



FRIENDS OF  
Hendricks Park

NEWS FROM THE

# Park Bench

EUGENE'S FIRST PARK


SPRING 2021

## The Alpine Bed Restored

Volunteers recently completed a major overhaul of bed #7. Also known as the Alpine Bed, it lies toward the northeast corner of the top lawn, encompassing a couple of oak trees. Hendricks Park's lead worker, Emily Aune, tells us it was originally planted over forty years ago as a home for small rhododendrons, with

design and plant contributions from Harold Greer. Unfortunately, many of those plants were almost immediately stolen, and more plants succumbed over the years to competition and old age. What was left was a good looking *Rhododendron williamsianum* and a vibrant R. 'Blue Diamond' as well as some aggressive groundcovers, a lot of crocosmia and several gigantic sword ferns.

Early in 2020, Emily and Ted and Paula Hewitt of the Friends' Rhododendron Garden committee began acquiring new plants. Staff and volunteers removed unwanted vegetation, raised the boulders that had sunk over time, and then added many yards of new soil mix combined with crushed rock. We were almost ready to plan the planting itself when COVID-19 hit. No longer feeling safe to meet in person, the planning committee put off the planting until fall.

"I kept the plants alive in the lath house through the summer," Emily says. "When we felt safe to meet again outside, two committee members showed up in masks and gloves and helped place the plants. We flagged and labeled each plant's location, then returned the plants to the lath house until Tuesday, when volunteers were available to plant them. We were able to pack fifty little species and hybrid rhododendrons into this relatively small area. It was a lot of work!" 



**Our Mission: To provide stewardship for Hendricks Park through education, restoration and community support.**

[info@friendsofhendrickspark.org](mailto:info@friendsofhendrickspark.org) • [www.friendsofhendrickspark.org](http://www.friendsofhendrickspark.org) • 541-607-4066



## Volunteer Spotlight: Jim Northrup

Born, raised and educated in Eugene, Jim came to the park often with his family, and remembers when elk and deer were penned in the park's zoo. He is hazy about when he started volunteering in the Rhododendron Garden.

Soon after retiring in 2016, Jim joined a forest work party and did a stint in the Native Plant Garden before learning about the Tuesday morning regulars in the Rhododendron Garden. Since then, he has been very regular indeed, sometimes working independently 3 days a week and extending hours after work parties are over.


Jim is a meticulous weeder who likes to take on a weedy area and get it absolutely clean. He's not afraid of more strenuous labor, though. In 2020, he helped POS staff members Deverton Cochrane (seen with Jim, below) Emily Aune and Marlon Troubnikoff construct water bars on the Bert and Ernie trail, south of Summit Avenue. 

Photo above by Alice Walsh




## Special Volunteer Opportunities

### Bench Refinishing

The Native Plant Garden has four benches, each constructed with a slab of yew wood resting on stone columns. The tops need to be refinished through sanding and protective staining once or twice a year. The park would welcome someone to take this on – once, or for the indefinite future. The work can be done at the park, and help is available to move the bench tops to a sheltered location.

### Hand Watering Baby Trees

Ten young ponderosa pine trees were recently planted in unirrigated meadow near the maintenance area (below the picnic area). In this first year following planting, each little tree will need 5 gallons of water per week. You will hand-carry water in buckets from a nearby faucet. You could adopt all ten trees or just one or two, and water at the time of your convenience each week. Hoping for a commitment to the 2021 spring/summer season, now through September. Supervision is available. 




A huge thank you to Jim Caughlin and Leanne Ellis for constructing and donating a hand-built cold frame for our rhododendron cuttings! 






Photo of song sparrow  
by Dennis Arendt.


## This Garden's for the Birds

Tom Mickel, an expert birder and long-time volunteer at Hendricks Park, has been recording data on the park's birds since 2010. Tom is in the Rhododendron Garden every Tuesday morning, and in recent years he has logged his data onto eBird.org, where anyone can see it. Go to eBird.org, click on 'explore data', and then click on 'explore hotspots'. In the upper left, type 'Hendricks Park' and click on 'Hendricks Park, Lane OR-US'

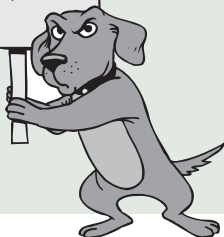
Tom is number one on the Top eBirders list, having submitted by far the greatest number of checklists (i.e., visits) for the park and observed 81 species there. Scroll down, it's on the right. Typically, Tom will see between 15 and 25 species per visit! 

## Scoop the Poop


Volunteers spend many hours restoring the forest, and they are fed up with close encounters with animal poop.

Please clean up after your animals! Stick a plastic bag in your pocket before you leave for your walk. There are plenty of garbage cans in which to dispose of the bag. Thanks to all dog owners who already do this. 

Don't leave  
a mess



## Be a Forest Keeper!

Every Saturday through June, we're hosting small groups of volunteers for detailed stewardship projects in the forest. We're calling these smaller crews our Forest Keepers. All Forest Keeper events will run from 9:00 a.m. to Noon, and tasks each week will focus on a different project throughout the forest. This opportunity may be a good fit for you if you want to deepen your relationship to the forest, like more detailed and focused tasks, or just prefer smaller groups. Want to sign up? Visit [www.friendsof hendrickspark.org](http://www.friendsof hendrickspark.org). Have questions? Don't hesitate to reach out to volunteer coordinator Christine Bentrup at 541-510-4636 or [cbentrup@eugene-or.gov](mailto:cbentrup@eugene-or.gov). 








## Less Lawn, More Natives

In case you've noticed that strip of bare soil just north of the picnic shelter, rest assured it won't stay that way too long. Once an awkward patch of low-quality lawn that was weedy and difficult to mow, it is being converted to Upland Meadow — a fancy term for the native meadow areas established by Hendricks Native Plant Gardener



Christina Bentrup and NPG volunteers. These areas along Birch Lane border the woodsiest, less cultivated portion of the Native Plant Garden. The Upland Meadow garden theme continues through the beds alongside the shelter parking lot just north of this area.

A new gravel path has been installed, and planting will happen in stages throughout the spring and upcoming fall. One valuable feature of this location is that it is relatively sunny, unlike much of the NPG. Species that will occupy it will include flowering perennials that are difficult to grow in shadier areas (such as wild Iris, broadleaf lupine, showy milkweed, *Lomatium* species, camas, yarrow, goldenrod) and bunch grasses (prairie June grass, tufted hair grass and Roemer's fescue). A couple of manzanita shrubs will provide additional structure. 

## Update: Friends of Hendricks Park Website

Over the past couple of years, we have been updating and restructuring our website. The site provides key information about FoHP, its history and Hendricks Park itself. Importantly, it includes current calendars showing upcoming volunteer opportunities and educational walking tours, and provides a way to sign-up for those activities.

Recently, we added a blog. This will make the website more dynamic, with regular educational postings, such as Wildflower of the Month (from the Native Plant Garden), What's Bloomin' (from the Rhododendron Garden), a monthly review of volunteer activities, plus timely reminders about upcoming tours and volunteer work parties.

Visit the website (<https://friendsofhendrickspark.org>) at least once a month to see what the Friends are up to and what's happening in your favorite park.

# New and Renewing Friends of Hendricks Park

*On behalf of the FoHP Board, thank you to the many people who contribute financially to our organization.  
Your donation allows us to fulfill our mission in Hendricks Park.*

**Donors from 10/28/20  
through 3/22/21**

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**Special Thanks for the Oregon Community  
Foundation Grant from "The Hendricks Park  
Native Plant Garden Fund" (Blakely)**

## Please Support our In-Kind Contributors

Robert Woodson - Woodson Woodwords

## Memorial Commemorations

### In Memory of Fred Austin by

Sandra Austin  
Kermit Larsen & Marylyn Klein Larsen  
Svevo Brooks

*Thanks to all our contributors — we regret any omissions or errors.*

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

### ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

- |  |          |
|--|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior/student/limited income | \$20     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual                    | \$30     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family/household              | \$50     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor/business              | \$100    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining                    | \$250    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Guarantor                     | \$500    |
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### ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS \$ \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ Forest restoration  
☐ Native Plant Garden  
☐ Rhododendron Garden  
☐ Unrestricted gift  
☐ Memorial/commemorative gifts

### ENDOWMENT FUND \$ \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ Rhododendron Garden  
☐ Native Plant Garden  
☐ Forest Endowment  
☐ General Endowment

### TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Make checks payable to Friends of Hendricks Park*

### Yes! I want to volunteer

- ☐ Work parties      ☐ Education

### PERSONAL INFORMATION

name \_\_\_\_\_

address \_\_\_\_\_

city, state, zip \_\_\_\_\_

telephone \_\_\_\_\_

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



**Friends of Hendricks Park**

P.O. Box 3784, Eugene OR 97403-0784

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





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

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Hendricks Park**

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## 2021 Hendricks Park Tours

Tours are 1-2 hours long. Signup available on FOHP website. All tours begin at the F.M. Wilkins Picnic Shelter, 2200 Summit Ave.

- April 11, 1 p.m. Steven Yeager: Botanically Speaking. Learn to identify and use edible and medicinal plants with one of the pre-eminent herbal educators in the northwest. Rain or shine. Bring enthusiasm and loupe (hand lens).
- April 25, 7 a.m. Donna Albino and Mieko Aoki: Birding. Join long-time birders and avian educators for this early morning park stroll. Learn bird identification through observation of field markings, behavior, more.
- May 30, 1p.m. Emily Aune: Rhododendron Garden. Walk the garden's meandering paths with Hendricks Park's lead gardener. Visit unique trees and ornamental shrubs. Tips on rhododendron care. Park history.

## Volunteer Opportunities

Until further notice, staff and volunteers wear masks, social distancing is required and shared snacks are suspended. Check <http://friendsofhendrickspark.org> for current COVID-19 related practices, or contact Christina Bentrup: CBentrup@eugene-or.gov or 541-510-4636

### Forest Work Parties

9 a.m. to noon. Meet at the F.M. Wilkins Picnic Shelter. Please visit website for up-to-date information.

- May 1, 2021 and June 5, 2021

### Rhododendron Garden Work Parties

Every Tuesday, 9 a.m. to noon. Enter the garden at 1800 Skyline Blvd. A sign will direct you to the day's work area.

### Native Plant Garden Work Parties

Every Thursday, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Meet at the F.M. Wilkins Picnic Shelter.