



## In 2019, here is how your donations changed Salem’s parks...

- New playground equipment at McKay Park
- The Legacy Fund grew to \$60,827.32
- Six Neighborhood Park Grant Program projects

Bike Fixit Station and a Mutt Mitt dispenser for the Library grounds and the Civic Center Mirror Pond area

An outdoor chess table in Grant School Park

An information kiosk at Hoover Park

Soccer goals for the Brown Road Park practice field

Replacement of the floor of the gazebo / picnic shelter at Aldrich Park

A new backless bench at Morningside Park



You are invited to Take a Walk in the Park Saturday May 9, 2020 9:00—Noon This is a FREE event to celebrate Salem’s parks!

### CELEBRATE Salem’s Parks!

We hope you will join us for our annual celebration of Salem’s parks in Riverfront Park!

#### Take a Walk in the Park

Saturday, May 9 2020, from 9:00 AM until 12:00 Noon.

Family-Friendly **FREE** event

Start at the Rotary Pavilion or at the west end of the Union Street Railroad Bridge

Pick up a passport and have it stamped at each station along the two-mile route. All stamped passports will be entered in the drawing to win an attack owl sign.

#### Everyone gets a cookie!

Bring your family and friends. This is the day before Mother’s Day so be sure to bring Mom!

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# Thank You 2019 Donors!



## \$5,000+

Sue Miller

Irene Mylan

Tom and Ellen Stevens

## \$1,000 - \$4,999

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memory of Bob Maxey

Paul E. Saucy Living Trust

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## \$500 - \$999

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	Douglas T. Nelson	<b>Ryan Zink*</b>
	Paypal Giving Fund	<b>*SUSTAINING DONOR</b>

In the Photo from left: Marilyn Moritz, NESCA Vice-Chair; Julio Gallardo, Marion County lead worker on the information kiosk; and NESCA Chair, Mike Berringer



- **New Information kiosk at Hoover Park**
- **Inspiration and application through the Northeast Salem Community Association**
- **Funding provided by SPF donors through 2019 Neighborhood Park Grant Program**
- **Construction by Marion County Juvenile Department's Alternative Programs**
- **Installation by City of Salem Parks Operations**
- **What a Team!**

## Neighborhood Park Grant Program

Neighborhood parks provide a gathering place, an event space, community gardens, a place for families to recreate and a beautiful spot of nature for all the neighborhood to enjoy. One of the goals of the Salem Parks Foundation (SPF) is to provide the means for neighbors to improve their parks.

The Neighborhood Park Grant Program encourages neighbors to think about community needs in a park and to work through their Neighborhood Association to apply for a grant to make those improvements. Here is how it works:

- Neighborhood Associations receive SPF grant applications in the Spring. If you have an idea for your park, attend a meeting of your **Neighborhood Association** and make your suggestion. To find your Neighborhood Association, visit <https://www.cityofsalem.net/my-neighborhood> . If you need help coming up with ideas, ask the City of Salem Parks Operations staff. They may be reached at 503-588-6336.
- When the group has agreed upon a project, together with the Neighborhood Association Parks Chair, fill out the application. The grant application includes information about the park; how the park is currently used, how the proposed project will benefit the park, and how the neighborhood will be involved. The Neighborhood Association Chair and the Parks Chair need to sign the grant application.
- Have your proposal reviewed and approved by the City of Salem Parks Operations prior to submission and send it to SPF, P.O. Box 5764, Salem, OR 97304 by April 30, 2020.



The **Adults in Custody (AIC) teams** are one of the mainstays of Salem parks maintenance. If you have ever wondered how it all gets done - the trimming, the blowing, the edging, the mowing - the endless maintenance necessary to keep our parks clean and landscaped, these folks are a big part of the answer.

The City of Salem contracts with the State of Oregon Department of Corrections and Marion County Corrections for AIC crews to work in Salem's parks. They do a wide variety of tasks from filling sandbags and homeless camp clean-up as well as landscape maintenance. They even decorate for the holidays!

The process from prison to parks is a careful one. AICs must first qualify to live at the fenceless, low security Mill Creek Correctional Facility (MCCF) by completing a full year of good behavior in a higher security facility. Once at MCCF, each individual is evaluated by a team which determines the steps needed to achieve the best outcome for each person.

In the process, individuals learn life skills as well as job skills. The goal of the Department of Corrections is to provide a path back to normal life and smooth reentry into society through education and job experience.

When all prerequisites are met, the AIC applies for employment. The application process is designed to provide training, experience and skills to use in the process of getting a job. From becoming qualified to apply for one of these jobs to becoming a team leader, the process is designed to provide an education in living skills as well as how to earn a living.

Once selected for an AIC Parks Maintenance team, members are trained in the use of equipment, learn necessary skills and become eligible for promotion and advancement to team leaders. Payment is through a points system redeemable at the facility canteen.

While they work, AIC teams are supervised by the Oregon Department of Corrections, Marion County Corrections, and City of Salem Parks Operations staff. For many, this will be their first working experience. Some of the skills learned are very basic, such as how to keep a schedule, setting and achieving goals and the feeling of satisfaction when goals are achieved.

The skills learned and the experience acquired provide qualifications for life after release from the corrections system. The landscaping and tree service employment sector is one of the direct transfers of experience, but the life skills learned broaden the possibilities for each AIC.

Equally important is the satisfaction of giving back to the community. For those individuals from the local area, it is especially rewarding to know you play a significant role in the livability of your community.

**Please watch for part II of this Park Hero story about individuals involved in this program.**

[info@salemparksfoundation.org](mailto:info@salemparksfoundation.org)  
to nominate your park hero

# Why Support Parks?

## **Parks are emerging as important public health solutions in urban communities.**

Nearly 40 years of research evidence confirms that nearby nature, including parks, gardens, the urban forest and green spaces, support human health and wellness. The research about active living and opportunities to avoid chronic diseases (such as diabetes, heart disease and respiratory problems) is particularly relevant to large parks where people can enjoy walking and bike paths, and playing fields. But, equally as important is the role of small parks and nature spaces for health.

## **Co-Benefits of City Systems**

Parks and green infrastructure can be co-designed for co-benefits. Parks can serve their primary goals to offer recreation and aesthetic amenities, while also containing spaces that mitigate stormwater or improve air quality. Green infrastructure can achieve essential utility functions in the community, but may also be designed to create the environments that provide nearby nature experiences and support health.

## **Building Social Capital**

Social capital, a critical condition for a host of community benefits, is formed from the interpersonal relationships of people and resulting supportive networks. The mere presence of landscape or trees appears to promote community connections. Views of green space from homes are linked to greater perceptions of well-being and neighborhood satisfaction. Public housing residents reported feeling more safe if their development had well-maintained landscaping, including trees and grass. Greener public housing neighborhoods tend to be safer, with fewer incivilities and less reported crimes. Active involvement in community greening and nature restoration projects also produces social benefits, including strengthening of intergenerational ties and organizational empowerment.

*[Kathleen Wolf, Ph.D.](#), is a Research Social Scientist with joint appointments at the University of Washington, College of the Environment, and the U.S. Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station.*



# Ways to Give to Salem's Parks

- **Mail** a check to SPF at P.O. Box 5764, Salem, OR 97304.
- **Donate** 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. You can designate a specific city park or park project. We will send them a card acknowledging your gift.
- **Bottle Drop/Give** Your Refundable Cans and Bottles can help improve Salem Parks. Salem Parks Foundation is now a part of **Bottle Drop/Give** Fill our pre-labeled blue bags with refundable cans and bottles and drop them off at any of the Bottle Drop sites in Salem. Staff will count the refundables and credit the SPF account. Send an e-mail to [info@salemparksfoundation.org](mailto:info@salemparksfoundation.org) We will arrange to get the bags to you.