



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.

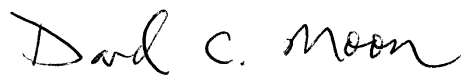
**Sperry Tree Care** donated their time to remove two red oak trees by Summit Ave. These trees were taken away because they were not native to the park. They will be replaced with native oaks.

**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

## Benefactors

Phileo Foundation  
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Charitable Giving

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## Friends/Families

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Perry Powers  
Rachelle Fiszman  
Sandy Martin  
Anonymous

## In-kind Contributors

Rudy Fox/Fox Graphics  
Charles Koehler/Eugene City  
Bakery  
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 \_\_\_\_\_

telephone \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Contributions are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.  
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Friends of Hendricks Park  
P.O. Box 3784  
Eugene, OR 97403-0784

**FRIENDS OF  
Hendricks Park**

**Board of Directors**

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