A Fiery Past

Albert Durham named Oswego in 1847 after his New York birthplace; he founded a sawmill on Sucker Creek (now Oswego Creek). At George Rogers Park on Oswego Creek is the town’s first blast furnace, from 1867, where ore from nearby Iron Mountain was refined.

Foothills Park is located on riverside land that was home in the 1880s to a pipe foundry and a blast furnace that had succeeded the first furnace on Sucker Creek. Cast iron pipe constructed here still carries water from the Bull Run watershed into Portland and nearby cities. The last industrial use was a woodchip processing facility, which closed in the late 1990s. In 2002, the City of Lake Oswego bought the land for a park and construction began in 2005.

In 1960, Oswego merged with Lake Grove; the combined towns were renamed “Lake Oswego.”