



NEWS FROM THE

Park Bench

FRIENDS OF
Hendricks Park


EUGENE'S FIRST PARK

FALL 2022

Big News!

Hendricks Park has a new Volunteer Coordinator. Cait Wisbeski has been on the job since early August, when she glided effortlessly into her new position. Emily Aune calls Cait “easy going, a quick learner, positive and insightful—a great addition to the Hendricks Park family!” Our volunteers agree.


Cait previously worked with Portland Nursery and the Audubon Society of Portland as well as with the City of Eugene. She has a wide-ranging background in horticulture, native plants and restoration in addition to finance, planning and administration. She also is an experienced volunteer coordinator.

“When I first read the job description for this position, I felt an immediate connection,” Cait says. “I saw a rare opportunity that neatly embodies the diversity of skills and spirit of service I’ve spent my career pursuing: helping people build community through stewardship of their environment. It required relationship building, effective communication, program development, donor relations, and an understanding of how effective outreach can strengthen legacy and enhance impact. My transition into this role has been a source of professional fulfillment and personal joy. I look forward to continuing to grow with, learn from, and serve everyone who makes Hendricks Park a part of their community.” 



A Founding Member Leaves the Board

David Moon resigned from the Board of Directors of Friends of Hendricks Park this fall after many years of service. David and his wife, Joan Kelly (above right), were among the founding members of our organization. David served as president of the board from 2003 until 2011, when he took over the job of treasurer from Fred Austin. David served in that arduous post until earlier this year.

Joan Kelly, who left the board in spring of 2013, had served as vice president for several years during which she also edited the Park Bench. Her final achievement as Park Bench editor was three memorable issues in 2006 that commemorated the park’s centenary. We wish David and Joan all the best, and hope to see them often! 

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


West Trail Area Restoration

Friends of Hendricks Park is moving forward this fall with our first forest project that uses monies from the 20th Birthday Match fundraiser of fall 2021. The project will restore most of the area north of Fairmount Blvd., down the hill to the West Trail. This high-use, high-visibility area has suffered massive invasion of European blackberry on top of its blanket of ivy.

Over the next 6 months, park visitors will see an attack on the blackberry, followed by ivy removal. These steps will be repeated in the fall of 2023, along with removal of secondary invaders, in preparation for planting in the winter of 2023–24. The project will coordinate contract workers with city staff, and several Saturday forest volunteer parties will help make the monies go further.

In addition (in the spirit of


the Adopt-a-Plot initiative), the city finalized a new Adoption Agreement with the UO Student Center for Sustainability: a student group will work in the West Trail section of the forest every other week.

Educational signs at strategic points will help visitors follow the project. By spring 2024, this area should be resplendent with pioneering natives and well on its way to providing a healthy refuge for people and wildlife alike. 



Lampposts get a Makeover

If you've taken a stroll around the Rhododendron Garden lately, you may have noticed a sleek new finish on those iconic lampposts. The well-loved posts had been showing signs of flaking and rusting for a while. This fall, thanks to a generous donor, they have been stripped, cleaned and repainted in glossy black. Be sure to check them out!


Thanks to some very generous donations, the Friends were able to finance two half-time seasonal workers for Hendricks Park this year, a more than four-fold increase over prior extra help. That has brought the Rhododendron Garden back to a level of care it has not seen since the 2000's. We have also been able to increase our budget for aesthetic pruning and invasive plant removal in both the Rhododendron and Native Plant Garden. Your donations, large and small, make a big difference to the upkeep of our favorite park. Please consider a special donation and help us do even more to make Hendricks Park resplendent! 

Kids in the Park

Friends of Hendricks Park supports two organizations that provide youth with outdoor education in the park. This past summer, The Friends provided full-time scholarships for five members of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians to attend the Whole Earth Nature School at Hendricks Park.

In addition, Nearby Nature used FOHP funding to run three day camps that served thirty-six 6-8 year old campers: 12 at Web Weavers (Diversity is woven into the web of life! Discover the amazing variety of living things that make a forest strong) and two groups of 12 at Trails and Tales at Hendricks (Discover how tracks and traces, stories in stones and layers in land tell nature's tales!)

Beth Stein, executive director of Nearby Nature, commented, "One thing that our

instructors really like about Hendricks camps, in addition to having an awesome park to explore, is having such a nice home base in the picnic shelter. This allows for projects that extend over multiple days and require lots of space to set up." 




Volunteer Spotlight

The many benches in Hendricks Park's gardens need regular refinishing to keep them weather-resistant and looking good. Lori Burke saw an article in our newsletter seeking a volunteer to refinish the benches in the Native Plant Garden, and, as she puts it, "the rest is history."



Lori worked for a wood products company for 30 years and developed some knowledge of working with wood & finishes. Starting in April 2021, she began refinishing the four benches in the Native Plant Garden (NPG) twice a year. "My family sponsored one of the memorial benches in the NPG about 15 years ago," Lori said, "so I have a personal connection."

This past summer, Lori also began tackling the benches in the Rhododendron Garden. Many of those have metal parts. Working with staff person Roger Smith, Lori is not only sanding and refinishing the wooden boards and slats, but is also installing new hardware to make it easier to remove the boards for future refinishing or replacement. Emily Aune says, "This is work we have not been able to get to in years!" Thank you, Lori. 



Return of the Volunteer Dinner

This September, for the first time since the start of the COVID pandemic, the board of Friends of Hendricks Park held a dinner in honor of our many faithful volunteers. Almost 50 people attended the event in the F.M.Wilkins Picnic Shelter: park staff, board members, community members, volunteers, and significant others, including a few pets. Volunteer Greg Wright brought his ferret, Melanie.

Board member Svevo Brooks delivered an eloquent message of gratitude for the volunteers' efforts. Cait Wisbeski, our new volunteer coordinator, said, "I was thrilled to see so many familiar faces, and meet many of our legacy volunteers who helped build the park into what it is today." Good cheer, good weather, good food and gorgeous bouquets prepared that morning by volunteers made up for the lack of a fire in the shelter's great fireplace, a concession to this year's drought-heightened fire risk. 🍷



Adopt-a-Plot in the Forest!

If you love seeing trillium bloom in the forest or the beautiful sword ferns flourishing under the firs, then Hendricks Park Forest could use your help. Consider adopting a small section of the forest. What does that entail? When you Adopt-a-Plot, you are assigned a small area that was recently cleared of ivy and other invasive species. You commit to patrolling your area 3-4 times a year and removing recurring ivy before it has a chance to spread. The work can be done any time you find convenient, so it's the perfect way to contribute to the health of the park on a flexible schedule.



Friends of Hendricks Park spends thousands of dollars each year to remove ivy from the forest. When you adopt a plot, you help maintain this investment and ensure that native plants continue to thrive.

Nine people are currently signed up as adoptees. If you are interested in this unique way to maintain the health of Hendricks Park's native forest, contact Volunteer Coordinator Cait Wisbeski at CWisbeski@eugene-or.gov or 541-510-4636. Cait will work with you to find an area that is the right size for you. 🌿

Not a member of Friends of Hendricks Park?

PLEASE JOIN US!

Donations, large and small, help us make a huge difference to the upkeep of Hendricks Park. Thanks to some generous donors, the Friends were able to finance two additional seasonal workers for our favorite park this year. We also increased our budget for aesthetic pruning and invasive plant removal in both the Rhododendron and Native Plant Gardens as well as the forest. To become a Friend, complete the form on page 5 and mail with your donation to Friends of Hendricks Park. You can also join online at www.friendsofhendrickpark.org

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

Donors from 4/19/22 to 10/20/22

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Commemorative Gifts

In Memory of Mary & Jerry Blakely by David & Jean Campbell

In Memory of Andrew Karasek by Jean Diamond & Michael Karasek

In Honor of Susie & Lenny Feuer by Michael Lundgren & Jane Tompkins

In Honor of Svevo Brooks and of Chris Scofield by Michael Brooks

Please Support our In-Kind Contributors

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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.



Calling All Tool Sharpeners!

Do you have the skills, experience and interest to assist in a tool-sharpening project? If so, we'd love to hear from you. Email, call, or meet Cait in the garden to discuss details: cwisbeski@eugene-or.gov or 541-510-4636.



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

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

- Senior/student/limited income \$20
 Individual \$30
 Family/household \$50
 Sponsor/business \$100
 Sustaining \$250
 Guarantor \$500
 Benefactor \$1,000
 Other amount \$_____

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

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Volunteer Opportunities

Free the Forest

Saturdays, 9 a.m. to noon. Meet at the F.M. Wilkins Picnic Shelter. For more information, visit <https://friendsofhendrickspark.org/activities> or contact Cait Wisbeski (CWisbeski@eugene-or.gov or 541 510 4636)

- 2022 – October 29, November 5, December 3
- 2023 – January 7, January 14, February 4, March 4, April 1, April 22, May 6, June 3

Rhododendron Garden Work Parties

Every Tuesday, 9 a.m. to noon. Park in the lot at the top of the garden, 1800 Skyline Blvd. Enter the garden and look for a sign board.

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

Friends of Hendricks Park organized four walking tours this fall. Tours are 1–2 hours long. Meet at the F.M. Wilkins Picnic Shelter, 2200 Summit Ave.

Signup is available at <http://friendsofhendrickspark.org>.

Check www.friendsofhendrickspark.org for future walking tours.

- **October 2**, Karen Rainsong: *Kalapuya Ways*
- **October 9**, Emily Aune: *Explore the fall colors of the Rhododendron Garden*
- **October 16**, Donna Albino and Mieko Aoki: *Birding*
- **November 6**, Joe Spivack: *Mushrooms*