

# Tualatin's Wonderful Award Winning Parks



Unidentified picnickers on their way to a fun time at the park. Actually, it looks like the fun has already started. Notice the picnic box carried by two gentlemen.

BY **LOYCE MARTINAZZI**

Our fair city has been blessed with good planning and foresight in the building and maintenance of beautiful and interesting open spaces. Tualatin's parks provide ball fields, tennis courts and playgrounds for the city's inhabitants.

**Community Park**, the oldest in the city, is nestled between Tualatin's two railroads, and is bordered on the east and north by the Tualatin River. The site is the home of a youth skate park and Tualatin's famous Crawfish Festival.

**Little Wood Rose Nature Park**, along Boones Ferry Road, was established in 1977. The area has been left in its natural state, a lovely little place where one can enjoy both the flora and fauna of the area.

**Stoneridge Park**, a small resting place off Sagert Road, the site is the former farm of Arthur Dunstan, an interesting fellow from the Isle of Guernsey.

**Saarinen Wayside Park**, a tiny spot off Avery Road was named for Atiel and Frances (Siska) Saarinen, the Finnish family who lived nearby, and includes an old tree and a bench where one might sit and enjoy

a rest after a long walk.



Mark Lafky patented a white Wedgewood iris that he named **Tualatin Manette**. It can be seen blooming later this spring at the Heritage Center, Lafky House and Winona Cemetery.

**Lafky Park**, 2.03 acres along Boones Ferry Road, was acquired in 1979 and is part of the old Mark and Manette Lafky farm. The Lafkys came to Tualatin in 1928 and grew Dutch iris bulbs commercially. Daughter Karen is the co-founder of the Tualatin Historical Society.

**Tualatin Commons**, completed in 1994, transformed a sleepy downtown into an elegant community gathering place. The common area features a spritzing fountain

and is rimmed by shops, restaurants, housing and a hotel. The Commons is a great place to gather for concerts, and other fun events.

**Ibach Park**, part of the Hillar and Jane Ibach farm, was completed in 1987 and recreates elements of the area's prehistoric meteorite and mastodon. A dugout canoe and drum circle, and a log cabin playhouse make the park fun for children.

**Atfalati Park** on Sagert Road and 65th avenue, was named to honor the band of native Americans who occupied the area before the settlers came. The name Tualatin is derived from Atfalati. The Tualatin Historical Society spearheaded the planting of memorial trees in the park.

**Brown's Ferry Park** lies along the bank of the Tualatin River. Named for the infamous Dr. Zenas Brown, who operated a ferry there, the park features a natural landscape with prairie grasses and a wetland pond. Boats can be launched at the floating dock.

**Jurgens Park** on Hazelbrook and Jurgens Road, was named for the Jurgens farm family.

The play area invites youngsters to imagine the past with its covered bridge and wagon ramp, a waterplay stream and root cellar. A memorial tree garden make Jurgens Park a lovely place to walk the dog on the north part of Tualatin.

Wetlands and Greenways abound in the area. Thanks to Paul Hennon, Community Services Director, and his staff for their dedication in keeping Tualatin a most pleasant place to live.



Probably a July 4th celebration at the Tualatin Community Park. The Oregon Electric Railroad and trestle is on the left. At the far end is John. L. Smith's saw mill. Circa 1913. Notice the flags on the hoods of some cars.

Photos courtesy of the Tualatin Historical Society

**Wednesday, April 6, 1:00 pm**

Tualatin Historical Society monthly program:

**"Before Breakfast Cereal Was Sugar Coated"**

An illustrated program by Clyde Kellay on the foods that transformed America's eating habits.

**Tualatin Heritage Center,  
8700 SW Sweek Drive. Tualatin. Free**

**Saturday, April 9, 9am-4pm**

**"Nostalgia Sale"**

Antiques and collectibles from the attics and cupboards of Tualatin Historical Society members

Have vintage items you would like to donate? Tax deduction receipts available.

**Tualatin Heritage Center - 8700 SW Sweek Drive, Tualatin. 503.885.1926**