

Sequim Prairie Garden Club



Bountiful flower baskets by the Sequim Prairie Garden Club

Don't you just love those gorgeous cascading flower baskets that adorn the light poles on Washington Avenue? Well, you can thank the hard-working members of The Sequim Prairie Garden Club (SPGC).

The garden club was formed in September of 1948 under the leadership of Mrs. George Clasen. In 1951, the Club obtained from the Sequim Cemetery Association a 99-year lease on the old cemetery land on the east edge of town. They turned it into Sequim Pioneer Memorial Park. This was Sequim's very first



The pond and waterfall after the restoration in 2018.



So far we have identified Grace Blank, front R, Stanley Stone above her in the hat. Carrie Blake is second from the Left. Others are believed to be Beulah Hoyt, Alda and Clem Fortman, Mary Stone, H Klinger and C DeRay. (Not in that order)

community park! A Carlsborg Mill house was moved to the park in October of 1960 and became the basic unit of the clubhouse and an addition to the house was begun the following spring. The American flag and flagpole was dedicated in a ceremony on Flag Day, June 14, 1963.

When the club began, women wore hats and gloves and some were known by their husband's names. It was a time when corsages were an essential part of honoring a special person and SPGC was the go-to group to make them. The PTA purchased 27 for a fundraiser at a district meeting. There were special workshops for members to make the corsages and to learn about the uses of various materials. When the new elementary school was built in 1949, the club took an active role in its landscaping and maintenance. Beginning in 1952, Arbor Day has been observed every year by planting a

tree or shrub in the park. The club planted and hung the first 12 hanging baskets for the street lights along Washington Street in 1961. This was the start of the now traditional summer addition to downtown Sequim!



The park kept expanding and that beautiful waterfall and pond that graces the front of the park, were built in 1967. Henry Lotzgesell donated funds as a memorial to his wife Hazel. The water was turned off in the

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A Jamestown S'Klallam totem carved by tribal elder Harris "Brick" Johnson was installed in the park in 1969. It is currently being restored by Terry Johnson, nephew of the original carver and will be returned to the park this year.

Visit the park and look for the restored totem later this year! (Spring 2019 Ditchwalker)

