



FRIENDS OF
Hendricks Park

NEWS FROM THE

Park Bench

EUGENE'S FIRST PARK

SPRING 2023

Your Donations at Work

Generous donations and membership dues paid for lots of person power, restoration and education at Hendricks Park in 2022. Friends of Hendricks Park paid half the salary of the Hendricks Park Volunteer Coordinator. We also worked with Eugene Parks and Open Space to hire a new Volunteer Coordinator when Christina Bentrup left us. We supported enhancements in the forest (invasive plant removal, new native plantings, watering new plantings and restoration), and paid for a part-time seasonal employee to work in the forest removing invasive plants. In the Rhododendron Garden, we were able to finance two seasonal employees, a major steps replacement, professional pruning, mulching and invasive plant removal, new plant labels, and spraying for azalea lace bug. We also supported pruning, invasive plant control and new plantings to enhance the Native Plant Garden. In all, the Friends invested over \$100,000 in park improvements in 2022.




The Friends are so grateful for our wonderful volunteers. Last year, we hosted 2281 volunteer hours in the Rhododendron Garden, 808 in the Native Plant Garden and 1288 in the forest. And for the first time since before COVID struck in 2019, we were able to host a party for 50 of those volunteers to honor their work.



On the education front, we provided five full-time scholarships for children from the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians to attend the Whole Earth Nature School at Hendricks Park. We also funded three Nearby Nature camps that served young children.

In addition, the Friends hosted eight educational tours at Hendricks Park. Topics included Kalapuya Ways, Botanical Medicine, The Rhododendron Garden in Bloom, Birding, and Mushrooms. We established an agreement with the University of Oregon's Student Center for Sustainability to adopt a section of the forest adjacent to the West Trail for removal of invasive plants and secured a Youth Empowerment Grant through the City of Eugene to involve youth in the park this coming year.

A big thank you to all our members and donors for making our work possible. 

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

info@friendsofhendrickspark.org • www.friendsofhendrickspark.org • 541-607-4066

Progress on the West Trail Makeover

Friends of Hendricks Park turned 20 in 2021. We marked that event with a very successful 20th Birthday Match Fundraiser. As a result, we




were able to announce last fall that we would embark on a significant makeover of the West Trail. This popular trail, lying north of and roughly parallel to Fairmount Boulevard, ran through forest that still languished under a load of blackberry, ivy and invasive shrubs.

Through the combined efforts of city staff, Walama Restoration Project and a great many stalwart volunteers, the 2.1 acres of forest lying between the trail and Fairmount has been cleared of blackberry, ivy and other invasive plants and shrubs. In late February, volunteers began planting young shrubs in an area near the east end of the trail.

Over the coming year, blackberries that grow back will be cut a second time and staff will treat the cut stems with a touch

of herbicide. Ivy will re-sprout and get pulled or dug again, and initial weedy forbs will be removed. Because of these essential retreatments, the bulk of the new planting is planned for the winter of 2023-24. That delay will provide an opportunity for native plants to return from their seed banks over the coming growing season.


Right now, the area looks much more open than before and a little bare, but a surprising number of natives – candy flower, sweet cicely and others – have already emerged. It will be exciting to see what else comes back. By spring of 2024, we hope to see the beginning of a much more attractive and ecologically functional West Trail.

And then, of course, there is the area downhill and north of the trail. Stay tuned! 





A New Board Member

“Hello everyone, my name is Ben Widdison and I am a first year graduate student studying Nonprofit Management at the University of Oregon. Before arriving in Eugene, I received my undergraduate degree in parks and recreation management and have used my degree to expand and care for parks in Puget Sound. I am excited and honored to serve on the board of Friends of Hendricks Park as a student board member through my graduate studies. As a regular daily user of Hendricks Park, I hope to continue helping the board support and care for this one-of-a-kind park. See you on the trail!” 


Donations to Friends of Hendricks Park may be made by Venmo, Paypal or credit card at www.friendsofhendrickspark.org
Thank you!

Volunteer Spotlight

Graham Yotsuya is a native Oregonian, born and raised in Portland. A senior at the University of Oregon, he will graduate this spring with a degree in environmental science and a minor in geography. Our Volunteer Coordinator tells us “As the student leader of the UO adoption group, Graham built an amazing network of engagement for student stewardship of the forest. His events regularly recruit 20-30 students across academic fields.”



Graham says: “When I think about our work and the partnership between the UO Student Sustainability Center and Hendricks Park, I see two opportunities: to help build ecological resilience of the natural spaces in Eugene and to connect students with real sustainability work. Students can come for a few hours and leave feeling like they have made an immediate change. Hopefully, having these work parties brings more students back to our program, back to Hendricks Park, and to other events around Eugene that work to make the environment healthier for everybody.”

After school, Graham hopes to get a job at an environmental consultancy or in a similar field. “I’ve spent a lot of time in Oregon. Hopefully I will be able to move around and see what other kinds of environmental work are going on around the country!” 



Please Support the 2023 Parks and Open Space Levy!


In February, the city council voted to place on the May 16th ballot a 5-year levy for Parks and Open Space. The board of Friends of Hendricks Park unanimously voted to support this levy. The new levy would continue and increase services funded by the 2018 levy, in particular park security, fire abatement, illicit activity response and associated cleanup, and help fund recreation programming. The City has done a great job of maintaining and improving parks and hiking trails, providing restrooms, signage etc. Let's keep them funded! The levy would cost the average home owner \$5.38 a month.



Phyllis Hamel and Jim Northrop

Celebrating Phyllis Hamel

One Tuesday morning in November 2022, Rhododendron Garden volunteers held a celebration to dedicate a new park bench in honor of Phyllis Hamel, local artist and long-time park volunteer, still pulling weeds with us at 95 years of age.

An informal group known as 'Friends of Phyllis' is collecting donations to help fund renovation of the Powell Fountain, one of Phyllis's favorite park features and the subject of one of her lovely drawings. 



The Board of Friends of Hendrick Park, Winter 2022 From left, Art Farley, Val Close, Beth Copeland, Christine Goldberg, Rachel Foster, Sandra Austin, Lou Vijaker, Bob Bumstead, Svevo Brooks, Walt Petty and Erik Fisher.

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.

Donors from 10/21/22 to 4/1/23

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

A Call for More Forest Keepers

The Forest Keepers are a group of volunteers who meet 9 a.m. to noon every Saturday through June, with Angela Soto, our seasonal forest worker. Their task is to remove secondary invaders (the non-native plants that come up after Ivy and Blackberry are removed). In contrast to our monthly "Free the Forest" events, Forest Keepers Projects are designed around tasks more suited to small, adaptive crews. It's a great way to build your plant I.D. skills, meet people, and practice environmental restoration. No experience or tools required. All are welcome.

Prefer to pull ivy on your own time? Adopt a Forest Plot! Sign up to adopt an area of the forest that was recently cleared of ivy, which you undertake to visit at least four times a year at your convenience, to remove any ivy re-sprouts before they have a chance to spread.

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

The Phyllis Hamel Fund for the Restoration of the Powell Fountain

Sandra Austin	Erik Fisher	Patti McNutt
Harriett Brainard	Cynthia Fitzgerald	Jim Northrop
Svevo Brooks	Rachel Foster	Christopher & Leigh Sherril
Patricia Cleall	Anne Fuller	Pat Soussan
Valerie and Dan Close	Louisa Huntington	Sandra Townsend
Beth Copeland	Gwyneth Iredale	Meredith Watters
Toby Deemer	Elizabeth & Franklyn Koch	Lance Webb
Dyed in the Wool Guild		

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 _____

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



Friends of Hendricks Park

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Volunteer Opportunities

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, 9 a.m. to noon. Meet at the F.M. Wilkins Picnic Shelter.

Free the Forest 9am to noon. Saturday 5/13 and Saturday 6/3. Meet at the F. M. Wilkins Picnic Shelter.

Forest Keepers Small groups meet with our Forest seasonal worker to do meticulous work less suited to large groups. Every Saturday through 6/24. Meet at the kiosk in the picnic area.

**Questions? Contact Cait Wisbeski,
Hendricks Park Volunteer Coordinator
541-510-4636
(cwisbeski@eugene-or.gov).**

Hendricks Park Walking Tours

- **April 23, 1 p.m. Emily Aune: *The Resplendent Rhododendron Garden*.** Walk the meandering paths with Hendricks Park's lead gardener. Unique trees and ornamental shrubs. Tips on how to care for rhododendrons. Park history and heritage.
- **April 30, 1 p.m. Gary Tepfer: *The Natural World Through a Unique Lens*.** View the park with this international photographer, keen observer of the natural world and park neighbor.
- **May 7, 1 p.m. Steven Yeager: *Edible and Medicinal Plants*.** Tour the Native Plant Garden and learn from one of the preeminent herbal educators in the northwest.
- **June 11, 1 p.m. Karen Rainsong: *Kalapuya Ways*.** Learn about the cultural practices of the Kalapuya from the director of Singing Creek Educational Center and long-time student of indigenous people.

**Check www.friendsofhendrickspark.org
for future walking tours.**