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Washington Park Celebrates 150 Years with Parkwide, Interactive Experience

Discovery Points Connects Visitors to Park's Many Destinations

PORTLAND, Ore. (June 15, 2021) — Washington Park, owned and managed by [Portland Parks & Recreation](#), celebrates its 150th anniversary by inviting you to explore Portland's destination park in an entirely new way this summer.

Washington Park is marking its sesquicentennial with a parkwide, interactive experience called [Discovery Points](#). It includes featured locations throughout the Park connecting visitors to stories and culture from the past 150 years.

From the International Rose Test Garden's first female curator in a century, and the influence of war in the creation of the Portland Japanese Garden, to how a 60-foot piece of art from Oregon Zoo's past lives on, and a glimpse of Hoyt Arboretum through the decades – Discovery Points allows visitors to interact with unique stories behind some of the Park's most well-known destinations.



“Washington Park is a community of destinations that have all had a strong influence on the Park's holistic story,” said Anna Goldrich, Chair of the Explore Washington Park Board of Directors and Executive Director of Hoyt Arboretum Friends, “150 years is an impressive milestone. It's exciting to welcome visitors this summer to discover how the Park has been connecting people to nature through the years.”

The entire experience is in free, public spaces – as well as fully virtual – and is available through fall. It's also bilingual in English and Spanish. **Here's how it works:**

- **Discovery Points** are marked with signs that include QR codes linking visitors to audio and written stories.
- **Online:** Visitors can get a Discovery Points [downloadable map](#) and an updated list of GPS locations on washingtonpark150.org or es.washingtonpark150.org
- **In the Park:** Visitors can pick up a list of locations, along with a [free parkwide map](#), at the Explore Washington Park Visitor Information booths on the [TriMet Plaza](#) and near the [Rose Garden Store](#).

On-site parking is limited, but drivers can check [real-time parking availability](#) before they arrive.

Visitors are encouraged to take TriMet’s MAX Red and Blue lines to the Park. The Washington Park Free Shuttle, which runs daily 9:30 a.m. to 7:00 pm, stops at the Washington Park MAX Station to bring visitors to the Park’s major destinations.

Most Discovery Points are also accessible from designated Washington Park Free Shuttle stops.

“The Free Shuttle is an easy and sustainable way to see all Washington Park has to offer without having to drive,” said Heather McCarey, Explore Washington Park’s Executive Director, “Visitors can hop on and off as they explore Discovery Points and the entire Park.”

The Free Shuttle is following current state COVID safety guidelines and masks are required. Check its schedule and track it in real-time at ewpshuttle.org.

Watch for fun ways to interact with Discovery Points all summer long on Explore Washington Park’s [social media](#) channels. Among them, Washington Park-inspired creations by beloved, local artist [Mike Bennett](#), voted Portland’s Best Visual Artist of 2020.

Washington Park was established in 1871 and was first called City Park. Its name was officially changed to Washington Park in 1912 to represent its then main entrance along SW Washington Street, which is currently West Burnside.

About Explore Washington Park

[Explore Washington Park](#) is a non-profit dedicated to improving visitor experience and access to Washington Park. The organization provides visitor services, including a free parkwide map and the Washington Park Free Shuttle. The Free Shuttle helps people access the Park’s green spaces, trails, memorials, and statues as well as its cultural destinations – Oregon Zoo, World Forestry Center, Hoyt Arboretum, Portland Japanese Garden, and International Rose Test Garden. Explore Washington Park was established in 2014 and is funded through parking meter revenue in partnership with Portland Parks & Recreation.

For more information about Washington Park and the Explore Washington Park Free Shuttle, visit explorewashingtonpark.org. Join @explorewashingtonpark on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#), and @ExploreWAPark on [Twitter](#).

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