

A Year of **SUCCESS** at Madrone Wall

Scheduled Opening of New Park in
Summer 2017 Thanks to **19-year Effort**
by Determined Volunteers



Photo: Keith Daellenbach

by **Keith K. Daellenbach**

2015: PROGRESS IS MADE

A matching grant from Clackamas County Tourism and Cultural Affairs was given to the Madrone Wall effort. County Parks earmarked a funding allocation for park creation at Madrone Wall. At this same time, the Madrone Wall Preservation Committee (MWPC) was approached by two anonymous donors who sought to provide large dollar donations and, along with smaller key grants from Mazamas, Access Fund, American Alpine Club, and MWPC, the Tourism Grant was effectively matched.

JANUARY 2016

Capital Investment, Operation and Maintenance Cost concerns brought by the Clackamas County Board of County Commissioners (BCC) threatened progress on re-establishing access to Madrone Wall.

MARCH 2016

After many months of work, the BCC unanimously approved to move forward with the development and construction of the Madrone Wall project.

APRIL 2016

Final updates to the engineering construction documents which were completed and stamped by Professional Engineer Scott Nettleton of T. Y. Lin International. MWPC worked with Mr. Nettleton for seven years to complete these detailed drawings with input from the County and the Oregon National Guard. His pro bono assistance was truly substantial.

MAY 2016

After a seven-year engagement with the Oregon National Guard, which MWPC initiated and promoted, Oregon's Adjutant General, Major General Michael Stencil provided the final signature necessary for the Community Assistance Project (CAP) for the construction project at Madrone Wall.

AUGUST 2016

For 16 days in August, the Oregon National Guard mobilized approximately 20 soldiers with the 224th Engineering Company of the 1249th Engineering Battalion at the site to resurface the existing quarter mile access road with aggregate and build out the aggregate parking area for 22 vehicles (including two for ADA parking).

This pro bono, public-public project saved the County substantial funds and, importantly, it was used as a meaningful annual training activity for soldiers that have at times been deployed into hostile theaters where their road building capability was mission critical.

The Guard soldiers completed an amazing job. They brought to the project a gung-ho, can-do attitude, and were professional and skilled. At the end of their training mission, MWPC feted them with a catered barbeque in gratitude for a job well done along with invited County Parks staff at the site below the Madrone Wall.

OCTOBER 2016

County Parks installed the vault toilet at the edge of the parking area. After confirming County direction for new hiking trail locations, MWPC, working

closely with Trailkeepers of Oregon (TKO), identified several qualified trail building leaders. TKO offered their website to register volunteers to pair up with these leaders.

NOVEMBER 2016

Over six days (three weekends), we improved the site amenities by building new trails up steep slopes from the parking lot to the base of the Wall and along the base of the Wall. Using TKO and Metro pick axes, pulaskis, cum-a-longs, steel iron levers, rogue hoes, shovels and 121 volunteers donating 750 hours we built 268 rock steps, 500 yards of new trail, and re-planted 20 ferns. Some rock steps weighed 600 pounds and took multiple people to place. Thank you TKO, Metro, Washington Trail Association, REI, Mazamas, Access Fund, Portland Mountain Rescue, County Parks, and MWPC and, most importantly, all the volunteers!

SUMMER 2017: WHAT'S COMING NEXT

After 19 years of effort the goal to re-establish access and open a park at this amazing civic treasure, is on track for scheduled park opening in summer 2017!

A newspaper article in the Clackamas Review was published describing the effort: tinyurl.com/hbby56k.

Please note that this site is still closed due to expected peregrine falcon nesting and no additional volunteer work activities will occur during their nesting period. Please continue to respect the posted No Trespassing signs.