

News  
from the

FRIENDS OF Hendricks Park

# Park Bench



e u g e n e ' s f i r s t p a r k

Autumn 2002

The arrival of autumn brings the first newsletter from *Friends of Hendricks Park*. Each season, the newsletter will give you park updates, information about volunteer opportunities and educational articles that will help you rediscover Eugene's oldest park, its rhododendron garden, native plant area and forest. We welcome your suggestions, feedback and any historical information about the park.

I am pleased to report considerable progress for the *Friends* since we formally incorporated in December 2001. We have collaborated with Eugene's Parks & Open Space Division to sponsor ivy removal from the forest and to begin development of a Native Plant Garden, which was dedicated on May 4. These projects exemplify the mission of the *Friends* in terms of both stewardship and hands-on involvement of members. Key goals for the organization, as defined in a recent planning process, are reaching out to increase the number of active members and raising additional funds to move the organization forward. If you're not yet a member, we invite you to join *Friends of Hendricks Park* in preserving and enhancing this valuable community asset. *Jerry Blakely, President*

## Meet the Park Staff

Any month, no matter what the weather, you'll come across the Hendricks Park gardeners. Their enthusiasm shows as they answer your questions with a smile and agree about the garden's solitude and beauty.

"We think of ourselves as a team," responded Michael Robert, head gardener, when asked for individual pictures of the staff. Only a brigade of three to weed, plant, trim and maintain the 78 acres of park? Incredible but believable because of their commitment: Michael for 29 years, Ginny Alfriend for 15 and Keith Stanley for 1½. Asked about their specialties, Michael (center) smiled and confessed, "The whole park." Ginny (right) is known for her attention to the Native Plant Garden, and Keith (left) admits he's still looking, though he's known as "King of Composting."



*Friends of Hendricks Park* is excited to be volunteering with the park's amiable veterans.

## Reaching out to Schools

The *Friends of Hendricks Park* education committee is off to a strong start, thanks to energetic chairperson Evelyn Hess. Last spring, Evelyn presented an original slide show on forest ecology to a science class at Roosevelt Middle School. She wrote the script and gathered slides with the help of Hendricks Park head gardener Michael Robert and other education committee members. The presentation focused on the importance of healthy forest ecosystems and included slides of the critters kids might encounter on a walk

through the park's woodland. Evelyn also introduced her audience to the problems that face the park, such as invasive plants and high-impact human use. After the slide show, Northwest Youth Corps drove the students to the park for a tour by gardener Ginny Alfriend. (Thank you, Hendricks Park staff and NYC!) If you're interested in volunteering for the *Friends of Hendricks Park* education committee, please contact Evelyn at 344-8943.



## Free the Trees

Ivy has become the most invasive weed in Hendricks Park, choking native forest plants out of 70 percent of the park's 58 forested acres. In some places, a dense mat of ivy prevents the seeds of other plants from falling on soil where they can germinate. In others, the ivy mat is so thick that it prevents seeds and seedlings from obtaining enough sunlight for development. Ivy also absorbs vast quantities of nutrients from the soil.

When the diversity of plants on the forest floor diminishes, the insects, birds, mammals, mollusks and mosses that depend on the plants are also affected. Although an ivy-filled forest may seem like a healthy green system, it is really an ivy desert. The result is a forest ecosystem that cannot support the usual broad range of species.

Since the development of the city's long-range plan, *Hendricks Park Forest Management Plan*, there has been a concerted effort to control a number of invasive plants. With gloves, sweat and clippers, volunteers are working together to remove English ivy from the trees and forest floor as well as to remove other invasive plants such as sweet cherry, English laurel, English holly, horse chestnut and Himalayan blackberry. In 2001, volunteers and the Walama Restoration Project cleared ivy from the trees on 10 acres of woodland and removed it from the ground on 5 acres as part of the city-sponsored *Free the Trees/Gaining Ground* program. The contrast between areas clogged with ivy and cleared areas can be seen from the first pull-off on the left on Fairmount Boulevard, as you descend from the top of the park.

This summer, the teams cleared nearly all the trees in the park of ivy, and they will continue to remove ivy from the ground this fall and winter. They are also working to prevent other invasive plants, such as herb Robert and nipplewort, from moving into the cleared areas. Park staff are also educating neighbors about the impact of residential gardens on the park. Ivy-covered trees outside the park serve as reservoirs of seeds that, with the help of starlings, jays and cedar waxwings, can re-infest the park.

## Help Us Gain Ground

If you would like to remove ivy, put on non-slip boots, a long-sleeved shirt and pants and head to the picnic shelter in Hendricks Park at 9:30 a.m. on any of the following Saturdays:

November 9, 2002  
December 14, 2002  
January 11, 2003  
February 8, 2003

Tools, snacks and good company await you. Special thanks to Charles Koehler of **Eugene City Bakery** for providing the breakfast calories for all the ivy pulls over the past year.

## Native Plant Showcase

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*Tellima grandiflora* var. *odorata*

Fringe cup is an evergreen ground cover that prefers moist shade. It tends to be low-growing and does well just about anywhere that would suit sword fern. It makes a great companion for ferns, oxalis and shrubs but needs space because of its tall flower stems. After plants have set seed, dried flowers and stems are easily removed.

Because fringe cup seeds readily, it may serve as a good replacement for English ivy in that shady, moist corner of your yard. You might want to consider the *odorata* variety because of its mild clove-and-carnation fragrance and delicate white flowers. Check with local native plant nurseries for seeds and starts.



**FRIENDS OF  
Hendricks Park**

*Friends of Hendricks Park* is a nonprofit corporation that aims to:

- ❖ Raise awareness that Hendricks Park is an important asset
- ❖ Help the city implement its long-range plan for the park
- ❖ Assist in park preservation and restoration
- ❖ Promote volunteerism for park improvement and public education
- ❖ Advocate financial and other support from the city and community
- ❖ Educate the public about the park
- ❖ Promote park-based educational programs for local students

**Board of Directors**

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*Secretary* Sandra Austin  
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 Debora Coen  
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 Mary Ann Holser  
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Sharon Blick  
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 Erik Fisher  
 Rachel Foster  
 John & Sherold Kaib  
 Kermit & Marylyn Klein Larsen  
 James & Pauline Rear  
 Theodore & Adeline Romoser  
 Victor Sabin

**Memorial Contributions**

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Cleworth, Thomas F.  
 A donation in memory of  
 Gordon Gent.  
  
 Seitz, Gary and Sheila  
 A donation to honor the wedding of  
 Shlomo Liebeskind & Debbie Rose.

**Yes! I WANT TO BECOME A MEMBER OF  
FRIENDS OF HENDRICKS PARK**

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**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES CATEGORIES**

<input type="checkbox"/> Senior/Student/limited income	\$20
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$30
<input type="checkbox"/> Family / Household	\$45
<input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor / Business	\$100
<input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining	\$250
<input type="checkbox"/> Guarantor	\$500
<input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor	\$1,000
<input type="checkbox"/> Other Amount	\$ _____

**ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

Forest Restoration (i.e., ivy removal)  
 Native Plant Garden  
 Rhododendron Garden  
 Unrestricted Gift  
 Memorial / Commemorative Gifts

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(In Name of/Memory of) \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Make checks payable to Friends of Hendricks Park

**Yes! I want to volunteer**

Work Parties  
 Education  
 Standing Committees

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**Personal Information**

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Address)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(City, State, Zip)

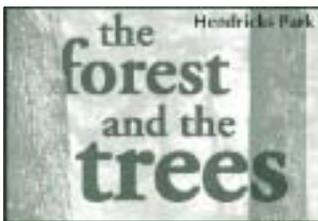
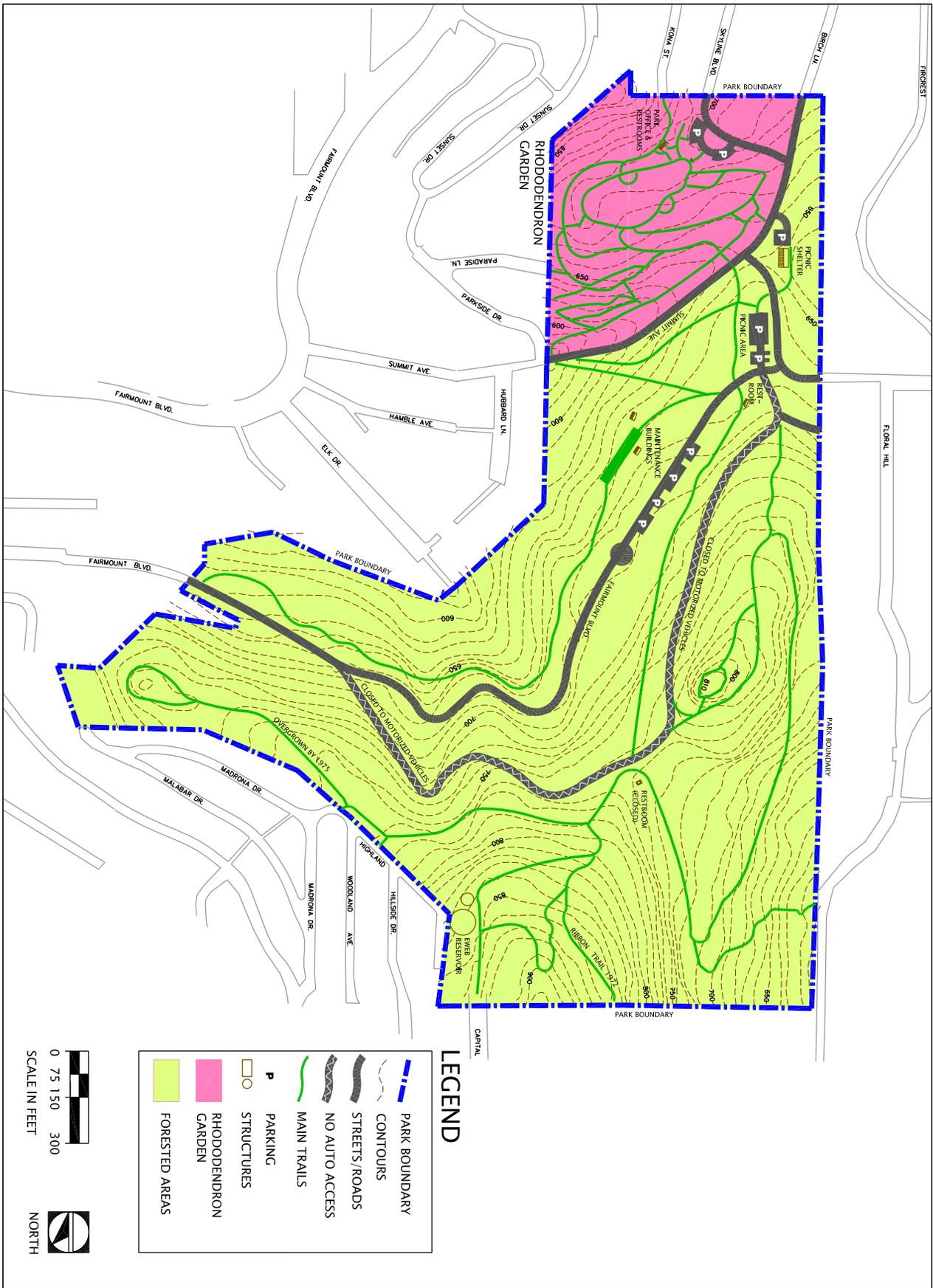
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Contributions are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law. Tax ID #93-1330075

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



# MAP 1: BASE MAP

## HENDRICKS PARK • CITY OF EUGENE



## Adopt a Plot

by Sandra Austin

This spring, *Friends of Hendricks Park* started a pilot project at Hendricks Park called *Adopt a Plot*. Now volunteers can maintain a plot in the Native Plant Garden during the growing season. Since April, I have taken care of a 10-by-20 foot plot that was originally wall-to-wall weeds, though many native plants were also coming through. In April, I spent 9 hours to rid the plot of weeds. Then I spent just an hour in May, 1½ hours in June and a few minutes during the following months. It's wonderful to work at the park. Every time I weeded this spring, a woodpecker in the Douglas fir above kept me company while it was making holes.

If you adopt a plot, you can pick your own time and weather. Depending on the size of your plot, you will probably need only 10 to 15 hours a year to keep out the weeds, and each year will get easier. If we get enough volunteers next spring, we'll expand *Adopt a Plot* to other parts of the park, such as the Rhododendron Garden. So bring friends and have a picnic when you're through. With enough volunteers, we could make the park's gardens weed-free! To volunteer for this program, contact me at 343-3452 or [freda@efn.org](mailto:freda@efn.org).

## This Bud's for Hendricks Park

Adopt-a-Plotter Vincent 'Bud' Hauber has put in 50 hours of weeding since June. After reading about the program in *Eugene Weekly*, he made time in his busy retirement schedule for the Native Plant Garden. Bud, 81, has many interests, including hiking, gardening, botany, butterflies and wildflower photography. His family has spent many happy hours in the park. Thanks, Bud, for your dedicated weed pulling.



**In passing:** Bayard McConnaughey, professor emeritus of biology and noted naturalist, conservationist, tireless worker for a peaceful world and charter member of *Friends of Hendricks Park* died on September 14. He will be missed.

## AUNT RHODIE tells all

*Dear Aunt Rhodie:* When I was a small child, our family went almost every weekend to feed the elk and deer at Hendricks Park. What happened to those animals? *Animal lover Shannon*

In 1972 there were two elk, Bill and Elsie, and two deer left at the park. They were transferred to the Portland Zoo and Wildlife Safari, where hopefully they lived out their lives in tranquility.

In 1912, the Elks Club gave two elk to the park. At one time, there were 38 animals including Sitka deer and Barbary sheep. Until 1950, the deer were kept in the area that is now the Rhododendron Garden. When the Rhododendron Garden was developed, the deer were moved to where the elk were, an area that is off Fairmount Blvd. and is now used as a work area for park staff.



*Send your questions to: Aunt Rhodie, Friends of Hendricks Park, PO Box 3784, Eugene, OR. 97403*

## A Special Thanks...

... to these generous people and businesses that helped get us started:

**Poppie Advertising and Design**, Bill Poppie  
**Fox Graphics**, Rudy Fox  
**Funk/Levis & Associates**, Cathy Hamilton  
**Fierro Design**, Rick and Carolyn Fierro  
**IP/KOKE Printing**  
Jan Brown, Michael Robert, John Moriarty,  
Linda Sage, Kay Holbo



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Hendricks Park

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*Come Join Us!*



*Come Join Us!*



Ivy photos by Robin B. Cushman

**Friends of Hendricks Park**

*Come Join Us!*