



Eco-Earth Coral Reef Icon

Salem Parks Foundation



We parks!

Donor Recognition Issue

Spring 2023

In 2022, your donations

- Raised over \$70,000 for Salem's parks.
- Provided \$26,000 in park improvements through the Salem Park Foundation's Neighborhood Park Improvement Grant Program.
- Added \$4,500 to the Legacy Fund.
- Grew the Eco-Earth Fund to \$49,000.
- Supported the **Take A Walk in the Park** event, a free event and opportunity for Salem's families and all park lovers to get out, enjoy and celebrate Riverfront Park.



Englewood Park Pollinator Garden

Your donations support our programs both now and into the future.

Our Spring issue is dedicated to recognizing and celebrating our donors: Thank You!

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.
- **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.
- **Buy an owl sign!** Purchase online or by mail.
- **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.
- **Consider gifting** the park lovers on your list with a donation in their honor.

Your donations fund the Salem Parks Foundation's 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. 2023 applications are due May 31 and awards announced in June.

Below are projects funded by grants awarded in 2021 and placed in 2022:

Park bench in Orchard Heights Park (West Salem Neighborhood Association) \$2,500 (not pictured)

Brown Road Park - Gravel pathway and pollinator garden (NOLA) \$4,700



Restore storm damaged pollinator garden in Englewood Park (NEN) \$50



Park bench and concrete pad - Fairview Park (Morningside) \$2,220



Drinking fountain Nelson Park \$8,500 (SWAN)



Two park benches in Geer Park near the bike track (NESCA) \$4,000



Northgate Park - New bench near playground on concrete pad \$2,000



Lee Park - New picnic table \$1,800 (SESNA)

Bill Meltzer, rosarian

Spring 2023 Park Hero



The Rose Garden in Bush's Pasture Park is one of the best loved and most beautiful spaces in Salem. Whether for a wedding or quiet contemplation, it is special. It is also a repository for some of the oldest and most significant rose genetic lines.

Like most special places, it doesn't just happen. Constant vigilance and hard work is the requirement for a healthy, happy, and beautiful rose garden.

Salem has one professional horticulturist, Brian Smith, for all our parks. We are fortunate to have his expertise. For the dedicated and sustained effort required by complex and labor intensive areas like the Rose Garden, Salem depends on volunteers.

Bill Meltzer has been a big part of this effort. He started volunteering for Friends of Bush Garden when he retired from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in 1997. In 1998, Gretchen Carnaby put him in charge of Miss Sally's roses, a special collection of roses originally planted by Elizabeth Lord & Edith Schryver, Salem landscape architects, for Miss Sally Bush.

Roses have been a lifelong interest for Bill. He worked in his mother's rose garden, went on to earn a degree in Forestry from Iowa State University, and went to work for BLM as a timber cruiser and appraiser. He came to Oregon via Kentucky and lived in Medford and North Bend prior to coming to Salem. He joined the Rose Society and showed his roses when living in North Bend. His home and garden are filled with 200 roses, always a work in progress.



Amanda Sitter, Parks Operations Volunteer Coordinator, describes Bill's volunteer service:

"Bill is our longest – serving volunteer in the Municipal Rose Garden at Bush Park (almost 30 years!!). He has maintained Miss Sally's roses for all of these years by cultivating new plants to replace the ones that fail either due to pests, age or disease. He recruits volunteers, maintains their schedule, and shows up to help at our annual rose pruning workshop. Bill and his core group of volunteers work with us all year long because they know we need the help. During the fall and early winter, they work ahead of staff by cutting down all the old canes on the climbers so we can go in behind them and tie up the new shoots. In the winter, Bill and his volunteers work by pruning, thinning, and clearing away bark from the base of the roses. During the spring/summer they deadhead the roses so that new buds are constantly blooming. Bill could tell you anything you would want to know about the rose garden. He has mapped and tagged the roses so we can identify them, he hauls out all of the plant material, and he seriously always has a smile on his face. Bill is just one of those hidden gems that we have at Bush Park."

If this story inspires you to volunteer at the Rose Garden or other Salem parks, please call:

Volunteer Coordinator Amanda Sitter at 503.507.2944

or email asitter@cityofsalem.net





2022 donors

Thank You!

\$1,000 and up

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*sustaining donors



Eco - Earth progress update

The entire renovation cost estimate, commissioned and financed by the Salem Public Arts Commission in 2020, is \$400,000. The City of Salem has pledged to contribute \$112,000 of in-kind services. To date, Salem Parks Foundation donors have contributed \$49,000. We are awaiting results on grant applications and working on others. Local artists are donating time and materials to create new icons to replace the ones that have fallen and broken. This year, **Take a Walk in the Park** is a fund raiser for Eco-Earth. We continue to work hard to complete this fundraising drive. We ask for and appreciate your support.



Donate at www.salemparksfoundation.org or use the QR code in the photo.

Attend **Take a Walk in the Park** and make a contribution either by using the donation jars or the QR code.

Join the public Facebook group **Friends of the Eco-Earth** and post photographs, memories, impressions of the globe.



Eco Earth memory from donor Sarah Dunn of Cotati, CA

"My boyfriend and I initially met up at the globe for our first date of walking through the river-front. We have returned to the globe many times and continue to find new pieces, as well as old ones missing. It has memories that I would love to keep!"

Salem Parks Foundation's



Take A Walk in the Park!

An event to support and celebrate Salem's parks

Start at Riverfront Park Pavilion or Wallace Marine Park at the west side of the Union Street RR Bridge

Saturday, May 13, 2023 @ 10:00 –12:30

Take a 2 mile walk and stop at 4 stations to get a completely stamped passport to enter the drawing and collect your cookie at the end. Completed passports will be entered into a drawing for great prizes!

This event is **FREE** but donations are gratefully accepted



Unable to participate in the Walk, but still want to help? Use the QR Code at the left to donate.

Please join us to **Take a Walk in the Park**

Saturday, May 13, 2023 10:00 AM

This is our annual event inviting you to take a walk in Riverfront Park on May 13, 2023. Start at the either the west end of the Union Street Railroad Bridge or at the Rotary Pavilion, pick up your passport and visit all four stations to get a stamp. Completed passports can be turned in at the Rotary Pavilion and entered to win great prizes. Everyone gets a cookie! This is a family friendly event and, since it is the day before Mother's Day, we suggest that you bring your Mom. This year, Take a Walk in the Park is a fundraiser for Eco-Earth. Any donations received will support this special project, so we ask for your participation and support.