

= Chiming Fountain =

The Chiming Fountain , also known as Cupid 's Fountain , the John Staehli Fountain , Portland 's City Park Fountain and Washington Park Fountain , is an outdoor cast iron fountain and sculpture built in 1891 by John " Hans " Staehli . It is installed in Washington Park in Portland , Oregon , United States . The fountain 's name derives from the sound made when water drips from the upper basin . Staehli designed the fountain to serve as a watering trough for horses pulling carriages into the park . Based on a Renaissance fountain , it was originally painted white and included a statuette of a boy , possibly depicting Cupid , though the figure was damaged and permanently removed from the sculpture before or during the 1940s .

The fountain was restored in 1960 , but no longer functioned . Its condition was deemed " treatment urgent " by the Smithsonian Institution 's " Save Outdoor Sculpture ! " program in February 1994 . Since then , its water @-@ pumping function has also been restored . Chiming Fountain has been included in published biking and walking tours of Portland and has been mentioned as a highlight of Washington Park in guides recommending family @-@ friendly activities in the city .

= = Description and history = =

The decorative fountain is located at the junction of Southwest Sacajawea Boulevard and Southwest Sherwood Boulevard in the main circle of Washington Park . It was designed by John " Hans " Staehli , a woodcarver from Switzerland who immigrated to Portland and was known for his decorative carvings of churches . The fountain was commissioned by the city in 1891 for \$ 400 and completed by Staehli later that year , becoming the city 's second piece of public art . It served as a watering trough for horses pulling carriages into the park . The fountain has been given many different names , but is most commonly referred to as Chiming Fountain , in reference to the sound made by water dripping from the upper basin .

The fountain is made of cast iron and measures approximately 12 feet (3 @.@ 7 m) tall with a 7 @-@ foot (2 @.@ 1 m) diameter . It has a pedestal and two round bronze basins separated by a narrow post , and stands in an octagonal concrete base which served as a retaining pool . The pedestal has four horned gargoyle @-@ like figures . On the bottom of the pedestal 's west side is an unsigned inscription which reads : " J. Staehli / Portland , Org . / 64 Second St. "

Staehli 's design is based on a Renaissance fountain and was originally painted white . The central post originally held a figure of a boy carrying a staff (or possibly a fish or a torch) from which water spouted . Some sources suggest the figure depicted Cupid , hence one of the fountain 's nicknames , " Cupid 's Fountain " . According to Portland Parks & Recreation , the figure was last recorded in 1912 in a photograph of Willis McElroy 's band in the nearby bandstand . However , in the 1920s , freezing weather expanded water in the fountain , damaging the figure . The boy statuette was removed from the fountain and discarded by the 1940s , and it was not replaced .

The city planned to remove the fountain in 1960 due to disrepair . However , Mayor Terry Schrunk instructed the parks bureau to begin a restoration after Francis J. Murnane , a local longshoreman and advocate for historic preservation , appealed its removal . Much of its original decoration was absent , so replicas of existing pieces were constructed at a cost of \$ 450 . The restoration cost around \$ 1 @, @ 775 , including assembly and installation . Despite its restoration , the fountain was no longer functional . Its condition was deemed " treatment urgent " by the Smithsonian Institution 's " Save Outdoor Sculpture ! " program in February 1994 . Since then , the fountain 's plumbing has been restored . According to Smithsonian , the fountain is administered by the City of Portland 's Metropolitan Arts Commission .

= = Reception = =

The fountain has been included in published biking and walking tours of the city , including one which described it as " elegant " . It was also mentioned as a highlight of Washington Park in the 2010 guidebook *Best Places : Portland* and by *Delta Sky Magazine* . Similarly , Chiming Fountain

has been included in descriptions of the park in guides recommending child @-@ friendly activities and sites in the city . These guides include the website TravelforKids.com and the 2009 book *The 10 Best of Everything Families : An Ultimate Guide for Travelers* , which listed Washington Park as one of the ten " Best Parks and Playgrounds " in the Northwestern United States .