



NEWS FROM THE

Park Bench

FRIENDS OF
Hendricks Park

EUGENE'S FIRST PARK

FALL 2024

The Native Plant Garden Is In Good Hands

Weekly volunteer work parties in the Native Plant Garden (NPG) are currently led by Kelsey Irvine, who also oversees plant selection and planting for the NPG. Kelsey is very well qualified for the position: she has served as Native Plant and Waterways Volunteer Coordinator for the City of Eugene since 2017, in addition to running the city's native plant nursery, a job she has held since 2014.

Kelsey lives near Hendricks Park and has long been familiar with it. "One day I spotted someone at work there," she told us, "and I thought: I'd like to do that!" Now she does, and she loves it. Right now Kelsey is thinking about what to plant in the NPG this fall and winter, the ideal planting season. 



Kelsey Irvine

Volunteers can't do Everything

The forested area of the park downhill from Fairmount, where the West



Volunteer Steve Solfetz weeding in the native plant garden.

Trail runs, has been cleared of blackberry and Ivy. Clearing blackberry and ivy from steep slopes is very hard work, and not suitable for most volunteers. Three years ago, as part of the Friends birthday fundraiser, donors contributed \$25,000 that the Friends used to hire Walama Restoration Project to remove these aggressively invasive plants that were smothering native ferns, trilliums, currants and more. After so many years beneath a blanket of blackberry and ivy, the native plant seed bank is low, so we need

to replant the area with natives. Given our hot, dry summers, we must also have the new plants watered to ensure a good rate of survival. This all costs money. Would you like to help us continue this work?

Clearing one acre of invasive blackberry and ivy costs about \$10,000. A donation of \$1,250 would clear about an eighth of an acre, or 5,445 square feet. Smaller donations dedicated to this project are of course welcome! With your help, we can continue to 'Free the Forest'. 

Volunteers Thanked for over 3,500 Hours of Service

Flowers from the garden adorned the tables for this year's volunteer dinner in the F.M. Wilkins Picnic Shelter, which was attended by 40-50 guests. Retired staff member

Keith Stanley showed up to continue the tradition of lighting a fire in the shelter's huge stone fireplace. Board member Svevo Brooks addressed the group about the origin and role

of Friends of Hendricks Park and thanked the volunteers for their labor.

Volunteers are an essential component of the work force that keeps Hendricks Park healthy and looking good. From September 1, 2023 through August 31, 2024, a total of 1,252 volunteers put in 3,517 hours of work weeding, mulching and raking paths in the gardens, and removing invasive plants in the forest. 



Volunteer Spotlight

Tom Beatty began volunteering at Hendricks Park in March of 2019, and is among the most regular and diligent of the Tuesday Morning Volunteers. "Pruning and planting are my favorite things" he says, "but I actually spend most of my time weeding, and that's ok."

Tom learned about Hendricks Park in the 80's, when he moved to the Eugene to attend Lane Community College. "Following LCC I attended Oregon State University and received a degree in horticulture. That led me to a job with the City of Salem Parks as parks horticulturalist. While there, "I learned the importance of outdoor spaces such as gardens," he says, "and also how important volunteers are for getting jobs done and moving parks forward in developing a relationship between City and citizens."

A member of the local Chapter of the Rhododendron Society since 2009, Tom serves on Friends of Hendricks Park's Rhododendron Garden Committee, which meets periodically with head gardener Emily Aune to discuss upcoming projects. He also volunteers at the City of Eugene Rose Garden, and sometimes goes to Salem to volunteer at Bush Park and to "visit a lady friend!" 



The Gardens Just Got a Little Greener

Emily Aune informs us that Hendricks Park staff have replaced the old lawn mower with “the first Electric-zero-turn mower that the parks department has in our fleet. It will make for quieter mowing, and is a move away from fossil fuels. Also this year, the park’s lamps were switched to LED lights to reduce power use.”

What else is new? For those people — they are many — who would like to see more plant labels in the Rhododendron Garden, another batch of 40 or so is in the works. Labelling is a slow process. The engraved name plaques and the theft-proof stands that hold them are expensive, and each new batch of labels requires some research to identify plants and ensure the information on the plaques is correct.

Emily recently announced, “We have planted some young plants in Barto’s Bed that were air layers of Rhododendron ‘Barto Rose’ that have grown large enough to be planted!” Air layering is a propagation method that entails wrapping a few inches of stem with a moisture-retentive material, then enclosing it with plastic wrap. Roots eventually form inside the little bundle, and the new plant is then cut and potted up. It takes a few years in the lathe house for these babies to reach planting size. ♻️



Old and new lawnmowers

A Nature Note



Anyone who spends much time in Hendricks Park must have encountered this beautiful native squirrel with the big fluffy tail. Including that tail, this species can measure as much as two feet in

length, and sometimes the tail is about all you see as you follow a western gray along a path.

The park is fortunate to have so many western grays. The species has disappeared from much of its range due to loss of habitat, road kill and competition from the (introduced!) eastern gray squirrel, which is more aggressive.

The reason Hendricks Park, along with some other wooded land around Eugene, has a relative abundance of western gray squirrels is that they favor mixed white oak and conifer forests, which this area provides. Acorns are a vital food source, though these squirrels also eat fungi, some insects and the seeds of Douglas fir. ♻️

Your Dollars at Work

Most of our readers probably don’t know that when it comes to pruning, the city only pays for ‘hazard pruning’ – the removal of branches or whole trees in a condition that may pose a threat to visitors and staff. Friends of Hendricks Park provides Emily Aune with a budget each year for elective projects in the gardens such as aesthetic pruning of shrubs and trees that the City does not cover.

One business that provides aesthetic pruning in the park’s gardens is Mahonia Fine Gardens, owned by Charles Hammer. We first got to know Charles several years ago, when he volunteered specialized pruning help at Hendricks Park, most notably reshaping and reducing overgrown camellias near the park office and restrooms.

Members’ donations also help us cover the cost of extra staffing, materials (plants and mulch, for example) and new plant labels. ♻️



Forest News

Meet Joe Waksmundski, Volunteer Coordinator for Hendricks Park Forest. Joe wants to know if you have a connection to a service group, a faith community or a business that may be interested in volunteering time in the forest as a group. If so, he would like to hear from you:

541-799-5105 or Joseph.X.Waksmundski@ci.eugene-or.gov.

Volunteer groups can sign an adoption agreement to work for half a day, or for several days across a season.

Friends of Hendricks Park, for instance, will schedule volunteer days in the forest at least four times a year. The dates will be posted our website (info@friendsofhendrickspark.org).

If you are an individual interested in volunteering in the forest, contact Joe about opportunities to join a Friends of Hendricks Park volunteer day, or to join some other group that has scheduled a work party. Volunteers have made a tremendous impact on the forest over the past decade, and we ask for your help in reaching groups willing to spend some time freeing trees from ivy or planting new sword ferns. 



Volunteer pulling ivy

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

Youngsters In The Park

Education is a primary focus for Friends of Hendricks Park - from providing Walking Tours for adults to supporting learning opportunities for youth in the park. This past summer we provided scholarship support for a number of students attending programs offered by Wild Earth Nature School. Over the course of the year, the Friends provided direct and scholarship support for programs offered by our partners Nearby Nature. They hosted five No School Day programs, ranging from “Misty Mountain Magic” to “Trees and Bees!”. Kids at these events enjoyed a full day of nature play, science, and discovery at the park, while school is out. During the summer months, at the “Nature Trails and Tales” and “Web Weavers” camps, kids wandered the park from top to bottom, getting to know many of the tall trees and wild neighbors that inhabit this wonderful natural area. The Friends provided scholarship

aid to families in need, allowing their children to participate in these programs. Finally, four classrooms of local fifth graders – over 100 kids total – enjoyed school nature walks in Hendricks Park this year, with instructors funded in part by the Friends. — *Art Farley* 



New and Renewing Friends of Hendricks Park

On behalf of the FoHP Board, thank you to the many people

Donors from 5/1/24 to 10/1/24

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Business

Donors
Down to Earth



Anemone near steps

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

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

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.

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! 

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
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ENDOWMENT FUND \$_____

- Rhododendron Garden
 Native Plant Garden
 Forest Endowment
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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



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Hendricks Park Walking Tours

Meet at the F.M.Wilkins Picnic Shelter

Sunday, November 3, 1:00 p.m.

MUSHROOMS: Explore the diverse world of mushrooms with mycologist Joe Spivak.

Sunday, November 10, 8:00 a.m.

BIRDING: Join avian educators Donna Albino and Mieke Aoki for a morning walk.

Visit our website (info@friendsofhendrickspark.org) to sign up for tours. Sign-up is optional, but it helps us prepare.



Snowberry

Volunteer Opportunities

Rhododendron Garden Work Parties: Every Tuesday, 9 a.m. to noon. Meet at the kiosk at the top of the garden.

Native Plant Garden work parties: Every Thursday, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Meet at the F.M.Wilkins Picnic Shelter.

For volunteer opportunities in the forest, contact Joe Waksmundski (Joseph.X.Waksmundski@ci.eugene.or.us)

For general questions about volunteering, contact Cait Wisbeski (541-510-4636)



Aster