

Tacoma Street Boardwalk

Interpretive Concept

August 17, 2012

Design Consultant
Mayer/Reed

319 Southwest Washington Street
Suite 820
Portland, Oregon 97204
T 503.223.5953
F 503.223.8076



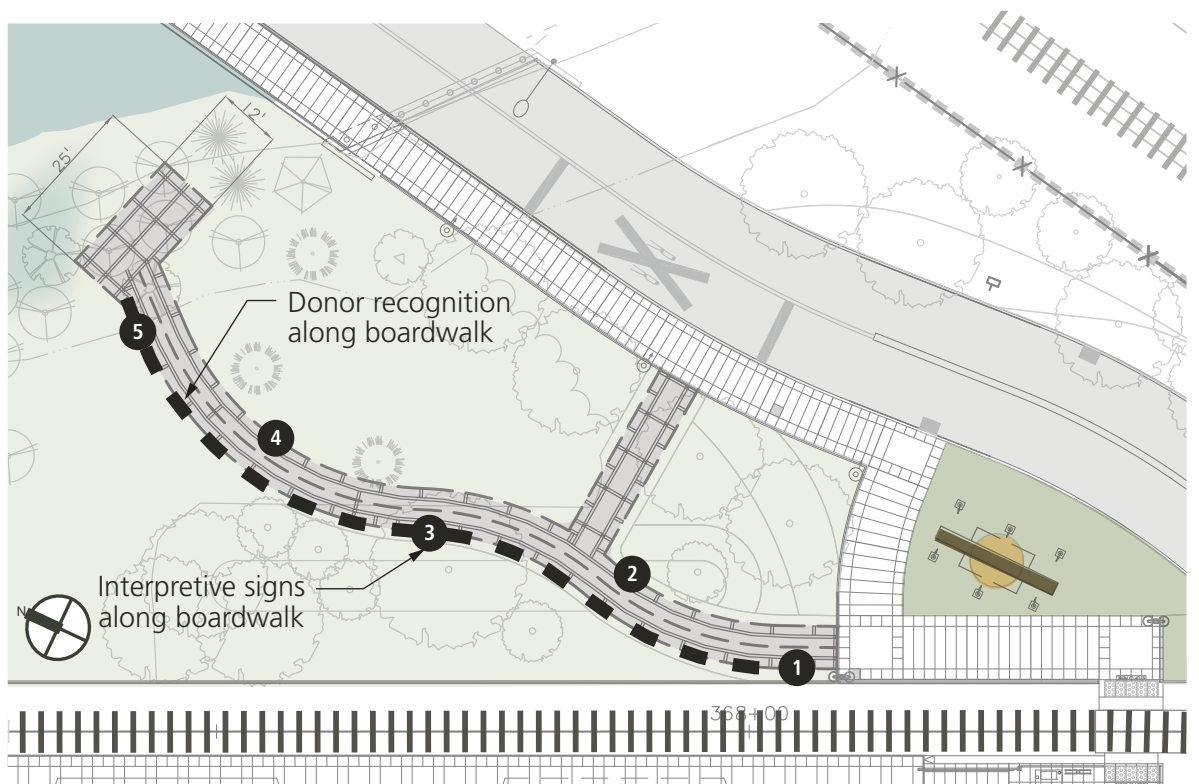
Wheels of Time

The concept for the interpretive panels along the boardwalk is adapted from Thomas Sayre's artists concept for artwork to be installed on site. Great care will be taken in the writing, image selection, color selection and overall design to honor the artwork.

Interpretive panels will introduce visitors to Johnson Creek and the circle of influence in which the creek provided opportunity for industry, industry created community, community created new forms of transportation—all of which have affected the creek over time. A changing circle and wheel motif unifies panels with content presented in chronological order.

Donor Recognition: *We are Stewards of Johnson Creek*

Donor names are engraved along the boardwalk handrail. The names create a meandering creek with donor levels designated by type size and separated by fauna and flora silhouettes.



Plan - Sign Locations

NTS

PANEL 1: Native Americans & Early Settlers

Visitors will learn about the Clackamas Tribes and their connections to land & water. Content may include a list of plants and animals that were important as food and material resources. They will also learn about the Johnson family arriving in Clackamas, settling the land, building a saw mill and the treaties signed in 1851 & 1855.

Possible Images: Historic illustration or recreated illustration of Clackamas Tribe or Early Settlers, plants that were a resource to the Native Americans, Historic map with the Oregon Trail highlighted and approximate Johnson family settlement identified.

Circle/Wheel Motif: circle of seasons, saw blade, water wheel.

PANEL 2: Willsburg & Industrialization

Visitors will learn about the Wills family, the town of Willsburg as well as prominent industries such as Wills Brick Factory and Oregon Worsted Company that shaped the site's history.

The creek powered saw mills and the OR & CA railroad was built as a means to move products to Portland. Bricks built in Willsburg and lumber cut in Willsburg were used to build homes in West Portland. Worsted yarn production was a major industry, powered by Johnson Creek water rights. Furniture and wool created on site were moved to showrooms in Portland.

Possible Images: Saw mill, historic map of early land claims, historic furniture ads, photos of storefronts, OR & CA map

Circle/Wheel Motif: saw blade, water wheel, gears, spinning wheel

PANEL 3: Modernization

Visitors will gain an understanding of how the environment changed when Highway 99E was constructed and WPA flood mitigation project channeled the creek. Farmland was divided and became neighborhoods. Preserving a part of the natural creek became important and land was donated to form Tideman Johnson Nature Park.

Possible images: WPA channel project, construction of Highway 99E, historic neighborhood photos

Circle/Wheels: automobile tires, gears

PANEL 4: Today and Tomorrow

This panel will summarize current efforts to restore Johnson Creek (Flood mitigation: storm water control, reduced erosion, re-creating meandering stream, protecting riparian buffers), promote alternate routes of transportation (biking on the Springwater Corridor, bus, light rail), and creating community (active neighborhood association, concerts, main street program) for a better tomorrow.

Possible images: Tideman Johnson Park before and after, work parties, wildlife images, bicycles and runners on Springwater Corridor

Circle/Wheels: bike tires

PANEL 5: A Healthy Habitat

Visitors will learn that Johnson Creek is part of a larger water system and a unique ecosystem within the city. Specific plants, animals and birds that are signs of a healthy habitat will be introduced.

Possible images: Map of Johnson Creek and the river system, wildlife, native plants, salmon life cycle illustration

Circle/Wheels: salmon life cycle