



FRIENDS OF
Hendricks Park

NEWS FROM THE

Park Bench

EUGENE'S FIRST PARK

SPRING 2006

1906
HENDRICKS
P A R K
2006

Celebrating 100 years! This spring issue reviews how the park looks today. The questions are: What would Hendricks and Wilkins think about the park a century later? Why is the park the same?



A CENTURY LATER, there have been changes and adaptations, yet the founders' spirit continues. Today, Hendricks Park is better than ever.

In 1906, there were four automobiles in the entire city compared with 2006, when city streets bisect the park and hundreds of vehicles use them for daily trips. A visit to the park is certainly easier than in Hendricks' time, but the additional traffic adds noise and visual impact. These days, more trees grow in the park. Trees that were merely saplings during Hendricks' time have grown to 150 feet or more. A 15-acre garden with rhododendrons and other blooming plants has been developed and achieved renown. The latest attention is focused on the new Native Plant Garden, which highlights plants indigenous to the southern Willamette Valley.

It is not just the physical landscape that has adapted over the last century. A new vocabulary is being used to keep pace with the changing times. Terms such as ecology, biodiversity, ecosystems, monoculture, invasive species and urban forest were unknown to Eugene residents a century ago.

Historic photographs show the city of Eugene at a distance from the park. A century later, the park is surrounded by residential homes. People who live

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Hilton family

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around the park consider themselves both neighbors and stewards of this grand area. Just ask the Hilton family. David, Marcia and Kristi have lived near the park for 8 years and consider it their backyard. That means volunteering to remove ivy from the forest, pulling weeds in both gardens and sometimes picking up litter.

Nearby residents Gayle Landt and Martin Jones take being good neighbors seriously. They frequently help visitors understand the responsibilities when they visit the garden.

Being a steward also means looking out for the prosperity of the trees, believes long-time neighbor Jim Gent. In 1996, Jim started meeting with others who were concerned about the health of the park's trees, especially those in the 58-acre forested area. In the forest, invasive English ivy was interrupting the ecosystem by creating a monoculture. Concern over the forest resulted in the Forest Management Plan, which was approved in 2000.



Jim Gent

That document inspired another community force to become stewards of the park. In 2001, Joan Kelley and David Moon urged a group of park lovers to create Friends of Hendricks Park. The Management Plan not only brought attention to the forest but helped the entire park be seen as one ecosystem.



Gayle Landt and Martin Jones



History of the Rhododendron Garden

The Rhododendron Garden is the most acclaimed and well-known area of Hendricks Park. This 15-acre garden is situated in the northwest section of the 78 acres. A deer pen that occupied that space for several decades eliminated low-growing shrubs, making the open slope easy to envision as a flowering garden. Camellias were planted in 1950. However, a severe winter frost soon afterwards ended that effort.

Other plant enthusiasts quickly claimed the woodland setting for their prized rhododendrons. With plant donations and city labor, the one-time deer pen was transformed into gravel pathways, a grass plaza, rock walls and flowerbeds with an underlying irrigation system. Numerous members of the Eugene Chapter of the Rhododendron Society gave time and plants to the development of the garden.



Mary's Bench in the Native Plant Garden.

In 2001, the Native Plant Garden was created on a 5-acre site surrounding the F.M. Wilkins picnic shelter. The garden is a memorial for Mary Blakely, an avid native gardener and local educator.



Shaping a Public Garden - A Visual History of the Rhododendron Garden

Early Pioneers of the Garden

Charlie Thomas,
left, and
Dr Phetteplace
in suit and tie



Del James in
foreground

Ray James and
Cecil Smith



Earlier
Rhododendron
Show (circa 1955)

Early Days in the Garden



This bench is dedicated
to Ted Trombert, who
was head gardener
from 1961–1981. It is
located on the sunny
south slope of the
garden.

News Briefs

Planning is underway for a **Spring educational program** with Harris elementary school. Walama Restoration will lead the program.

Annual meeting of the Friends was held March 15. Bruce Newhouse discussed the research and findings on his Oak Knoll study.

An Advisory Board for the Friends is being developed.

There will be a **Library exhibit** on the 2nd floor of Eugene Downtown Public Library May-June. It is titled "Celebrating 100 Years" and will feature the park's history and its founders.

Next forest work parties are April 22nd and May 27th. Meet at the shelter at 9:30 am for pastries and coffee.

A new native plant bed was planted March 1. Thanks to the volunteers and guidance of Rachel Foster, Evelyn Hess and HP staff.

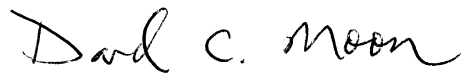
Sperry Tree Care donated their time to remove two red oak trees by Summit Ave. These trees were taken away because they were not native to the park. They will be replaced with native oaks.

Tuesday Morning Regulars could use some help to prepare the Rhododendron Garden for all the visitors who come to see the spring blooms. Come to the park office on Tuesdays at 9:30 am.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A century after Eugene's oldest park was founded, Friends of Hendricks Park is perpetuating the spirit of caring for this magnificent space. Thanks to our loyal volunteers and a growing number of contributors and members, I believe Hendricks and Wilkins would approve of the energy, effort and improvements. I am proud of this non-profit that is carrying on in Hendricks and Wilkins' spirit. This Centennial Celebration reminds us how and why the park began, where we are today and why we should plan for the future. The new Native Plant Garden and improvements in the forest are inspirations for the next century's restoration efforts.

In the future, Hendricks Park will remain a place of serenity and beauty for Eugene's citizens. Challenges must be faced, including the need for more restoration, the impact of traffic and urban forest issues, such as invasive species. Obviously, the Friends will continue to rely on its contributors and members to make it all possible and on volunteers, who add the grunt work.



David Moon
President, Friends of Hendricks Park



Volunteer Spotlight

Meet the FoHP board, left to right, Joan Kelley, David Moon, Rachel Foster, Erik Fisher, Sandra Austin and Fred Austin.

New and Renewing Friends of Hendricks Park

Thanks to these and renewing members who contributed to the
Friends of Hendricks Park between 09/20/2005 & 03/03/2006

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In-kind Contributors

Rudy Fox/Fox Graphics
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Duckworth's Nursery
Lorane Hills Farm & Nursery
Sperry Tree Care

Thanks to all our contributors, and
we regret any omissions or errors.

Memorial Contributions

Native Plant Garden
contributions in memory of:

Mary Rear Blakely
David & Jean Campbell

Rhododendron Garden
contributions in memory of:

Eugenia C. Karns
Fred & Sandra Austin

Yes! I want to become a member of Friends of Hendricks Park

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

- Senior/student/limited income \$20
 Individual \$30
 Family/household \$45
 Sponsor/business \$100
 Sustaining \$250
 Guarantor \$500
 Benefactor \$1,000
 Other amount \$_____

ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS \$_____

- Forest restoration (i.e., ivy removal)
 Native Plant Garden
 Rhododendron Garden
 Unrestricted gift
 Memorial/commemorative gifts

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$_____
 Make checks payable to Friends of Hendricks Park

Yes! I want to volunteer

- Work parties
 Education
 Standing committees



Friends of Hendricks Park
 P.O. Box 3784, Eugene OR 97403-0784

PERSONAL INFORMATION

name _____

address _____

city, state, zip _____

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Friends of Hendricks Park
P.O. Box 3784
Eugene, OR 97403-0784

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Hendricks Park**

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President David Moon
Vice President Joan Kelley
Secretary Sandra Austin
Treasurer Fred Austin
Erik Fisher
Rachel Foster

Newsletter by Joan Kelley,
Sandra Austin, Linda Sage,
Rachel Foster and Beneda
Design



The memorial bench of Jill Heiman (1950-1991) is located on a south-facing slope of the Rhododendron Garden overlooking the shelter. The bench is dedicated to Jill's commitment to family, community and social justice.



Centennial Events Calendar

**All tours will begin at 1 pm at the Picnic Shelter unless stated differently.*

APRIL

Sunday, 23rd Tree Walk with Whitey Lueck

Saturday, 29th Bird walk with Dan Gleason – meet @ 7 am

MAY

Wednesday, 3rd Wildflower tour with Ginny Alfriend – meet @ 6 pm

Wednesday, 10th Bird walk with Dan Gleason – meet @ 7 am

Sunday, 14th Mother's Day

Saturday, 21st Native Plant tour with garden staff

JUNE

Sunday, June 18th Medicinal Plant tour with Tobias Policha