



MISSION STREET PARKS
CONSERVANCY

TO: Members
Salem Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

FROM: Mission Street Parks Conservancy

DATE: October 7, 2024

RE: MSPC Report on Activities for the Period July 1, 2024, through September 30, 2024

The Mission Street Parks Conservancy is a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to preserving, maintaining, enhancing, and interpreting Bush’s Pasture Park and other iconic landscapes on and near Mission Street.

Preserve

Under the stalwart leadership of Gretchen Carnaby and with the advice of Rose Specialist Elaine Sedlack, MSPC has continued its efforts this quarter to rehabilitate the Tartar Old Rose Collection. Begun in 2023, the focus of the Tartar Old Rose Collection rehabilitation project has been to fill out the collection with the dual goals of making it a better teaching tool and increasing public appreciation of the garden. As a teaching tool, an expanded collection includes more rose classes and more representatives of the evolution of the rose. Public appreciation is increased through a fuller collection with more scent, repeat blooms and more color.

Rehabilitation work has included plant identification, the planting of over 40 new individual rose plants, weeding, edging and mulching. New individual name plaques have been forged by a former volunteer gardener and will be installed at the end of the project. This has been a priority project for the Conservancy and is expected to be completed before the end of the 2024 gardening season.

MSPC thanks the Salem Central Association of Neighbors (SCAN), for grant funding for this project.

Maintain

The Tuesday Gardeners were hard at work each week this summer on routine but important maintenance projects. This year, the Tuesday Gardeners chipped in to weed and spread mulch throughout the entire floribunda tea rose collection, a project outside the general duties of the group but of significant value to park users who stroll the gardens and utilize the gazebo for weddings and other celebrations. This project was completed in addition to other maintenance tasks and extended from late July through the month of August. We are thankful to Willamette University for donating a portion of the mulch used to support this project.

Other major tasks this quarter included weeding, edging and mulching in various gardens, renovation of tree circles, removing suckers, thinning shrubs, and other detail work.

Enhance

Construction on the Woodland Garden was on pause through much of the beginning of this quarter as gardeners waited until the fall planting season to continue installation. Gardeners returned to the Woodland Garden project in September, and continue to work on installing shrubs and groundcover, and making other adjustments as



MISSION STREET PARKS
CONSERVANCY

necessary to the landscaping and planting plans. The board is in the process of considering table and seating selections for the space, and looks forward to completion of this project in the near future.

Interpret

The MSPC Board installed temporary signage to identify the work being done in the Woodland Garden, and continues to consider options for permanent signage for that space. Work also continues to add new signage identifying the varieties of Old Roses in the Mae Tarter Old Rose Collection.

Plant Sales

The MSPC Fall plant sale was held in coordination with the Salem Air Fair & Festival on September 13-15, 2024. Currently booked plant sale profit for the event totals \$5,278.

MSPC gives our sincere thanks to all of the hardworking volunteers who helped to plan and run the September event, as well as to all of our amazing growers and vendors!

The fall plant sale is a major fundraiser for MSPC and is one of two plant sales we do annually. We are incredibly grateful to the Salem Art Association for their continued partnership and support in coordinating with us on planning for the plant sale as a complementary event to the annual Art Fair.

Community

Each week, MSPC’s fantastic volunteer coordinator, Emily Standish, shares calendar listings for local social, plant-related and educational events with our Tuesday Gardeners. MSPC is extremely grateful to Emily for her work enhancing the sense of community among our large group of dedicated volunteers and friends!

Board member Julia Battle coordinated over the summer with the Salem Art Association to provide youth environmental education as part of the SAA’s summer children’s programming, and is continually identifying ways to bring together her love of teaching with her love of Bush’s Pasture Park and dedication to MSPC. We are grateful to Julia for her work!

Photos



Bush’s Pasture Park in early August. Photo courtesy of Jim Schoemaker



MISSION STREET PARKS
CONSERVANCY



Clockwise from top left: Tuesday Gardeners and City of Salem Employees spreading mulch donated by Willamette University in the Floribunda Tea Rose Collection in late August. MSPC Board member and Volunteer Coordinator Emily Standish showing off her pile of weeds pulled from the tea roses. Weeded and mulched tea roses treating park goers to beautiful color in August. Photo credits unknown.



MISSION STREET PARKS
CONSERVANCY



Plants awaiting a new home at the Fall Mission Street Parks Conservancy Plant Sale.



MISSION STREET PARKS
CONSERVANCY



Tuesday Gardeners hard at work rehabilitating the Tartar Old Rose Collection.



MISSION STREET PARKS
CONSERVANCY



From left: Salem City Councilor Vanessa Nordyke, MSPC Board members Melissa Bazargani and Patti Sieg, and MSPC Board President Maureen McGee. Councilor Nordyke visited the Tuesday Gardeners for a tour and to share her support for the Conservancy's work in late August. Thank you Councilor for coming out!