



FRIENDS OF  
Hendricks Park


NEWS FROM THE

# Park Bench

EUGENE'S FIRST PARK


FALL 2023

## Coming Soon: The Story of Hendricks Park

This long anticipated and much needed book, *The Story of Hendricks Park*, has at last been realized and is currently in press. A wonderful team of paid and unpaid individuals put in countless hours of work researching, writing and revising the manuscript and collecting photographs. The Friends received a \$5,000 grant from the City of Eugene Neighborhood Program that will help make this beautiful book more affordable. Publication is pending. Watch for details about how to get your copy in our next newsletter, on our website, and in an email. 



## The Volunteer Dinner

The board of Friends of Hendricks Park organized our traditional Volunteer Appreciation Dinner in September. Svevo Brooks, our favorite spokesperson, thanked the volunteers for all their work. Tables in the F.M. Wilkins picnic shelter were brightened with flower arrangements by volunteers Leanne and Phyllis. Retired park employee Keith Stanley arrived to unlock the steel doors of the picnic shelter's great fireplace and build a fire, as he has done for many years. 



# What's Happening in the Forest? Plenty.


In 2021, Friends of Hendricks Park received a challenge grant to celebrate our 20th anniversary. More than \$50,000 was raised to enhance the forested part of the park.

Visitors can already see the major impact of ivy removal between Fairmount Boulevard and the west trail. Non-native cherry trees and laurels were removed this spring, and this fall there was a second round

of blackberry removal. Planting of ferns, osoberry and other native species has begun. We are “reclaiming the forest” thanks to our generous members!

Thanks in part to that challenge grant, the Friends are also working with the City of Eugene to enhance the natural beauty of an opening in the forest known as the saddle, where five forest trails come


together. This area has a memorial bench, an old non-functioning water fountain at its center and an area for temporary storage for brush and rock. Visitors are frequently confused about what path goes where, so in the coming year, the city will install way-finding signs. More benches will be added, native plantings will be enhanced, and artwork will anchor the space. Please watch for further opportunities to contribute to make this exciting vision a reality!

Elsewhere in the Forest, there is a crying need for volunteer ivy pullers. Ivy removal from the forest was a major incentive behind the creation of Friends of Hendricks Park, and great progress has been made. Unfortunately, there is a lot of forest, and ivy never stops growing. Please consider joining the Friends this winter to pull ivy on designated Saturday mornings. 

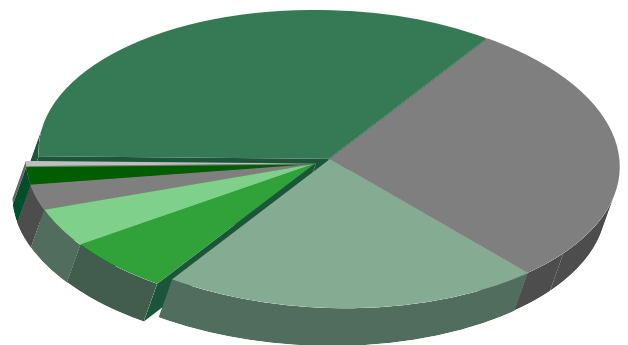


## From Our Education Committee Chair









Fall arrived with refreshing days and a little rain. As always, this summer was a busy time at the park. Outdoor classes by Nearby Nature and Whole Earth Nature School filled the park with activity and the sounds of young folks. Friends of Hendricks Park provided scholarships for students and families, as we have done for several years.

Get up to the park this season to enjoy the colorful leaves and fresh air. Also, volunteer opportunities on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays are great ways to appreciate the park and interact with friends. — *Art Farley* 

## Where Your Money Goes



**Expenditures for 2022 • Total \$145,089**


	Rhododendron Garden	% 34.7		Native Plant Garden	3.9
	H.P. Volunteer Coordinator	29.3		Administration	2.9
	Forest	21.0		Volunteer Support	2.0
	Education	5.9		Membership	0.3



Donna Avalone

## New Faces in the Park

The volunteer program in the city's Parks and Open Space was short-staffed this fall, and Cait Wisbeski, Hendricks Park's Coordinator Volunteer, was reassigned to other duties—temporarily, we hope. In the meantime, head gardener Emily Aune, doing double duty, is leading the Tuesday morning volunteers in the Rhododendron Garden. Kelsey Irvine, who has experience as the city's Native Plant and Waterways Coordinator, is leading volunteers in the Native Plant Garden. Another new face is Susan Berg, who is serving as Emily's second in command.

Current seasonal workers, who are supported by Friends of Hendricks Park, are Donna Avalone in the Rhododendron Garden and Sha Cabal. Donna has useful landscape design experience. Sha came on board as our second seasonal worker in the Rhododendron Garden, but subsequently transferred to an internship with Kelsey in the Native Plant Garden. 




Kelsey and Sha

## Volunteer Spotlight


When Jim Caughlin and Leanne Ellis retired 4 years ago, they moved from Bloomington, Indiana, to Eugene because they love the Northwest. They also love gardening, and soon became regular volunteers in the Rhododendron Garden. Other interests include road trips and exploring Oregon. Leanne adds, "I'm a hunter and gatherer of flora, which I dry and press for my botanical collages. Jim makes the frames in his woodworking shop." Leanne does other lovely things with flowers and, along with fellow volunteer Phyllis Hamel, made beautiful bouquets that adorned the tables for our annual volunteer dinner.

Jim is putting his woodworking skills to work in the Rhododendron Garden. So far he has fixed a broken mailbox, built a cold frame for the lathe house, and is replacing the deteriorating caps on irrigation posts.

This fall, while the volunteer coordinator position is on hold, Leanne and Jim have taken over the vital task of sending out a weekly email update to fellow Tuesday morning volunteers, wittily titled *The Weekly Weeder*. 




## The Greer Plaque

A bronze plaque commemorating Harold Greer has been installed not far from the Powell Fountain. It sits on a basalt rock in the planting bed (now the Greer Bed) bordering on the main lawn. The bed has been enlarged and revised in honor of Harold, the prominent Eugene rhododendron breeder and expert who passed away in 2021. The replanting includes many rhododendrons selected and named by Harold or otherwise associated with his family. 



## Colchicums Brightened the Fall Rhododendron Garden

This small clump of the pink colchicum 'Waterlily' was spotted in the garden in early October, while another smaller and more prolific colchicum variety put on a spectacular display near Barto Walk. Though commonly known as fall crocus, colchicum is not closely related to crocus. (True fall crocus species do exist and include saffron crocus, the stamens of which provide the costly spice.) Flowers of both colchicum and true fall crocus emerge leafless from the ground. Their leaves appear in spring. 




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

## Stay Connected with Friends of Hendricks Park

The board of Friends of Hendricks Park is updating our database so we can more easily inform members about upcoming tours and other events in the park. If we don't have your email address and you are willing to share it, please let us know by emailing [info@friendsofhendrickspark.org](mailto:info@friendsofhendrickspark.org).

If you would prefer to receive our newsletters by email (with color photos!), let us know that too.

Also let us know if you have moved recently, or if there is any other change in your address. We'd like to keep up to date.

Thank you! 

# 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 4/1/23 to 10/31/23

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

### Commemorative Gifts

On Behalf of Fred Tepfer by Bruce McCarthy

In Memory of Jerry Blakely by David and Jean Campbell

In Honor of Greg Lobisser Steps by Sandra Austin, Jim Beyer and Cindy Fitzgerald, Camille Bharucha, Val Close, Riccardo and Paula Coen, John and Lisa

### The Phyllis Hamel Fund for the Restoration of the Powell Fountain

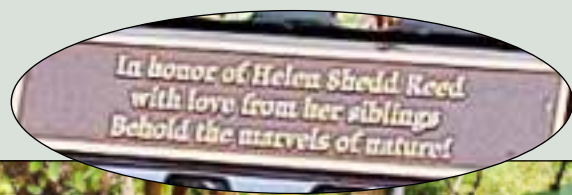
Magnus Persmark and Rosalie Hammond

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

## Helen's Bench

A bench at a turn in the Rhododendron Garden has been dedicated to Helen Reed, a long-time volunteer and generous donor to Friends of Hendricks Park.

Helen is passionate about the park and can often be found working solo in the gardens.



## 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

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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## Volunteer Opportunities

**Free the Forest** 9 a.m. to noon. Meet at the F.M.Wilkins Picnic Shelter. For information, contact Joe Waksmundski (Joseph.X.Waksmundski@ci.eugene.or.us) or visit [www.friendsofhendrickspark.org](http://www.friendsofhendrickspark.org)  
2023 – Saturday, December 9  
2024 – Saturday, January 13,  
Monday, April 22 (Earth Day),  
Saturday, May 11, Saturday, June 8

### **Rhododendron Garden Work**

**Parties** Every Tuesday, 9 a.m. to noon. Meet 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.

**Questions? Contact Cait Wisbeski,  
Hendricks Park Volunteer Coordinator  
541-510-4636**



Trish was visiting her mom and grabbed a chance to pull some weeds.

## Hendricks Park Walking

**Visit [www.friendsofhendrickspark.org](http://www.friendsofhendrickspark.org)  
for information on upcoming tours.**