



FRIENDS OF
Hendricks Park

NEWS FROM THE

Park Bench

EUGENE'S FIRST PARK

SPRING 2025

Progress On The West Trail

Readers may have noticed renovation in the forested area downhill from Fairmount. This project started in the fall of 2022 with funds raised to commemorate the 20th anniversary of Friends of Hendricks Park, and it has grown from there. In winter 2022/2023, Friends of Hendricks Park hired a crew from Walama Restoration Project (WRP) to remove ivy and blackberry from the area uphill of the West Trail, which runs through this area, and volunteers began planting native shrubs to augment the surviving natives.

Volunteers, including the University of Oregon's Student Sustainability Center, adopted the area and cleared more ivy. The City of Eugene then hired contractors to maintain the cleared area and to plant and mulch another round of ferns and shrubs last fall, with volunteers replenishing mulch on the original plantings.

Downhill of the trail, WRP mowed down most of the blackberry in recent weeks, and is now focused on pulling ivy. Where blackberry and ivy have been removed, some native shrubs and forbs have already reappeared.

Members of the Student Sustainability Center returned earlier this year to weed and mulch the planting along the West Trail. Members of the Duck Corps contributed to the same project. Joe Waksmundski, Natural Areas and Trees Volunteer Coordinator, tells us that the Duck Corps will be around until early June, and he foresees them doing more of that work.

Replanting native shrubs, ferns and wildflowers will continue for several years to further restore and enrich this area of the forest. Forest areas uphill of Fairmount Blvd. were once in a similar condition, so to see what we hope this area will look like in the future, take a walk along the Pileated Trail or the Wildflower Trail. 



This area along West Trail was previously covered in ivy

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

A Founding Board Member Retires



It is with sadness and deep gratitude that we report Sandra Austin's recent resignation

from the board of directors of

Friends of Hendricks Park. Sandra was the last of the founding members of Friends of Hendricks Park still serving on the board since our establishment as a nonprofit in 2001. As board secretary for more than 12 years, she has been a stalwart, committed and active board member from the beginning, with strong opinions rooted in her great love of the park.

While her commitment

encompasses all of the park, including its two managed gardens, she has always had a special affinity for the park's 58 acres of forest, the catalyst for the founding of FOHP. And, of course, Sandra and her late

husband Fred — who served for 10 years as board treasurer and died in spring of 2019 — were for many years dedicated regulars at forest work parties.

Thank you, Sandra! 



Sandra (at left) on the moon terrace in 2013 with Emily Steel, Jim Gent and Erik Fisher.

Remembering Phyllis Hamel

Long-time volunteer Phyllis Hamel died peacefully on January 7th of this year, not long after her 97th birthday.



Phyllis with cart!

Emily Aune tells us that Phyllis volunteered for 17 years, starting in 2008, soon after she and her husband, Jake, moved to Eugene. She was featured in Volunteer Spotlight in fall of 2010. Jake died in April, 2012.

Phyllis was a talented artist, a dedicated gardener and a hard working volunteer, still pulling weeds at the park just weeks before

she died. Phyllis was also a generous donor to Friends of Hendricks Park and the driving force behind the restoration of the Powell Fountain, of which she made a beautiful drawing. Her artistic accomplishments extended to wreath making and flower arrangement in general. A park bench dedicated in Phyllis's honor sits near the main entrance to the Rhododendron Garden, off Skyline Blvd. She is greatly missed.

Donations to Friends of Hendricks Park in remembrance of Phyllis may be made at info@friendsofhendrickspark.org. 



Phyllis at work with flowers

More Room for Natives

The Native Plant Garden (NPG) at Hendricks Park came into being out of concern for the health and safety of the Douglas firs in the area known as the lower saddle, detailed in the Hendricks Park Forest Management Plan of 2000. Large trees in this area, which encompasses the Wilkins picnic shelter, were in danger of failure due to high winds and excess moisture in the soil. Accordingly, irrigation was reduced and native plants that grow well without supplemental water were added to the garden beds. The NPG was founded with the financial support of Jerry Blakely in honor of his wife, Mary Rear Blakely (d. 2001), an educator and accomplished native plant gardener.

Over the last few years, two beds across the road at the intersection of Fairmount and Floral Hill have been added to the NPG, partly to reduce the need to mow grass in this inaccessible area. One corner was smothered with landscape fabric and mulch to eliminate weeds. When the fabric was removed, staff and volunteers planted drought-tolerant natives such as yarrow, Douglas aster and sedge. In an adjacent area, now heavily mulched with



From left: Oregon iris, Pacific dogwood, Western wallflower



Fawn Lily



wood chips, pollinator-friendly shrubs such as red osier dogwood, western crabapple and black twinberry were installed last winter and are now leafing out. These 40 plants were donated by the Xerces Society as part of their habitat-restoration program. Thank you! 

Meet Payson Rizzo

Meet our new seasonal worker, Payson Rizzo. Payson will be working five days a week in the Native Plant Garden, funded by Friends of Hendricks Park. He will report to Emily Aune, who is now officially in charge of the Native Plant Garden as well as the Rhododendron Garden.



Love Hendricks Park?

The Friends are Seeking New Board Members

Friends of Hendricks Park has had a stable, long-serving board, but we are losing four board members this summer to retirement and moves away from Eugene.

The Board is seeking new board members with a passion for Hendricks Park, and also with skills or interests in the areas of technology or database management, volunteer and member recruitment, and communication.

If you are interested, please contact the board at info@friendsofhendrickspark.org



Volunteer Spotlight

Mayumi Andriola is a dedicated, long-time volunteer with the Tuesday morning regulars in the Rhododendron Garden. She writes:



“After retirement, I was looking for some volunteer opportunity.

My friend Helen (Reed) has been volunteering at Hendricks Park for many years, and she recommended it.

And I used to live in the area. So, a few

years ago, I went with Helen one Tuesday morning. At first, I was a little nervous meeting so many people, and at break time everyone had to introduce themselves and talk about something. Now it's fun. Everyone is so nice and friendly.

Weeding is my favorite activity. It's relaxing, almost meditative. It feels good to work in such a beautiful natural environment. I enjoy the fresh air and listening to the birds singing. Volunteering at Hendricks Park has become a nice part of my life.” 



Aunt Rhodie tells all...

Dear Aunt Rhodie

How Do You Distinguish a Rhododendron from an Azalea?

Sincerely, Puzzled

Dear Puzzled,

That's a good question. Not everyone knows that, as far as botanists are concerned, azaleas are rhododendrons! They share the same genus name, *Rhododendron*. But azaleas form a distinct group that differs in certain ways from the plants we commonly call rhododendrons.

Many familiar azaleas (including those native to North America) are deciduous, but there are also many evergreen azaleas, just as there are – wait for it – deciduous rhododendrons!

So, what's the difference?

Some differences are very subtle, but there is one sure way to tell the two groups apart when they are in bloom: count the stamens! Azalea flowers have only five stamens, while rhododendron flowers usually have ten. 

Yours truly, Aunt Rhodie



Send questions to: Aunt Rhodie, Friends of Hendricks Park, P.O. Box 3784, Eugene, OR 97403 or call 607-4066 and leave a message.



Rhodie



Azalea



The Story of Hendricks Park

The *Story of Hendricks Park* is now available. From the Kalapuya to the founding of Friends of Hendricks Park, this book relates the evolution of the park so many know and love.

To order a copy or to read the free on-line version, visit friendsofhendrickspark.org. You can also find it at J Michaels Books, Tsunami Books, The Natural History Museum and Down To Earth. 

*New and Renewing Friends
who donated after 10/1/24 will be listed
in the fall 2025 newsletter.*

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
- 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

**FRIENDS OF
Hendricks Park**

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Hendricks Park Walking Tours

May 4, 8:00 am

BIRDING Join birders and avian educators Donna Albino and Mieko Aoki for this early morning park stroll. Learn bird identification through observation of field markings, behavior, listening to songs and calls. **Sign-Up Here:** <https://bit.ly/signupBIRDING>

May 25, 1:00 pm

BOTANICALLY SPEAKING Field botanists Howie Brounstein and Steven Yeager lead our spring tour in the Native Plant Garden. Learn to identify and use edible and medicinal plants with two of the preeminent herbal educators in the northwest. **Sign-Up Here:** <https://bit.ly/SignupBOTANICAL>

June 1, 1:00 pm

KALAPUYA WAYS For thousands of years the Kalapuya People visited the land we call Hendricks Park. Karen Rainsong, Director of Singing Creek Educational Center and long-time student of indigenous people, will introduce us to the food, clothing, and cultural practices of the Kalapuya. **Sign-Up Here:** <https://bit.ly/signupKALAPUYA>

Volunteer Opportunities

Rhododendron Garden Work Parties:

Every Tuesday morning, 9 a.m. to noon. Enter the Garden at the Skyline Blvd. entrance 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.

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)

