



FRIENDS OF
Hendricks Park

NEWS FROM THE

Park Bench

EUGENE'S FIRST PARK

SPRING 2022

Progress at the Park

2021 was a banner year for park improvements. Friends of Hendricks Park spent \$82,000 on direct improvement projects and finalized a new contract with POS to secure funding for increased seasonal staffing in 2022, with FoHP paying for two of the three new positions. And volunteering at Hendricks Park bounced back from COVID restrictions to a record 6,528 hours in 2021!

Staff and volunteers worked together in the Rhododendron Garden to revamp the Xeric Meadow and Rock Garden, the McCready Arbor area and the park's entry bed on Summit Ave. In the Native Plant Garden, they finished converting a patch of scruffy, unirrigated 'lawn' near the picnic shelter to a native meadow.


Forest restoration work extended through all 60+ acres with the most intensive efforts focused on areas from Fairmount Blvd. up to the forest saddle and beyond Lover's Loop. The picnic and maintenance areas also got some love, as blackberry removal continued in the picnic area and invasive plants were removed from near the sheds.

Infrastructure took a major leap forward in 2021 with an extension and remodel of the Hendricks Park office and the addition of a new toolshed. New curbs were installed in the Rhododendron Garden parking lot, and demolition of the old boardwalk was completed. The main walking loop of the Rhododendron Garden was thoroughly resurfaced.

Staff and volunteers planted thousands of new plants throughout Hendricks Park in 2021, with funds from both the city and FOHP. The Rhododendron Garden gained many new hybrid irises as well as donated rhododendrons of all shapes and sizes. The Native Plant Garden gained over 1000 new plants, including 100 trillium, native rhododendrons and azaleas, pacific dogwoods, bunch-



grasses and many other wildflower species. In the forest, volunteers planted 22 new Ponderosa pines, Oregon white oaks and California black oaks to help restore the canopy and mitigate climate change. Parts of the Oak Knoll were seeded with native bunchgrasses and wildflowers.

There's more. Emily Aune, operations lead for the gardens, published her second article in a national Rhododendron Society publication on azalea lace bug treatments. She also taught a propagation workshop, led several tours of the Rhododendron Garden and became a certified arborist. Way to go, Emily! 

Weed Watch

Drooping Sedge (*Carex pendula*) is a tall, evergreen perennial sedge introduced from Europe as an ornamental. It grows in large clumps and spreads very effectively by seed, especially in forested or shaded areas with moist soil. The long, drooping seed heads on a single plant can produce more than 20,000 seeds with a high germination rate, and digging out mature plants is hard work. If you are growing this plant, please consider removing it to protect our local forest and waterways—and keep an eye open for seedlings. 




Paula Hewitt

We are sorry to report that Paula Hewitt passed away on February 2, 2022, ending her battle with breast cancer. Paula and her husband, Ted, have served ably on the Rhododendron Garden Committee since its inception in 2014. Paula quickly took on the job of monitoring




rhododendrons for the presence of azalea lace bug to help the staff evaluate the timing and effectiveness of insecticidal soap

treatment. She also helped design the plant name plaques and helped select plants for the renovation of beds 7 and 9, which are both on the inside of the main path near the RG's west end. Last fall, she helped decide where the new Harold Greer bed should be located. She will be missed. 

Farewell, Christina!

Christina Bentrup came to Eugene as the very first Hendricks Park Volunteer Coordinator, a position developed and jointly funded by FoHP and POS back in November 2017. In her 4½ years, her initiative and leadership have made a welcome difference in every area of the park. The volunteer programs in the RG and forest have doubled their number of participants despite COVID interruptions, and Christina has initiated a program for the Native Plant Garden with a core of loyal and dedicated gardeners. She also helped start and supervise a seasonal forest program, supervised and mentored interns, coordinated with contractors funded by the Friends, organized special projects, made outreach to the community—we could go on and on. As a result of her efforts, real progress has been made in the gardens and in forest restoration. Christina is leaving a legacy of thriving programs in a thriving park.

While we have to admit to some wistful angst over Christina's departure, we mostly feel grateful for the time she spent at Hendricks Park and glad for the fruit and vegetable farmers of central Oregon she will support in her new role as an assistant professor with OSU's Center for Small Farms and Extension Services. We wish her the very best in her new adventure! 



The Harold Greer Bed

Notice the large bed on the left when you enter the Rhododendron Garden from the Skyline Blvd. parking area. It contains more than two dozen newly planted rhododendrons! Formerly, this bed was full of huge sword ferns, 40 of which were replanted elsewhere in the garden. The bed was then enlarged and the soil aerated and augmented.

The new plants are associated with Harold Greer, a life-long rhododendron expert who died last August. His father, Edgar Greer, ran a nursery in Eugene that specialized in smaller (meaning, not tree-sized) rhododendrons. Harold began hybridizing rhododendrons as a child and, at 22, was the youngest person to become Director of the American Rhododendron Society. He later took over the family's nursery and wrote *Greer's Guide to Available Rhododendrons* (1982, 3rd ed. 1996), a standard reference work. Recently, he had been helping Emily Aune identify plants in the Rhododendron Garden so they could be labeled.

The new plants, many donated by Terry Henderson of Log Cabin Nursery, comprise 14 different varieties. One, named 'Harold Greer,' was donated to the park by

Harold's wife, Nancy. 'Our First' was the first rhododendron the Greer nursery sold, and 'Kimberly' is an award-winning plant of Edgar's. Ted Hewitt and Gordon Wylie, rhododendron enthusiasts and members of the Eugene Chap-

ter of the American Rhododendron Society, have been generous with their advice on plant choice and placement. A rock with a plaque identifying the bed in honor of Harold Greer is planned.

— Christine Goldberg 




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




Three Seasonal Workers

This year, thanks to a very generous donation, Friends of Hendricks Park is funding two seasonal workers and partially funding, with POS, a third. Seth Eddy, last year's seasonal worker in the Rhododendron Garden, is back again continuing his excellent work. This year he is joined by new hire Mila Butler. In the forest, FoHP renewed and expanded last year's inaugural forest seasonal position. These shoes are ably filled in 2022 by Lauren Carney, who arrives with extensive experience in working with plants and people. Lauren, who uses "they" pronouns, loves working in the forest. Half-time from February through June, they are applying on-the-ground enthusiasm to mapping and removing invasive plants throughout the forest.


Every Saturday, Lauren leads a small volunteer group called the Forest Keepers for special projects and work in sensitive areas. To join Lauren on a Saturday, 9 am to noon, visit our website: <https://friendsofhendrickspark.org/> activities, or contact Emily Aune (EAune@eugene-or.gov) 

Thank You for a Very Successful Fundraiser!

In the fall of 2021, in recognition of the 20th birthday of Friends of Hendricks Park, we initiated a 'Birthday Match' fund drive for Hendricks Park Forest—the area of the park that gave rise to the Friends organization. The drive was kick-started by a donation that would match gifts up to \$25,000. We are delighted to report that, thanks to our generous supporters, there is currently \$54,000 in the Birthday Fund. Friends of Hendricks Park plans to allocate \$30,000 toward invasive plant removal in the forest and to reserve \$24,000 for the forest's saddle area, where redevelopment is currently in the early planning stage. 



Volunteer Spotlight

South Eugene High School senior Maciej Bownik has been volunteering in Hendricks Park for more than a year, both in the Native Plant Garden and the forest, where he has led independent volunteer events with the Forest Keepers. He enjoys the outdoor work so much that he has chosen Hendricks Park for his Eagle Scout Project, which requires that Scouts "demonstrate leadership while participating in a project for the welfare of the community." Maciej says, "I love working with other people in the park, pulling ivy, planting natives, being a small part of a beautiful place." 

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.

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Special Thanks

for the Oregon Community Foundation
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Plant Garden Fund" (Blakely) and to our
Anonymous Donor!

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In Memory of Vik Sablin by Stephanie Midkiff

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

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

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- ☐ Rhododendron Garden
☐ Native Plant Garden
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- ☐ Work parties ☐ Education

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Volunteer Opportunities

To sign up and to see current COVID-related practices, visit <https://friendsofhendrickspark.org/activities>.

Free the Forest

9 a.m. to noon.

Meet at the F.M. Wilkins Picnic Shelter

- Saturday, April 30, 2022
- Saturday, June 4, 2022

Rhododendron Garden Work Parties

Every Tuesday, 9 a.m. to noon. Park in the lot at the top of the garden, at 1800 Skyline Blvd. Meet at the office, below the restrooms.

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>.

- May 15, 1 p.m. Emily Aune: Walk the paths of the Rhododendron Garden with Hendricks Park's lead gardener.
- May 22, 1 p.m. Steven Yeager: Botanically Speaking. Tour the Native Plant Garden with a field botanist. Learn to identify and use edible and medicinal plants with one of the Northwest's preeminent herbal educators.
- June 5, 1 p.m. Elizabeth Starr Lilly: Kalapuya Ways. Learn about cultural practices of the Kalapuya from an instructor at Singing Creek Educational Center and longtime student of indigenous people.
- June 19 at 7 a.m. Donna Albino and Mieko Aoki: Birding. Join this early morning park stroll and learn bird identification through observation of field markings, behavior and songs.