The Talking Stones were installed in December 2002 in the Whilamut Natural Area of Alton Baker Park. Quarried from a basalt deposit in traditional Kalapuya territory, the Talking Stones were designed to serve as educational and cultural reference points, as well as being beautiful art objects. The stones reintroduce words of the Kalapuya language onto land where the people once hunted, and onto waters that carried their canoes.

Now the land is part of Alton Baker Park, a primary open-space component of the Willamette Greenway. In September of 2002, the park’s eastern 237 acres were given the name “Whilamut Natural Area” in recognition of the environmental ethics of this area’s first people and their descendants.