



# Salem Parks Foundation



We



parks!

Donor Recognition Issue

Spring 2021

Dear SPF donors,  
In 2020, your donations...



- Grew the Legacy Fund to \$72,487.16
- Provided \$15,522.20 in park improvements
- Funded the 2021 Neighborhood Park Grant Program
- Funded three newsletters advocating for Salem's parks
- Provided \$4,620.00 dedicated to specific Salem park projects

Your donations make our mission of advocacy and support for the parks of Salem, Oregon a reality. We cannot thank you enough for your generosity and your passion for Salem's parks. You make a difference!



New information kiosk at Thorpe Park in NE Salem

Thanks to SPF donors, Marion County Alternative Service Program, City of Salem, NESCA

## Ways to Give to Salem's Parks

- **Mail** a check to Salem Parks Foundation at P.O. Box 5764, Salem, OR 97304 or Donate online at [www.salemparksfoundation.org](http://www.salemparksfoundation.org)
- **Link** your Fred Meyer Rewards card to SPF at [www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards](http://www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards)
- **Amazon Smiles** SPF participates in the Amazon Smiles charity program. Please choose SPF as your charity at [Smile.amazon.com](http://Smile.amazon.com)
- **Match** Many employers match contributions. See if your workplace provides this giving opportunity
- **Buy an owl sign!** Purchase online or by mail
- **Consider gifting** the park lovers on your list with a donation in their honor
- **Bottle Drop/Give** Your Refundable Cans and Bottles can help improve Salem Parks. Fill pre-labeled blue bags with refundable cans and bottles and drop them off at any of the Bottle Drop sites in Salem. Send an e-mail to [info@salemparksfoundation.org](mailto:info@salemparksfoundation.org) We will arrange to get the bags to you
- **If you are over age 72**, arrange with your IRA custodian to send some or all of your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) directly to Salem Parks Foundation
- **Make a charitable bequest** in your will to SPF and/or name it as a retirement plan beneficiary



**Julio Gallardo and Teri Lupoli, NESCA Secretary / Treasurer, stand beside the new information kiosk at Harry and Grace Thorpe Park.**

## Neighborhood Park Grant Program

Each February, Salem Parks Foundation contacts every Neighborhood Association (NA) in Salem seeking grant applications for improvements to neighborhood parks. The goals of the Neighborhood Park grant program are to improve neighborhood parks and to increase park awareness.

We encourage neighbors to think creatively about their park. Chess tables, drinking fountains, park benches, lighting, bicycle repair stations and community gardens are some of the improvements made possible by this grant.

The grant applications have some requirements. They must go through the neighborhood association, signed by the NA Chair and NA Parks Chair, approved by City of Salem Parks Operations and signed by Parks Operations staff. A simple budget must be included. Parks Operations staff will assist in constructing a budget.

The Neighborhood Park Grant does not require a match, although we encourage support from the neighborhood through volunteer time or donations. The NP grant may be used as match for other grants, such as the Salem Park Improvement Fund (SPIF) grants.

Grant application packets will be sent to every Neighborhood Association Chair starting in February. The completed grant application needs to be returned to SPF by May 31. If you have an idea for your park, contact your NA about applying for this grant.

## 2020 Awards

**Northeast Salem Community Association (NESCA)**



New information kiosk at Harry and Grace Thorpe Park

**Morningside Neighborhood Association**



Remove concrete and replace with landscaping, concrete path, stairs and picnic pad at Clark Creek Park

**Southeast Salem (SESNA) Neighborhood Association** replace asphalt and striping on the basketball court at Aldrich Park

**North Lancaster (NOLA) Neighborhood Association**



Brown Road Park Pollinator Garden

**Southwest Association of Neighbors (SWAN)**

Replace broken bench at Nelson Park

# Changing the Face of Riverfront Park

## Hazel Patton: Park Hero

Hazel Patton moved to Salem in 1971. At the time, the Willamette riverfront was an unimproved parking lot and provided industrial frontage for Boise Cascade. Fast forward to 2021 and it is a destination for locals and tourists alike. The three parks now connected - Wallace Marine, Riverfront and Minto-Brown Island are referred to as Salem's crown jewels.

Our Spring 2021 Park Hero, Hazel Patton, played an important role in this transition. She spearheaded and championed the Salem Carousel, Movies in the Park and, through the advocacy group Friends of Two Bridges, provided bicycle and pedestrian connections between the three parks.



It is difficult to overstate the impact of the Salem Carousel on our community. Hazel visited Missoula, Montana and brought back the vision of a carousel for Salem. She shared her vision and captured the imagination and energy of others. Before long, she gathered a room full of supporters, among them Dave and Sandy Walker. The Walkers would go on to become the carving and art pillars of the project. They now have a studio in their home and remain as consultants for the carousel. A generation of children has grown up with a carousel in their park and the memories that go along with it. Hazel tells the story of Jazz, the Carousel zebra, loved so much that its leg fell off. Jazz had to go to the hospital and was in the window with a leg bandage while a new leg was carved. Soon, the window was filled with get well cards and children came by the dozens to give Jazz a get well hug. The Carousel is part of Salem's identity.

One of the best ways to spend a summer evening in Salem is to go to Movies in the Park in Riverfront Park. It is a fine sight; families with picnic lunches spread out on blankets, pajamas on or packed, ready for the show. While stars come out, ospreys fly over with their catch with the river in the background. It is magical. Hazel, inspired by similar programs in the Independence and Bend parks, returned to Salem and with the help of Shutterbug and Allied Video, worked with the City of Salem to make it happen in Riverfront Park. She likes that the movies are free, noting it can be challenging to afford entertainment for the entire family.



Connecting Riverfront Park with Wallace Marine Park and Minto Brown Island Park had long been a dream for many. Hazel chaired the advocacy group Friends of Two Bridges through the fundraising and complicated process of making this connection a reality. Salem enjoys miles of walkable and bikeable beauty thanks to the hard work of this committee and Hazel's leadership.



Hazel continues working for our community and for Riverfront Park. She successfully protected the south part of the park from development. She was on the site selection and design review committee for the Riverfront Park amphitheater. Currently, she is working with Salem's Main Street Association through the National Trust for Historic Preservation to connect Riverfront Park with downtown. Her goal is to make Riverfront Park a true part of downtown.

## Nourishing our Parks

COVID-19 has made us all realize just how much we took for granted: getting together with friends, restaurants, travel, concerts, religious services, school, and more. While many of us appreciated Salem's parks in the past, perhaps they were also taken for granted. Now seeing dramatic increases in park usage, COVID-19 makes us realize just how important they are to our health and well-being.

From the smallest neighborhood park to 1200-acre Minto-Brown, Salemites love their parks. They are an important fabric of our lives, especially now with COVID-19. As Robert Maxey, the late City of Salem Parks and Recreation Director, once said, "Parks are the soul of a city." Yes, Salem would be a very soulless and dreary city without its parks. We cannot take them for granted.

***Just as our parks nourish us, we need to nourish them.*** As you can see by the other articles in this newsletter, the all-volunteer **Salem Parks Foundation** helps nourish our parks. And we need your help to do it. The "Ways to Give" section on Page One briefly outlines some ways to help financially. Every little amount helps, but we'd like to highlight two important ways.

### Required Minimum Distributions

First, if you are over 72, you must begin taking Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) from your IRA and most other retirement accounts. These distributions are taxable income to you. However, if you ask your IRA custodian to send some or all of your RMD to the **Salem Parks Foundation**--it's called a Qualified Charitable Distribution or QCD—you can lower your taxable income because retirement distributions sent directly to a qualified charity like ours are not counted as income to you. Best of all, you help nourish Salem's parks. You can also make a QCD if you are 70 ½ or older.

### Leave a Legacy

How would you like to continue nourishing Salem's parks year after year, long after you are gone? By naming the **Salem Parks Foundation** in your will or trust, you can do just that. An even easier way and at no cost is to simply name the Foundation as a beneficiary of some or all of your IRA or other retirement plan. Doing so may also save your heirs taxes. (Most people name their spouse as the primary beneficiary and the charity as a full or partial contingent beneficiary.)

Our Legacy Fund is also supported by annual donations if you so designate. It is professionally managed by the Oregon Community Foundation, and the annual earnings from it go to support our annual projects. Thus, your hard-earned assets live on, nurturing our parks for your heirs and our community. ***Think about it—what a way to say thanks for all the years of enjoyment you've received from our parks. A permanent gift that keeps on giving. A gift for future generations. A gift to nourish our parks year after year. Your legacy to Salem's parks.***

(Salem Parks Foundation is a 501(c) 3 entity and holds Public Charity Status as 170(b) (1) (A) (vi). Our tax ID # is 93-1300126. For specific donation information contact us at [info@salemparksfoundation.org](mailto:info@salemparksfoundation.org). Consult your tax and legal professional for specific tax or legal advice.)