

Dear SPF donors, In 2021, your donations...

- Grew the Legacy Fund to \$88,700.
- Provided \$20,000 for park improvements.
- Funded the 2021 Neighborhood Park Grant Program \$27,300.
- Since Nov. 1, 2021, raised \$20,000 for the Eco Earth.
- Provided \$1,500 dedicated to specific 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!





Eco-Earth in the snow with a heart around some of the holes in the surface caused by fallen tiles.

Bush's Pasture Park Sundial area. SCAN received a \$1,100 2021 Neighborhood Park grant to support this restoration.

Neighborhood Park Grant Program

Each spring we offer grants to Salem's Neighborhood Associations for improvements to their local parks. If you have an idea for improving the city park near you, contact your Neighborhood Association and suggest they apply for a Salem Parks Foundation grant. More information, including the application form, is available at our web page under "projects".

www.salemparksfoundation.org

The deadline to apply for a grant is May 31.



\$1,000 - \$6,000

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Kaan Yarar

Yes, We Can!

A Message from former Salem Mayor Roger Gertenrich

Once the City of Salem purchased the Boise-Cascade land, what to do with the ugly old Acid Ball became an issue. Some suggested that because it was covered with a black tar to just put a wick on top & call it a bomb. Others suggested it be a Chia pet, still other wanted to just paint it yellow to be the Sun.

As Mayor of Salem, I saw it as a wonderful opportunity to engage Salemites in doing a worthwhile community project. This project would be hard to do (which I thought made it even better). A bomb, Chia pet or Sun were no options.

To turn the Acid Ball into an Earth globe covered with special icons focusing on preserving our Earth & promoting world peace was a much higher standard and certainly a harder challenge. When a community works hard, sweats and worries, but

education . ecology community.

EGO-EAST

And diversity . viersay in a diversity . viersay and . viersay a

Roger Gertenrich, Mayor of Salem from 1994 to 1996, spearheaded the Eco-Earth Globe Project from 1999-2003. He is seen here modeling the T-shirt in January 2022, continuing to advocate for the Eco-Earth project.

produces something of lasting beauty, it can be proud of what it has accomplished together.

I have no doubt that the citizens of Salem will come together to restore the many tiles that have fallen off the globe. Salem is a city that has always had a Sense of Community. This restoration job will be done!

Roger L. Gertenrich

PS. Send your tax deduction donations to:

Salem Parks Foundation P.O. Box 5764 Salem, OR 97304

Or donate on line at:

<u>salemparksfoundation.org</u>

Click on the "Support the Eco-Earth"

button on the bottom of the first page

Mayor Gertenrich with Governor Ted Kulongowski and Mayor Janet Taylor celebrating the gift of the Eco-Earth Ball to the City of Salem





Pringle Park Friendship Plaza - Home to Salem's Hiroshima Peace Tree

The following is Don Gunther's Hiroshima Persimmon Presentation speech on April 10, 2020 that he was unable to give due to the COVID restrictions on public gatherings in place at that time:

Hiroshima Persimmon presentation

by Don Gunther, Salem Public Works Department:
Parks Operations

August 6, marks the 75th anniversary of the U.S. atomic bombing of Hiroshima, Japan and the end of WWII. The blast from the atomic bomb destroyed essentially every structure and every living thing within a mile of the epicenter. 66,000 people lost their lives; many thousands more suffered serious and lasting injuries. The next spring though, several trees leafed out and provided hope that life would in fact return to Hiroshima. These survivor trees, called hibakujumoku in Japan are highly revered. Among the survivor trees is the parent of this sapling.

This tree began its journey as one of many seeds that are collected annually by a small grassroots organization in Hiroshima, the *Green Legacy Hiroshima Project*. They sent several packets of ginkgo and persimmon seeds to Hideko Tamura Snider in Medford. As a 10-year-old girl in Hiroshima, she

survived the atomic bomb. She has since channeled the pain of that experience into her book, *One Sunny Day*, and into the *One Sunny Day Initiative* which seeks to promote nuclear non-proliferation, peace, and reconciliation.

Hideko gave the seeds to Oregon Community Trees board member Mike Oxendine who germinated them at Southern Oregon University. Mike regrets that he did not track the parentage of the different packets of seed, but since there was only one surviving persimmon tree, we know the legacy tree that produced this sapling. It stands 530 meters from the center of the explosion and continues to thrive along Peace Boulevard next to Shirakami Shrine.

Mr. Oxendine did not have the facilities to grow these trees out, so he turned them over to the City of Corvallis Parks and Recreations where they were cared for by another Oregon Community Trees Board member, Jennifer Killian. This last winter these trees have been distributed throughout Oregon, mostly to communities which are designated as Tree City USA since they have a proven commitment towards the care of community trees.

I became the caretaker of this tree in early December and now, like a proud father, am honored to be a part of giving it its final home here at Pringle Park's Friendship Plaza. May everyone who passes by this tree pause not only to consider the great human and environmental toll of armed conflict, but even more, the resiliency of life and the hope of peace that this tree represents. May it "grow and prosper."



In 2021, BottleDrop donors raised \$1,742.86 for Salem's parks!

At 10 cents per can, it doesn't seem like a lot, but multiply many donors with blue bags and it adds up in a hurry. If you would like to be a part of this relatively painless way of supporting Salem's parks, let us know by sending us an email at info@salemparksfoundation.org
Let us know how many blue bags you would like and your address.

Our volunteer BottleDrop coordinator will deliver the requested number of blue bags to your door. Fill your bags and bring them to the BottleDrop redemption center closest to you. Salem locations are:

4815 Commercial St SE

1889 Commercial St. NE

1917 Lancaster Drive NE

Scan the bar code on the blue bag to unlock the door on the side of the building. Place the full bag inside the door, and your donation to SPF is complete. **Thank you!**





Ways to Give to Salem's Parks

- <u>Mail</u> a check to Salem Parks Foundation at P.O. Box 5764, Salem, OR 97304 or Donate online at www.salemparksfoundation.org
- 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. This is called a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD).
- Not 72 yet? You can still make a Qualified Charitable Distribution at age 70 1/2.
- Make a charitable bequest in your will to SPF and/or name it as a retirement plan beneficiary.
- <u>Link</u> your Fred Meyer Rewards card to SPF at <u>www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards</u>.
- <u>Amazon Smiles</u> SPF participates in the Amazon Smiles charity program. Please choose SPF as your charity at <u>Smile.amazon.com</u>.
- 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.
- <u>Bottle Drop/Give</u> 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 <u>info@salemparksfoundation.org</u> We will arrange to get the bags to you.