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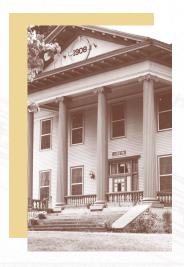
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September 2000



The Fairview Memory Book

This publication is dedicated to the residents, families and staff of Fairview Training Center



If you have a disability and need this booklet in an alternate format, please call (503) 945-6933 or (503) 945-6214 TTY.

A publication of the Oregon Department of Human Services

JOHN A. KITZHABER GOVERNOR



August 15, 2000

Dear Former Fairview Employees,

On behalf of the people of Oregon, I want to thank you for your good service at the Fairview Training Center.

Fairview attracted some of Oregon's most dedicated and able state employees. Whether they spent all or part of their career there, thousands of workers made serving the institution's residents their top priority.

Sometimes the work wasn't easy, but it offered plenty of rewards. Former employees consistently say how much they enjoyed their jobs.

One reason for this high level of satisfaction was the strong bond that formed among staff and residents. A 30-year Fairview veteran, for example, had a number of opportunities to work elsewhere, but always said no. "We made so many friends," he explained. "I couldn't think of leaving."

Given this dedication, it's not surprising that a large number of you continue to work with people with developmental disabilities in group homes and other facilities across the state.

Closing the institution itself may have been the toughest challenge Fairview faced. In spite of the stress and uncertainty that comes with such a complex change, you carried out the job with superb professionalism. Thanks to these efforts, hundreds of residents were placed in new homes with the least disruption possible.

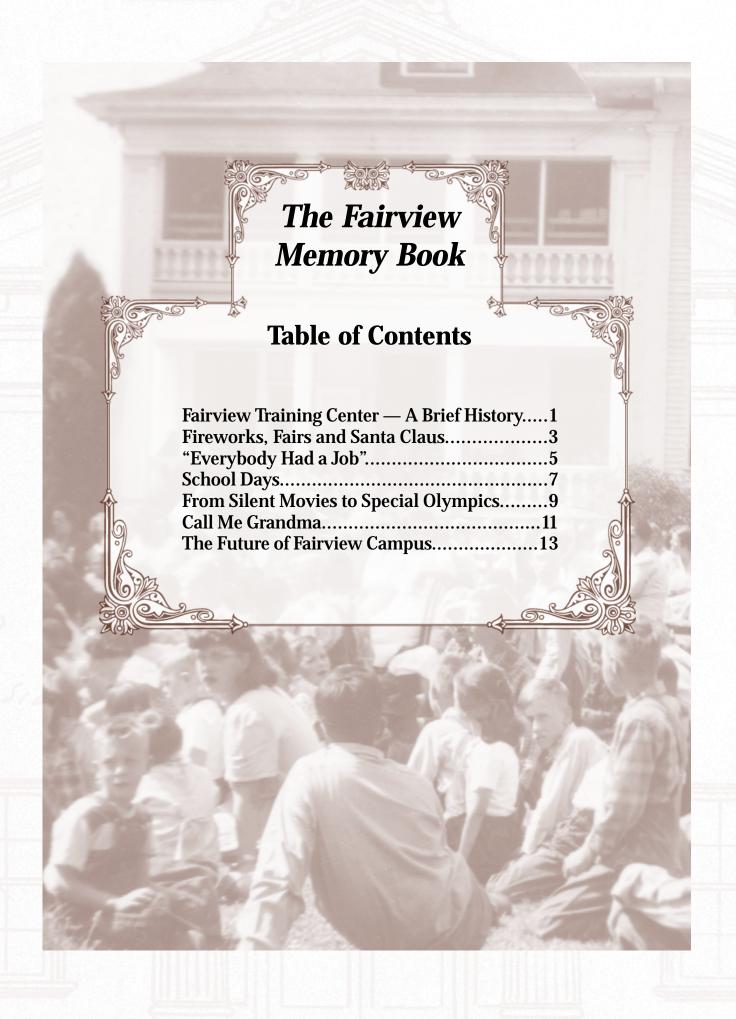
The world has changed a great deal since Fairview opened its doors in 1908. We know much more today about how to support people with developmental disabilities and their families than we did 92 years ago.

One of the strengths of the system that now serves this community is the part played by the thousands of former Fairview workers who remain active in this field. The dedication, spirit and service that typify them and their colleagues may prove to be Fairview's greatest legacy.

Sincerely,

John A. Kitzhaber, M.D.

Governor





Active through the 1960s, the institution's band entertained staff and residents, played at community events and won local contests.

Superintendents of Fairview

H. E. Bickers	1908 - 1912
Frank E. Smith, M.D.	1913 - 1914
J. H. Thompson, M.D.	1914 – 1915
J. N. Smith, M.D.	1915 - 1929
R. D. Byrd, M.D.	1930 - 1938
Horace G. Miller, M.D.	1939 - 1944
Ray M. Waltz, M.D.	1944 - 1946
Irvin B. Hill, M.D.	1946 - 1959
Jim Pomeroy, M.D.	1960 - 1970
Larry W. Talkington, Ph.D.	1970 - 1976
Jerry E. McGee, Ed.D.	1977 – 1987
Linda K. Gustafson, Ph.D.	1989 – 1991
Rosemary C. Hennessy	1991 – 1995
Chuck Farnham	1995 – 1997
Jon Cooper	1997 - 2000



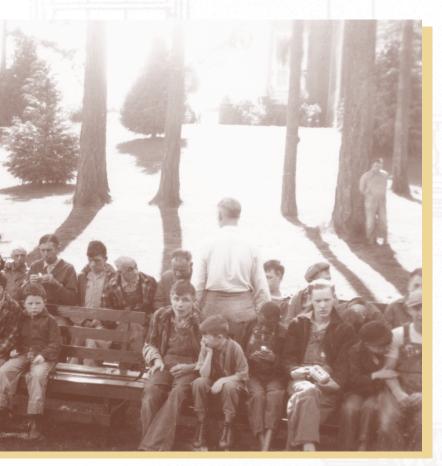
Dr. Irvin Hill served as superintendent throughout the 1950s.



Fairview Training Center — A Brief History

Every day a security person walks through each of the more than 60 buildings on the rambling campus of the Fairview Training Center. Where thousands once lived and worked, there are now only empty rooms, offices and corridors.

When the last resident left on February 24, 2000, little remained of what was once Oregon's largest public institution but buildings and memories. It wasn't always this way.



Above: Residents wait for sunset on a summer night so they can watch a Hollywood movie outdoors. The Columbus Day storm in 1962 destroyed the trees in the background.

Fairview first opened its doors in 1908 as the State Institution for the Feeble-Minded. Some 39 people with epilepsy, all from the State Hospital, were the first residents. Within two years there was a waiting list for admission.

The construction of Fairview reflected the most progressive thinking of the time about caring for people with developmental disabilities. "Families were urged to put their children away," says James Toews, assistant administrator at the Mental Health and Developmental Disability Services Division (MHDDSD). He says the common attitude in those days was that people with disabilities "were better off living with their own kind."

Not surprisingly, some people who came to Fairview didn't leave. "The goal was to provide care," says Jon Cooper, Fairview's last superintendent.

For most of its years, Fairview provided an institutional life. Residents wore uniform clothing, slept in barracks-style bedrooms and rarely left a campus that once totaled 672 acres. The men worked in agricultural operations, while women sewed, wove baskets or crocheted.

As Oregon grew, so did Fairview. The original facility had four buildings and served a handful of people. By 1962, there were some 60 buildings and about 2,700 residents.

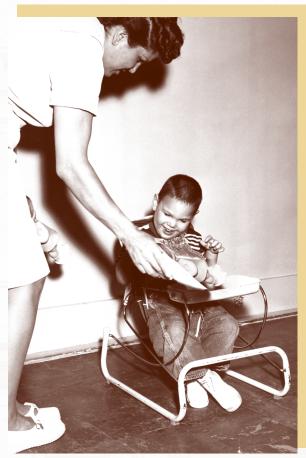
The institution's budgets, however, didn't keep up with its population increases. By the 1960s, the campus was badly overcrowded and understaffed. As a result, health care professionals, advocates for people with disabilities and the federal government later pushed for changes, and eventually, the closure of Fairview itself.

In the decades since, Oregon and other states have adopted a new approach — community-based services — that allows people with developmental disabilities to live in their own homes or nearby. Typical programs include in-home care, vocational training and small group living.

These days "people with disabilities live closer to home, closer to their families," says Toews, "[and] experience stores, churches, and recreational events." The result, he says, is "richer lives" than were possible at Fairview.



Vocational training gave instruction in carpentry and other skills.



Fairview admitted children under the age of five until the 1960s.

Fireworks, Fairs and Santa Claus

Holidays brought together residents, staff and members of the Salem community. Probably the most important of the year's events was the Fourth of July. "It was a big, grand thing," recalls Rod Cowan, a 30-year state employee who ran the vocational training program.

The day began with a parade of floats decorated by residents, volunteers and employees. Area service, motorcycle and auto clubs participated too, and a local celebrity sometimes served as grand marshal. Residents were a key part of the parade. "They built the floats, rode them and marched alongside," says Barbara Rees, who oversaw the foster grandparents program from 1983 to 1995. "They were so proud to be part of it."

MAKE LOVE NOT WAR

WOODSTOCK OR RUST!!

The year of the first parade is uncertain. Donald Nelson, who retired in 1980, recalls the event "was going strong" when he arrived at Fairview in 1947.

The last parade took place in 1998. In most years, "a big carnival" followed the parade, says Lon Burkard,

Above: Almost every cottage and department sponsored a float in the annual Fourth of July parade. Some Fairview entries won prizes in other Oregon parades.

who served as vocational services director from 1988 to 1997.

"There was face-painting, a fishing booth, a dunk tank, other games, and lots of food."

Favorite snacks included German sausages, cotton candy, watermelons, and cookies-on-a-stick.



Above: Kozer Cottage made this parade float and called it "Mother Goose's Birthday Party."

In the 1950s and 1960s, a fireworks display capped each Fourth of July celebration. This effort began modestly, probably in 1949 or 1950, says Nelson. When it became the only public fireworks display in Salem, thousands of city residents gathered on Strong Road to watch the show until the tradition ended in 1970.

Another big event was the Oregon State Fair in August. For many years, the fair offered a special Fairview Day for residents, staff and volunteers. Chuck Farnham, who retired as superintendent in 1997, recalls that many residents held on to gifts, hats and other state fair keepsakes for years.

December was a busy time, too, and also underscored the special links between Fairview and Oregon communities. The Canby High School choir, for example, gave holiday concerts for several decades until 1998. According to Patty Mallory, who coordinated media and volunteer relations in the 1990s, the performances also included a Santa Claus who distributed candy canes to residents. The event was so popular that it had to be held twice to accommodate everybody.



These boys and girls lived in Kozer Cottage, a home for children with Down Syndrome.

Other longstanding activities involving school, church and community groups in December included a Christmas program at the Fairview School and evening caroling by a Mennonite Choir at each cottage. "Everybody thought of us at Christmas," says Jane Roach, the director of volunteer services from 1979 to 1989.



"Everybody Had a Job"

For six decades vocational training at Fairview meant teaching residents the service jobs necessary to operate the institution itself.

"There was no organized vocational training when I arrived in 1958," says Rod Cowan, who helped create the first such program in the 1970s. Instead, a staff person assigned residents to the farm, the ground crew, the laundry or the kitchens. "It was like a daily labor exchange," Cowan recalls.

Extensive agricultural operations used much of this labor. In the early 1960s, according to Cowan, Fairview had 80 acres of orchards, 30 acres of truck gardens, and poultry, pork, beef and dairy operations.

Each of these enterprises shut down for economic reasons between 1968 and 1977. The general mechanization of agriculture meant increased expenses for Fairview's own farms and little outside demand for the skills residents were learning.

Demographic change also took place among residents. Most of those who had jobs during this period functioned at a high level and eventually left.

By 1975 when Lon Burkard arrived as a supervisor in vocational services, "the majority of people did not work. We had only a few jobs available. If people didn't qualify or didn't want to do them, they stayed home."

This began to change, however. In the early 1970s, the Fairview School established a sheltered workshop with 15 students. Within a few years, 130 people were learning how to assemble electronic goods and make wood products.

Other residents worked off campus cleaning houses, maintaining cemeteries or doing odd jobs. A federal program known as CETA sent others to work in local restaurants and hotels.

"This work paid off," says Burkard. People "learned good work habits and carried these skills into the community."

> But Cowan, Burkard and their colleagues also recognized that residents without higher abilities could not be ignored. In the late 1980s, after Fairview settled a lawsuit with the federal government and advocates for people with disabilities, the goal became for every resident to participate in supported or competitive employment.

"After 1988, we found out what people could do and created jobs for them," says

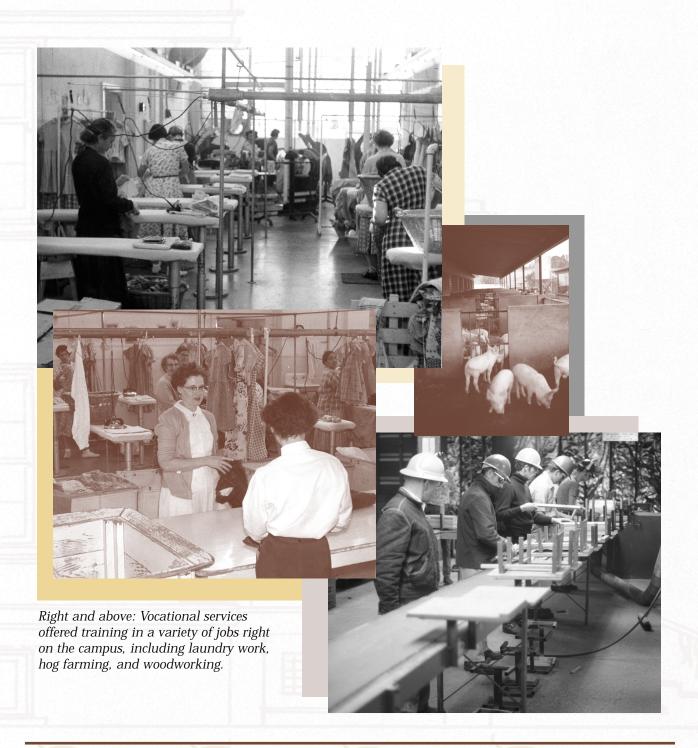


Fairview's farm provided both food and work for residents.

cottages open

Burkard, who became director of vocational services that same year. One example of this was the Active Stimulation Program (ASP). Individuals with severe physical limitations used specially designed switches to activate various machines, including paper shredders, staplers and paper folders.

"We were serving about 94 percent of the population in the late 1980s and early 1990s," says Burkard. "We even involved the medically fragile. Almost everybody had a job."





School Days

State and federal laws were both the making and the undoing of the Fairview School.

Oregon's adoption of state special education

standards in the 1960s "had a tremendous effect on the quality of our programs," says Dale Gibson, who served as Fairview School principal from 1964 to 1990. The new rules led to the recruitment of a better-trained staff and the implementation of more demanding curriculums.

"There were few academic programs in place before 1960," recalls Gibson, who arrived at Fairview that year as a new teacher, "much less anything in the way of special education." In fact, some students did not have developmental disabilities at all, but instead were there because of behavioral problems.

Gibson and his colleagues also benefited from the support of Dr. Jim Pomeroy, who served as Fairview's superintendent from 1960 to 1970. "He had a big impact on the establishment of a formal school program and an institutional focus on education and training," says Gibson.

Before the 1960s, working with people with developmental disabilities was a field that emphasized medical research, not training and education. In Oregon, according to Gibson, Dr. Pomeroy "moved to improve the Fairview School and pushed hard for meeting new training standards."

Housed in the old hospital, classes were organized by age and ability level. Goals for students varied. Teachers emphasized

self-help and independent living skills for some students. Others received instruction in a vocation or experience in a sheltered workshop. There were also physical education courses and classes for children with multiple disabilities.

The school held a graduation ceremony in June. Students were awarded a Fairview certificate at age 18, although some continued their education for three more years.

Throughout the 1960s and early 1970s, enrollment averaged about 350 students a year. This number dropped, however, in

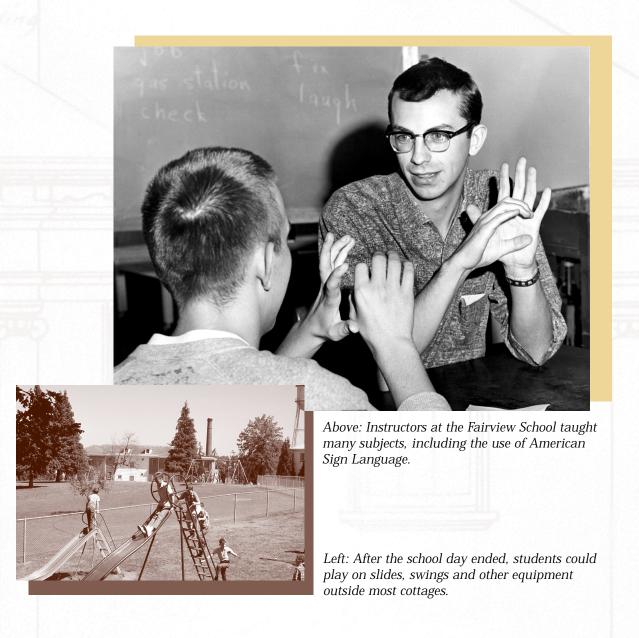


The Fairview School served students up to age 21 until it closed in 1990.

the 1970s after the enactment of a federal law, (PL 94-142), that guaranteed the right of a student with disabilities to an education in local public schools.

"Kids began to stay in their communities or return there," says Gibson. "Until then, parents often had no other choice but to turn to Fairview for services."

The number of students at Fairview School fell to 250 and continued to shrink each year. The 1980s brought more community programs that further affected enrollment. Only about 100 students remained when the Fairview School graduated its last class in 1990.





From Silent Movies to Special Olympics

From weekly dances and movies, to camping trips and Special Olympics, Fairview residents enjoyed many recreational activities on and off campus.

Some programs spanned most of Fairview's history. The weekly movie, for example, began in the 1920s with silent films. Seven decades later, residents watched the latest color videos on a big-screen television.

Weekly dances were also a long-standing tradition. "They were very well attended even toward the end," says Blain Church, the director of therapeutic recreation services from 1990 to 1999.



These young women celebrated the arrival of May Day in the 1950s by dressing in formal gowns and gathering around a maypole.

Other regular activities on campus in the 1970s and 1980s included a basketball league with up to six teams, summer trips to Camp Taloali near Detroit Lake and an aquatics program in the Multipurpose Building.

In the 1990s, therapeutic recreation services emphasized off-campus programs that let individuals do what they wanted "as frequently as they liked to do it," says Church. Residents went to movie theaters, roller rinks and parks, or participated in local Special Olympics, basketball and other sports.

Church's department eventually had about 25 staff members. According to him, their goal was simple: to establish or strengthen connections between departing residents and family and friends in the communities where they would live.

Right: Although the Fairview band ended in the 1960s, many residents remained keenly interested in music.



Left: Fairview's Boy Scout Troop and its marching band were popular during the 1950s and 1960s.

Right: Volunteers had lots of different jobs at Fairview, including helping the residents seen here into the Possible Building, often the site of recreational activities.





Call Me Grandma

Foster grandparents were one of the most familiar sights on the Fairview campus.

"Many clients called me grandma when I first started work at Fairview because I had some gray hair," says Barbara Rees, who oversaw the program from 1983 to 1995. "I soon learned that most (residents) had had a foster grandparent."

The foster grandparents program came to Fairview in 1967. The original goal of the federally funded program was to pair low-income seniors with institutionalized children with no parents or family visitors. In one of its busiest years, sometime in the late 1960s, 251 foster grandparents worked at Fairview.

Salem-area foster grandparents worked exclusively at Fairview until federal guidelines changed in the 1980s. "We began placing foster grandparents in schools, day care centers," says Rees, "any place in the community that served special needs kids." About 40 percent of today's foster grandparents in Marion, Polk and Yamhill counties care for children with developmental disabilities.

Where do foster grandparents come from? "Most are housewives or mothers who did a great job raising families," says Marijo Poujade, the current director of the program. The average age is 78, there are three 90-year-olds, and one dedicated woman has served for 28 years.

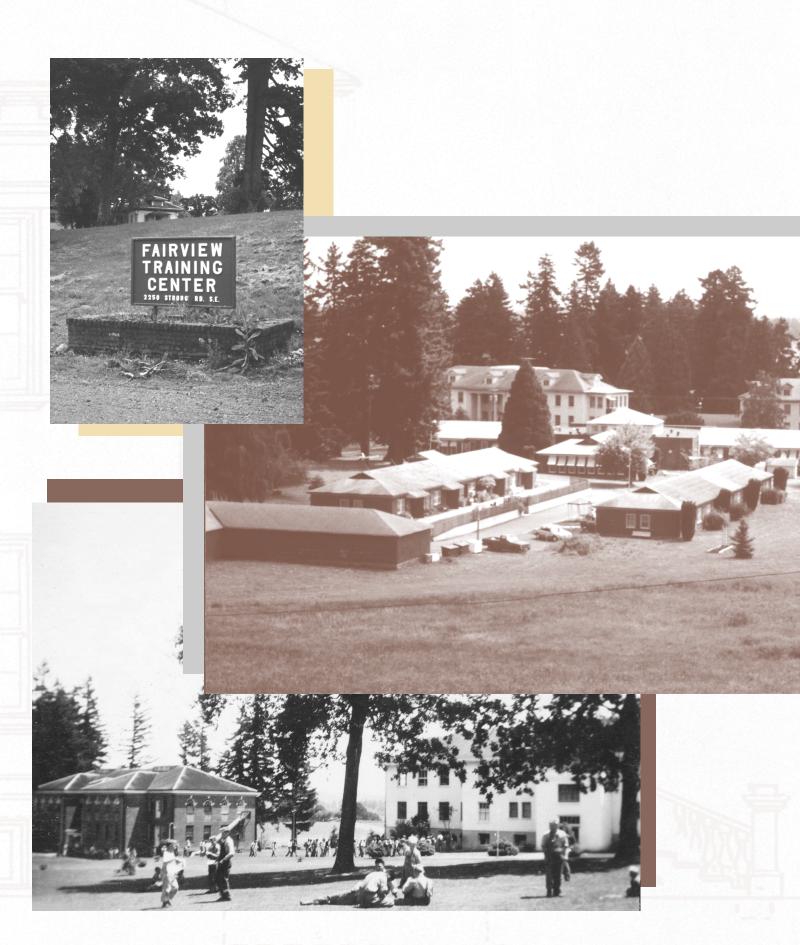
Rees says this kind of tenure wasn't uncommon when she worked with foster

grandparents. "The program really met the needs of seniors" who "were usually transformed by the experience because it gave them purpose."

With the departure of the last resident, the foster grandparent office has left the Fairview campus, its home for the last 33 years. The program continues, however. So do the relationships between foster grandparents and the children they served. Poujade reports that many grandparents travel around the state to see their former charges and she expects those visits to continue for a long time.



Foster grandparents and children often became close.



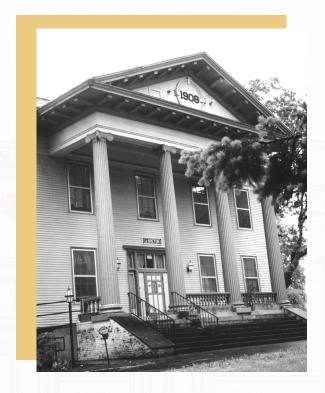


The Future of Fairview Campus

The now empty campus of the Fairview Training Center is one of the largest pieces of developable land within Salem. What happens to it next will have a big effect on the city and the people who once lived in the former state institution.

"We knew we didn't want to sell this property piece by piece," says Bill Nickleberry, who manages real property services at the Oregon Department of Administrative Services (DAS). "Instead, we asked ourselves, 'what's the best way to dispose of all 275 acres?'"





This last point is especially important to former residents of Fairview and others with developmental disabilities. Under state law, 95 percent of revenues from the sale of Fairview go into a trust fund. Earnings from the trust fund, and up to 5 percent of the principal amount, will be used to assist people with developmental disabilities in meeting their housing needs in community settings.

In 1998, DAS convened a 12-member committee of representatives from local and state governments and environmental, real estate, business and neighborhood organizations. The group's charge: produce a master plan for the Fairview property.

The plan had two goals. First, to maximize benefits to the community and address regional and local needs. Second, to produce a reasonable financial return to the state.

Nickleberry says public involvement made a big difference in the 16-month preparation of the master plan. "We wanted as much public participation as possible, and we got it."

Hundreds of people came to Fairview for a four-day "charrette," a process in which planners create drawings and other



Parks could knit together new neighborhoods on the former Fairview land.



Building a public staircase in one of the proposed hillside neighborhoods might reduce auto use in the new community.

documents based on participants' ideas. There were also public meetings, interviews with stakeholders and a newsletter.

"People said they didn't want an exclusive gated community," says Nickleberry. "Instead, they wanted well-planned neighborhoods that blended in with the adjoining area," says Nickleberry. "They also wanted to save some buildings, including LeBreton."

The state committee gave its final plan to the Salem City Council in December of 1999. The document calls for 1,000 to 1,500 homes in

three neighborhoods — The Crescent, the West Hilltop and the South Hilltop — each with its own park and network of pedestrian-friendly streets, bikeways and alleys.

With the completion of the state plan, the city of Salem is considering new zoning rules and how much to invest in roads, sewers and other infrastructure. Decisions about these matters will strongly affect the land's market value.

"The City of Salem might need up to three years or even longer to finish its planning work," says Nickleberry. "We won't sell any land in the meantime."



Participants in the Fairview master plan suggested mixing retail stores, offices and apartments in some buildings as shown above.



Autographs and Messages





Autographs and Messages





A small lake near the main entrance offered residents and staff alike the opportunity to go swimming or row a boat.

