



We  parks!

Salem Parks Foundation

Fall / Winter 2025

Need a Break? Find a park, take a deep breath, and enjoy...

We know you do not have to be convinced of the values of Salem's parks. Still, it never hurts to remind ourselves of the importance of our parks:

Community Parks bring people together, and attendance is free. Playgrounds, community gardens, concerts, spaces to walk, places to sit and think - available in our parks for all.

Environment Parks contribute to cleaner air and water. They provide habitat for creatures great and small. Your donations fund environmental projects from planting trees to pollinator gardens.

Mental and Physical Health Parks contribute to both mental and physical health. Studies show that in neighborhoods with parks, residents live longer and happier lives.

History Salem's parks reflect our history and your contributions have helped many historical projects from the restoration of the Union Street Railroad Bridge to current projects in Pioneer Cemetery and Riverfront Park.



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.
- **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 in their honor.
- **Honor or remember** a loved one with an honor or memorial gift





2025 Movies in the Park - photo, courtesy of David Barker, City of Salem

Movies in the Park

Once again, movie fans were treated to summertime Movies in the Park at Riverfront Park. Melinda Moon, recreation coordinator, had the following comments: *“The City of Salem hosted 4 Movies in the Park this past summer. The movies were well attended with 1,200 – 1,500 people at each movie. The Pop Stop, Gracie’s Sweets and Treats, along with PopcornFetti, sold treats like crafted sodas, ice cream, flavored popcorn, and cotton candy. On the last movie, Wicked, each vendor had themed treats and it was so much fun!”*

This summer, Allied Video rented equipment so people with limited sight could attend and have the movie narrated for them. It was an unexpected treat and we had someone from the blind community attend. We are looking into seeing if this could be supported again in summer 2026.”

We would like to recognize and thank the following community sponsors:

Director Sponsor

Oregon Oncology Specialists
Kay Johnson Windermere, with Hazel Patton
Wild Pear Restaurant & Catering, with Hazel Patton

Assistant Director Sponsor

Oregon State Credit Union

Technical Sponsor

Allied Video

Caption Sponsor

Salem Health Hospitals and Clinics

Design Sponsor

Time for Joy Games

Gaffer Sponsor

Church in the Park
Huggins/Bliss Sequoia Insurance
Roth’s Fresh Markets

Grip Sponsor

CB2 Architects
Salem Group, LLC
The Salem Group Convention Center

This summer, audiences contributed \$548 through the Salem Parks Foundation donate button QR code. Others contributed cash at the door. You can contribute to Movies in the Park anytime at salemparksfoundation.org/ways_to_help.

To become a sponsor, contact Melinda Moon mmoon@cityofsalem.net

Pinot for the Parks 14

Thank you to everyone for your support for the Legacy Fund, growing to create a permanent funding source for Salem park programs. The Legacy Fund is held and managed by the Oregon Community Foundation and currently is at \$124,000.



2025 Legacy Fund Donors

Alan Alexander
 L.J. Anderson
 Anonymous
 Ken and Linda Bierly
 Bill and Katherine Girsch
 Marilyn Harbur
 Tom Harrison
 John Hawkins
 Ed Jochums
 Ron and Kathy Kelemen
 Kirk Leonard
 Linda Nishioka
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 David and Jody Rowell
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 Paul and Tracey Anne Saucy
 Stephanie Smythe
 Carol Snyder
 Ellen Stevens
 Donald Stoltz
 Mike and Karen Weddle
 Mark Wigg
 Bob and Amy Williams
 Christine Young
 Mark and Sharon Zielinski



Salem Parks Foundation Presents

Pinot for the Parks 14

Eight older Pinot Noir selections from the wine closet of Daniel and Kathleen Saucy with mild hors d'oeuvres to complement the wine

Friday, September 26, 2025
5:00pm to 7:00pm
465 Myers St. S., Salem, OR



\$100 Per Person

Make all checks out to: Salem Parks Foundation
All proceeds will go to the SPF Legacy Fund

Salem Parks Foundation is a 501(c)3 Organization and Oregon Cultural Trust member

For more information call 503-364-8674

Eco – Earth Update from President Carol Snyder

The City of Salem has received the new assessment from Architectural Resources Group (ARG) for restoring Eco-Earth. The new estimate is \$1.5 million – over 3 times the 2020 estimate of \$400,000. ARG feels that the globe has deteriorated to the point that repair is not possible and complete restoration is necessary. The City has now hired Art Solutions Lab to provide a second estimate. This assessment should be completed by February 2026.



The Salem Public Arts Commission is considering hosting a public Open House after receiving the new estimate. This will allow the City to provide accurate and complete information to the public and to receive public feedback.

Meanwhile, Salem Parks Foundation continues to receive donations for Eco-Earth. We appreciate all the support for this iconic Salem landmark. Our donors can be assured that we carefully track all donations and that we are reserving that specific fund for the restoration of Eco-Earth. We will continue to include Eco-Earth updates in our newsletter.

So far this year, Bottledrop Give donors have contributed \$1,099.28 to SPF. Half of the proceeds support Eco - Earth restoration, half support general fund programs like the Neighborhood Park grants.

Your cans and bottles make a difference! Let us know if you need blue bags. We will drop off your bags with instructions for returning the filled bags. If you need your filled bags picked up and returned, let us know.

info@salemparksfoundation.org

Thanks to Bottle Drop donors



Salem Parks Foundation Board of Directors

President: Carol Snyder

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Alan Alexander

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Join Us...

Are you passionate about parks, community, and making a lasting impact in Salem? The Salem Parks Foundation is seeking dedicated individuals to join our Board of Directors. Help us champion green spaces, support local projects, and shape the future of our city's parks.

If you're ready to make a difference, we'd love to hear from you!

info@salemparksfoundation.org