

# State Capitol State Park Newsletter

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by Jim Bader, State Capitol State Park Manager, 503-551-7054

## How did the area around the Capitol Mall become State Capitol State Park?

The park was created by Senate Bill 632 during the 2007 legislative session. The bill designated the mall area as a state park and gave the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) responsibility for operating and maintaining the park beginning Jan. 1, 2008.

We are working on a plan to provide direction for park operations and programs. The plan will outline the goals for interpreting the park's historical and cultural resources and guidelines for park signage.

## Fountains and cherry blossoms

The park is pretty in all seasons, but spring and summer bring new reasons to visit—the flowering cherries and fountains.

Our goal is to maintain and operate Waite Fountain, the Wall of Water and Capitol Fountain from the start of the cherry bloom (usually around mid-March) through October's autumn foliage. The fountains add beauty and majesty to the Capitol grounds and create a respite in the middle of busy Salem.



The Capitol Fountain is now ringed with new shrubs and flowers.

## Shrubs and marble buildings

Our ground maintenance crew is focusing on a pruning regimen for a variety of trees and shrubs. Pruning improves plant health and encourages better blooms.

One of the park's special resources is the unique architecture of the six buildings. The architecture contributes to the grandeur and the atmosphere of the Capitol Mall. Through the years, some of the plants along the base of the buildings have grown to a size where they soon will screen out the buildings' features rather than enhance them.



The shrubs surrounding the mall buildings will be pruned gradually.

Park rangers are gradually trimming the size of the plants through a series of prunings that removes a percentage of the plant. This phased-in approach minimizes the visual impact and loss of blooms that a one-time, severe pruning creates.

## Park trivia time

Sustainability is not a new concept. When the second State Capitol burned in 1935, everything from brick to steam heat radiators were salvaged and recycled to outfit new or renovated state buildings throughout the Willamette Valley. The "Garden Pride" service building that sits along Waverly Street on the east side of the Capitol is an example of the brick recycling.