans, and conditional use proposals generated by our hospital neighbors - each of which has had the potential to substantially impact our neighborhood. While we appreciate the presence of these venerable institutions in our neighborhood, continuous monitoring of development activities on the hill and involvement in all planning projects is required to keep them from overwhelming our neighborhood.

AREA PARKING PERMIT PROGRAM: In the mid-eighties, residential streets throughout much of the neighborhood were becoming inundated with cars parked by hospital employees, students, and patrons, and by downtown workers. The neighborhood association worked with the city to establish an Area Parking Permit Program which limits non-resident parking to 2 hours while allowing residents un-restricted parking. We continue to fine-tune the parking issue, and are currently working with OHSU on their pilot SmartPark paid parking program around OHSU.

TERWILLIGER PARKWAY IMPROVEMENTS: The Homestead NA worked with the City and the Parks Bureau to install curbs, drains, and bike lanes on Terwilliger Parkway.

TRAILS / 40 MILE LOOP: One of our biggest priorities has been to protect the natural beauty of our neighborhood. Over the years we have worked diligently to preserve natural areas and to get trails and a trailhead shelter built and maintained. We also participated in the effort to plan and construct the Marquam Trail segment of the 40 Mile Loop Trail.

PRESERVING TREES AND VIEWS: In 1999, the Veterans Affairs Medical Center proposed a new parking lot on the top of a prominent ridge next to their hospital. The ridge, which is directly above Terwilliger Parkway and is visible from downtown and the eastside, would have been clear-cut and leveled. Planning and engineering were in progress when the Homestead NA voiced strenuous objections to the VAMC and our congressmen, and we succeeded in halting the work.

PROTECTING SENSITIVE AREAS: In 1992, a new road was proposed to connect OHSU to Barbur Blvd. south of Hamilton St. The route of the 2 to 4 lane road would have gone through environmentally sensitive forest, crossed through Terwilliger Parkway, buried a year-round stream, and traveled next to the Marquam Trail. It would have impacted over a half mile of Terwilliger Parkway and destroyed the quiet ambience of a beautiful natural area that is now becoming protected as an addition to Terwilliger Parkway and Marquam Nature Park (see next). We have also worked to preserve other lands along Terwilliger Parkway from development.

90 ACRES OF NEW PARK PRESERVED: The most exciting recent success has been the preservation of 90 acres of undeveloped forest land south and west of OHSU. Half of the land is owned by OHSU, and the other half was owned by a private party that had been exploring ways to develop it. Homestead NA lobbied vigorously for preservation of these lands during the Marquam Hill Plan process. Efforts to prevent the new access road to OHSU were also critical to keep the land from being opened to large scale development and to preserve it for an eventual park. When combined with Terwilliger Parkway and Marquam Nature Park, there is now a continuous "green-belt" around Marquam Hill which will contain its development. Homestead NA is participating in efforts to remove ivy in this area and to plan new trails.

To read about neighborhood news, monthly meetings or upcoming events ... please go to:

www.HomesteadNA.org