Volunteer Park Trust is now three years old and our momentum continues to grow. It’s been a busy and productive summer. Over 1,000 people enjoyed the VPT Summer Picnic in the Park in July; and we participated in Deco Night with the Seattle Asian Art Museum. In early September, we co-sponsored a sold-out lecture at Town Hall Seattle with Thomas Herrera-Mishler who shared valuable lessons about the restoration of the Olmsted Parks in Buffalo, New York. Fall Restoration Day found us near the Dahlia beds where we weeded and mulched: the area looks fresh and new. Every first Thursday from 10 am to noon, you can find a small group of dedicated volunteers who work to cleanup a smaller area than we are able to address with our larger events. Join us, please. Together, we are making a difference.

We continue to collaborate with our partners—Friends of the Volunteer Park Conservatory, the Seattle Asian Art Museum, Seattle Parks and Recreation, Seattle Parks Foundation and Friends of Seattle’s Olmsted Parks—to insure that we are united in our efforts. For now, we are focusing on a few important goals for the whole park. We all want a park in which the restored facilities, landscape, and infrastructure set the standard for the intelligent use of resources.

Our biggest projects and challenges lie ahead. We are stepping up to address the aging central irrigation system by applying for a grant that will allow us to begin needed repairs. We hope to be awarded a grant to fund a concept design for updating the band shell. Our work will include input from neighbors. We are in preliminary discussions with Seattle Parks and Recreation and Seattle Public Utilities to address the reservoir. And, our work on landscape restoration will continue with plans to replant beds near the lily ponds by the central plaza.

With your help, we are protecting our historic past and working toward a brighter future. See you in the Park!

Doug Bayley,
Chair, Volunteer Park Trust