

Wood Arbor Benches

3 Lights along walk Lawn areas Trees / Lorge Dogwood (20"d.) Planting Beds 0. 5 Ac. Purch. 1970 +

{515 Boylston Au. E. {520 Belmont Au. E.

TASHKENT, PARK

22173

TASHKENT PARK - History (TALLIKEHT)

In honor of Seattle's Sister City Program, Councilman Bruce Chapman proposed the naming of this park for the first city inside the Soviet Union to be affiliated with an American city. This program was formalized in 1957; the first of its kind between two countries. Tashkent first began participating in the program in 1961, when trade ties were formalized with the Pakistani seaport of Karachi on the Indian Ocean. Ten years later the Mayor of Tashkent was a member of a promotional tour visiting Seattle, but the Sister City affiliation was not formalized until 1973.

TASHKENT is the capital of the Uzbekistan Soviet Socialist Republic. With 1,295,000 inhabitants it is the largest city in Soviet Central Asia and ranks as the fourth largest city in the Soviet Union. Located on the Syr Darya (river), it has functioned for at least 13 centuries as a trade route center between Europe and China: the city's history goes back over 2000 years, owing partly to the condition indicated by the meaning of its name: "City of Stone". Thus able to resist most bands of hostile raiders, it did fall to the army of the Asiatic conquerer, Ghengis Khan, in 1220. It was not until 1865 that the Russians captured the city and began developing their own buildings and culture alongside the Moslem influence. A terrible earthquake shook the city in 1966 and the resultant massive reconstruction is "turning the 2000 year-old city into one of the youngest in the country", according to Mayor Kazimov. Tashkent links the southern agricultural lands of Central Asia with the great population centers of the Soviet Union. Arid/irrigated agricultural lands produce a record cotton crop. Tashkent reportedly has the largest cotton mill in the world. It also produces enormous strawberries and beautiful roses. Tashkent also supports its own opera and ballet and theatres of drama and music, an Academy of Sciences, and a Museum of History. It has a prestigious university. The sports fans have a 50,000-seat soccer stadium.

Every two years voters elect their City Council from a ballot of independents and party members; the Council choose nine of themselves for the Executive Committee, who in turn choose one of the nine as Mayor.

DS: 4/15/74