



Spring Newsletter

February marks just three years since a handful of loyal park users first met to form the Volunteer Park Trust, to preserve, protect and enhance our beloved park. You have been generous with your time and your dollars. We've enclosed our Thank You to our donors with this mailing. Thanks to your help, we've made great progress toward reaching our goals. We are heading into 2015 with even more ambitious projects that include: adding new plantings, improving the irrigation system, engaging the community to explore updating the band shell, and of course, hosting more popular events and ongoing stewardship.

In 2015 we'll conduct a study on replacing or updating the 1970's band shell on the Great Lawn north of the reservoir (see below for pictures of the park's band shells through the years). We are pleased to share the news that in December 2014 we received a \$25,000 grant from the Seattle Dept. of Neighborhoods to conduct this study. VPT co-founder Eliza Davidson is heading the task force that will hire an architect, reach out to the performing arts community, and engage the public in a series of meetings to provide input and offer feedback. The outcome will be a concept design for the new band shell. Facility upgrades we'll be evaluating include an improved sound system and acoustics, weather protection, better rest rooms, and space for actors and musicians to change. We'll have more news soon: stay tuned.

1912



Image: UW Libraries, Special Collections 1983.10.13575

1936



Image: UW Libraries, Special Collections 1983.10.9228.1

2014



Image: Winky Hussey

This year we will continue to update the park's antiquated irrigation system, working closely with Seattle Parks and Recreation. A \$25,000 grant from the Pendleton & Elizabeth Carey Miller Charitable Foundation will provide funds to get water to one of the last non-irrigated parts of the park near the main 14th and Prospect entry. VPT is also working in partnership with the Seattle Asian Art Museum, Volunteer Park Conservatory, and Seattle Parks to develop a practical plan for sustainable use—and reuse—of power, sun and water in the park.

VPT will add new plantings in 2015 in the fall. To prepare, we are expanding our cleanup projects to remove invasive plants, mulch, and better define beds. Parks staff will perform any pruning or major removals they consider needed. We'll plant beds at the East end of the reservoir, complete the garden funded by the Peach Foundation in 2012, and extend the restored area along the park's central concourse. We have already received a generous grant from the Wyman Youth Trust to support this effort; two additional grants are pending. For future landscape upgrades, we hope to increase our focus on major park entries, to help make the park more welcoming.

As you know, our Holiday in the Park event had to be cancelled at the last minute due to a major windstorm. We all missed the cheerful singing and hundreds of luminarias that have become an annual treat. Undaunted, the Events Committee is already planning our 2015 Spring Stewardship Day and Summer Picnic in the Park. We look forward to enjoying these and other events with you in the coming year.

This is a busy year for VPT, and there is plenty more to come beyond 2015! Seattle Public Utilities has announced that it will delay the long-awaited decision about the future of the reservoir until mid-2016, due to required seismic studies of the entire Seattle water system. This delay gives us more time to consider the future of the reservoir, a key landmark feature of the park. We look forward to seeking your input when that project begins.

We are actively recruiting new members for our committees in preparation for future activities. Please contact us through our website (volunteerparktrust.org) or a member of the Steering Committee to get more involved. Come to an event. Donate. Tell friends and neighbors about the Trust. Together, we are protecting the park's venerable past and creating an even brighter future.

Doug Bayley
Chair, Volunteer Park Trust