



Salem Parks Foundation



We  parks!

Fall / Winter 2023

Salem's parks: many things to many people.

Salem's parks fill so many needs. To young families, they are playgrounds. To the athletes and people trying to get in shape and/or remain healthy, they offer practice areas and competition. To many creatures, parks provide a home. Gardeners, naturalists, soul seekers in search of peace and quiet, the list goes on and on.

It seems impossible to put a price tag on such value. Yet, parks require investment for acquisition and maintenance. Over time, the ability of the current budget to look after our parks has fallen farther and farther behind. Our Fall 2023 Park Hero, Gretchen Carnaby, calls out the necessity of adequate financial support for Salem's parks and the risk of failing to act.

Salem Parks Foundation advocates for parks and raises money for park improvements. Whatever your reason for supporting Salem's parks, your support makes a difference. Your support provides funding for SPF's programs and is a tangible sign of public support for parks. We appreciate SPF donors and your support for Salem's parks. Thank you!



Happy Holidays!



Neighborhood Park playground



Take a Walk in the Park 2023

Ways to Give to Parks



- **Mail** 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.
- **Link** your Fred Meyer Rewards card to **SPF** at www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards.
- **Bottle Drop/Give** Fill pre-labeled blue bags with cans and bottles. Drop them off at a Bottle Drop site. Send an e-mail to info@salemparksfoundation.org We will arrange to get the bags to you. Half of the proceeds from BottleDrop go to the Eco-Earth project.
- **Consider gifting** the park lovers on your list with a donation to parks in their honor.

2023 Neighborhood Park Grant Program

Your contributions fund this annual grant program, offered through the nineteen Salem Neighborhood Associations (NA). Our goal is to increase awareness and involvement in parks as well as actual physical improvements. From pollinator gardens to chess tables, this program makes a difference in our parks.

Here are our 2023 Neighborhood Park Grant Program Winners:



- Northeast Neighbors: Englewood Park - native ground cover plants \$1,500
- North Lancaster N A: Lansing Park - four benches and a picnic table \$6,000
- South Central Association of Neighbors: Bush Park - two bike racks \$800
- Southeast Salem NA: Richmond School Park - exercise equipment \$5,000
- South Gateway NA: Battlecreek Park - mutt mitt dispenser \$3,500
- West Salem NA: Orchard Heights Park - bench on a concrete pad \$4,500
- Sunnyslope NA: Secor Park - SPIF match for a playground shade cover \$200



Pinot for the Parks 12 - Growing the Legacy Fund

Every year since 2011, Dan and Kathy Saucy have opened their home and wine closet to host Pinot for the Parks, a fundraiser for the Salem Parks Foundation Legacy Fund. The Legacy Fund, invested with the Oregon Community Foundation, currently stands at \$90,500 and continues to grow. Over time, it will provide a stable funding source we can use to fund programs such as the Neighborhood Park Grants. We thank the Saucy Family and all the donors for their generosity and vision. This year, we thank these donors:



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|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Betsy Belshaw | Ed and Vicki Jochums |
| Alan Alexander | Mark Wigg |
| Ken and Linda Bierly | David and Jody Rowell |
| Mark and Sharon Zielinski | Kasia Quillinan |
| Mark Lindau | Kathleen and William Girsch |
| Blanka V. Trunekova | Dorald Stoltz |
| Dan and Kathy Saucy | Kathy and Ron Kelemen |
| Carol Snyder | |

Gretchen Carnaby, Park Hero

Garden Guardian / Agent of Change

Interviewing Gretchen Carnaby is a challenge. She doesn't slow down long enough to listen to a question. And that is how she has accomplished so much for Salem's parks over the past 44 years. Listening to her story is a lesson in how volunteers have stepped up in response to the scaling back of public services by the City of Salem, forced by diminishing public funding.

Gretchen started her volunteer gardening career in 1979 as a Bush Conservancy Gardener, answering a call from Salem Art Association (SAA) Executive Director Nancy Lindberg. By the late 1980's, Gretchen had become more interested in the greater park than the Conservatory and started overseeing the mulching of the Rose Garden.

In 1991, the gardeners had to defend their space from a proposal to remove the Rose Garden and put in a parking lot (hmm.. sounds like a song we have heard...). In response, Bush Conservancy Gardeners became Friends of Bush Gardens. They expanded to take in the gardens immediately associated with SAA - those around the Bush House, the Bush conservatory and Bush Barn. They started the Rose Brochure, covering the roses in the Hybrid Tre/Floribunda Collection and the Tartar Old Rose Collection.



By 2017, the City needed more support for its parks and Friends of Bush Gardens became Mission Street Parks Conservancy <https://www.missionstreetparks.org/>, a free-standing non-profit organization separate from SAA.

In 1996, Gretchen and Kathy Savicki started the Salem Hardy Plant Society. About that same time, she joined Ruth Roberts in studying the Lord & Schryver (L&S) gardens which led to the formation of the L&S Conservancy. <https://lordschryver.org/>

From 2001 to 2012, she helped oversee the restoration of the L&S landscape at Deepwood Historic Estate and Gardens and by 2016, the eventual procurement of the L&S Home Garden.

Gretchen says her inspiration has been gardening for the public and knowing her involvement has made a difference. It has been her contribution to our society here in Salem.

She lists the life-long friendships she has made through her service as the best reward for all her work.

Her concern is the need for continuing funding for Salem's parks and how to meet this need.



It's a huge price tag. But it's a huge project.

Yes, \$400,000 is the estimated cost to restore the Eco-Earth Globe in Riverfront Park, and that's a lot of money. Demolishing it would cost even more.

The Eco-Earth Globe is 25' in diameter, covered in 86,000 tiles. Many tiles have fallen off and many more are seriously damaged. They will all have to be carefully removed. Those that are salvageable will be re-applied with a more weather-resistant adhesive, and the others will be replaced. Then a new, stronger sealant will be applied.

Originally, Eco-Earth was a five-year project (1999-2003), involving over 30,000 hours of volunteer labor and tons of donated materials. Local artists are already volunteering their time to repair and re-create the many handcrafted special icons, but most of the repair work will be done by a professional restoration company, selected through a bidding process. The City commissioned an assessment of the cost, which came to \$400,000.

Another assessment was done to determine the cost of demolition and disposal of Eco-Earth. That estimate was \$680,000, because of all the lead and asbestos involved. Demolition would be a costly and heart-breaking solution.

Salem Parks Foundation thinks Eco-Earth is worth saving. Many art-loving Salem citizens agree and have donated over \$63,000. We have received \$13,000 in grants, and we are reaching out to Salem businesses, who benefit from the attractiveness of Riverfront Park. The City has budgeted \$112,000 for Eco-Earth from lodging tax revenue.

Eco-Earth is featured in many travel publications. It is still stunning (at a distance) and has become a noted Salem landmark. Meanwhile, it continues to deteriorate – right next to the new Gerry Frank/Salem Rotary Amphitheater in our most visited park.

Salem Parks Foundation is asking for your help in making Eco-Earth a source of community pride again.

To donate, please use the QR code below, or send a check to Salem Parks Foundation, P.O. Box 5764, Salem, OR 97304, or visit our webpage: www.salemparksfoundation.org. Remember to note "Eco-Earth Restoration" on your check or the on-line form. Every donation counts!



Eco - Earth: Stunning from a distance Up close: embarrassing and depressing

