



FRIENDS OF
Hendricks Park

NEWS FROM THE

Park Bench

EUGENE'S FIRST PARK

FALL 2021

Friends of Hendricks Park: Twenty Years and Counting!

In 1998, in response to many public concerns about the management of Hendricks Park forest, the Eugene City Council hired a consultant and appointed a Department Advisory Committee to help develop the framework for a forest management plan. When The Hendricks Park Forest Management Plan was published two years later it included a proposal to establish a group named "Friends of Hendricks Park".

Michael Robert, then the park's head gardener, attended a meeting of the Fairmount Neighbors. His description of the park's needs led to further discussion about the idea of a 'friends' group, and by 2001 interested park neighbors were raising money to hire a lawyer and develop a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization. Things moved fast. Articles of incorporation were signed on November 14, 2001 and the secretary of the Friends of Hendricks Park signed the by-laws on December 12, 2001. The officers at that time were Jerry Blakely, President; Fred Austin, Treasurer, Sandra Austin Secretary.

Twenty years later, what began as a small grass-roots organization has established itself as a key player in the park's operations, working closely with park staff and Eugene Parks and Open Space. Membership started with 42 members and grew to 121 the first year. It now stands at around 300 members, fluctuating a little from year to year. We currently have twelve board members.

In the beginning, following the recommendation of the Forest Management Plan, the Friends' activities were mainly concentrated in the 58 acre forest, where invasive ivy was choking out native species. That first winter of 2002, Saturday work parties began removing ivy by hand from the ground and tree trunks. To this date, ivy has been removed from 36 acres – that's 60% of the forest. We soon learned that native plants were not the only ones to flourish when liberated from ivy: we will always be fighting Herb Robert, nipplewort, blackberry, shining geranium and more in addition to ivy, along with invasive trees and shrubs.

The Friends have continued to support this forest restoration work through volunteer Saturday work parties and, financially, by hiring crews such as Walama



Ray Scofield pulling ivy



Staff member Ginny Alfriend in the NPG, 2003

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History, *from page 1*

Restoration Project and Northwest Youth Corps. We also contribute funding for ongoing restoration of the Oak Knoll, a remnant of the forest's vegetation before Anglo colonization.

While forest restoration was the Friends' first enterprise, the Rhododendron Garden and Native Plant Garden soon gained our attention. A strong, weekly volunteer program developed over time for the Rhododendron Garden, which we supported from early on by funding a work party coordinator. The program has evolved successfully and is considered one of the best in the park system. Beyond the volunteer program, we have provided funding for construction projects, plant purchases, signage, swing replacement, extra seasonal help, tree pruning, azalea lace bug control, plant labels and tools for volunteers.


An essential part of the Forest Management Plan was development of a demonstration native plant garden in the area around the picnic shelter. This was accomplished in 2002, when Jerry Blakely established The Native Plant Garden (NPG) in memory of his wife, Mary Rear Blakely, who had a lifelong love of learning, gardening and native plants. Jerry established an endowment with Oregon Community Foundation to fund the NPG. The endowment enabled us to hire a part time NPG gardener. A major project in the NPG was construction of the Moon Terrace in the fall of 2004 adjacent to the picnic shelter. The Moon Terrace was part of a plan for the NPG drawn up by Jin Chen, a landscape architect and Mary's friend. It was built entirely with donated funds, materials and labor—a gift to the city from the Friends organization and from the friends and family of Mary Rear Blakely.

Our most effective participation to date in



Building the park kiosk, 2003

park operations has been to provide, since 2017, partial funding for a permanent position of Hendricks Park Volunteer Coordinator. Significant support for that post comes from the Blakely NPG Endowment Fund.


Our mission statement includes education, and we have worked on that goal from the very beginning. By 2002, Evelyn Hess was reaching out to schools to educate about the park. We now partner with other non-profits such as Walama Restoration Project and Nearby Nature by giving yearly grants to bring children and youth into the park for education and fun. Evelyn organized a public lecture series for a short time, in addition to seasonal park tours which continue to this day. Tours are led by local experts, and cover native plant identification, birding, mosses, ferns, medicinal plants, native people's culture, and mushrooms in the forest and NPG as well as tours of the Rhododendron Garden. The tours are very well attended. 

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

In recognition of the 20th Birthday year of the Friends of Hendricks Park, we are starting a Gifting Campaign this November. We have received a donation for \$25,000 that will match all gifts up to that amount. The plan is to invest this money in making the forest better than ever. Let's get the next 20 years off to a good start – please help us help the park! Thank you.


Money Matters

From our creation 20 years ago through 9/26/21, the Friends have expended a grand total of \$866,049.19 on behalf of Hendricks Park. This does not include contributions to the four endowment funds we established with Oregon Community Foundation in recent years: a general endowment and one each for the Native Plant Garden, Rhododendron Garden, and Hendricks Park Forest.

Thank you! 

Dear Readers

Members of our board are working on a history of Hendricks Park. Do you have any family photos from earlier years in the park? Do you have favorite Hendricks Park stories or anecdotes? The committee hopes to have articles and photos assembled by December 20.

Please send material to Sandra Austin (freda@efn.org) or by mail to P.O. Box 3784, Eugene, OR 97403-0784. 




Summer Camps for Kids

In July, Friends of Hendricks Park supported two, week-long summer camps in the park run by Nearby Nature. Friends provided scholarships and other support to broaden family participation.

During the Web Weavers camp, led by Bear Scamman, campers loved writing poetry in the rhododendron garden, playing the Bear-Salmon-Mosquito game on the lawn, reading stories by the shelter, hiking on trails, and eating snacks among the white oaks. They took time to appreciate nature by playing Find Your Tree among the Douglas firs and sketching the foliage and flowers near the shelter. Campers spent every morning doing animal inspired yoga in the glistening, dewy grass.

Lean Baucum taught our first Spanish immersion camp: La Naturaleza

Silvestre. With the full heat of summer upon them, campers hiked every inch of the park in search of living creatures of all kinds. They built a home for fairies and sent them letters, followed a gaggle of turkeys around the

park, and built small forts in the forest. They enjoyed a splash of all that Hendricks Park has to offer, all the while expanding their Spanish language skills by discussing what they saw with fellow campers. — Art Farley 



Before White People Came

For thousands of years, the Kalapuya People most likely visited the land we call Hendricks Park. The hills above the valley floor afforded protection from river flooding. More importantly, two major Kalapuya food sources—camas and acorns—were abundant there.

Although the Kalapuya maintained permanent winter encampments, they were largely migratory, following the seasonal availability of food. Anthropological evidence—mortars, pestles, obsidian arrowheads—suggests the Kalapuya visited the Willamette Valley in late summer, when camas and acorns were ready for harvest. They dug Camas bulbs with forked sticks or antlers and baked them in large fire pits. They leached Acorns in a river bed, then ground them into meal in stone basins. They traded surplus food into a vast inter-tribal network.


In the time of the Kalapuya, Hendricks Park was an oak savanna: clusters of white oak trees surrounded by prairie grass and open vistas. The open landscape was a result of the Kalapuya's controlled burning, who used fire to clear brush, making it easier to hunt game and harvest food.

The Kalapuya suffered population loss due to diseases contracted from trappers and traders of European descent. By the 1850's,




when their numbers had dwindled from 15,000 to a few hundred, the Kalapuya signed treaties ceding 19 million acres to state and governmental agencies. Surviving Kalapuya are part of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde, an 11,500 acre reservation in Yamhill County, Oregon.


When the Kalapuya culture collapsed, controlled burning ceased and largely oak savanna hillsides filled in with the Douglas-fir trees prominent in Hendricks Park today. In [2010] a four acre parcel in the southwest corner of the park, commonly known as the Oak Knoll, was opened up by the selective removal of Douglas-fir trees in an attempt to recreate the original oak savanna.

Spring visitors to the Oak Knoll witness a dazzling sea of purple camas, a reminder of how Hendricks Park looked in the time of the Kalapuya. 

Harold Greer

We were saddened to learn that Harold Greer, the noted local rhododendron expert, author and hybridizer, passed away on August 10, 2021. Rhododendron Garden staff and Friends of Hendricks Park are planning a Harold Greer memorial planting, location to be determined. Members of the Eugene chapter of the American Rhododendron Society will donate plants. 



Volunteer and ace photographer Alice Walsh, left, and Brier Turnbull loading the Toro. Brier has started her senior year at South Eugene High school after completing a summer internship at Hendricks Park. We hope to see more of her around her busy school and soccer schedule this fall. Thanks Brier! 

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 3/23/21
through 10/18/21**

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UO students May 17

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*In Memory of Vic Sabin by
Sandra Austin*

**Special Thanks
for the Oregon
Community
Foundation Grant
from "The Hendricks
Park Native Plant
Garden Fund"
(Blakely) and to our
Anonymous Donor!**

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 |
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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

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- ☐ Work parties ☐ Education

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Friends of Hendricks Park

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

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Friends of Hendricks Park
P.O. Box 3784
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Hendricks Park

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Volunteer Opportunities

For details, to sign up and to see current COVID-related practices, please visit <http://friendsofhendrickspark.org> or contact Christina Bentrup: CBentrup@eugene-or.gov or 541-510-4636.

Free the Forest

- Saturday, October 30, 2021: blackberry cutting
- Saturday, November 20, 2021: Oak Knoll restoration
- Saturday, December 4, 2021: ivy removal
- Saturday, December 18, 2021: tree and shrub planting
- Saturday, January 15, 2022: ivy removal

Rhododendron Garden Work Parties

Every Tuesday, 9 a.m. to noon. Meet at the main lawn, off 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.

Hendricks Park Tours

Tours are 1-2 hours long. Meet at the F.M. Wilkins Picnic Shelter, 2200 Summit Ave. Signup is available at <http://friendsofhendrickspark.org>.

- **October 24, 1 p.m. Karen Rain-song: Kalapuya Ways.** Karen Rain-song, founder of Singing Creek Educational Center, has a passion for learning from and sharing the knowledge of the indigenous people of the Willamette Valley. Food, medicine, clothing, land stewardship, story-telling.
- **November 7, 1 p.m. Joe Spivak: Mushrooms.** Explore the diverse world of mushrooms with mycologist Joe Spivak. Mushroom enthusiasts will enjoy Joe's wealth of knowledge while hiking the park's beautiful trails.