



We  parks!

Winter 2021

You Can See the World From Riverfront Park...

...and it is falling apart. Salem Parks Foundation is excited to announce a major fundraising drive to restore the deteriorating Eco-Earth Globe in Riverfront Park.

Many Salem residents will remember the conversion of the industrial acid ball to the stunning Eco-Earth Globe that we see today. It was a significant community effort. Everyone from school art classes to folks eager to recognize and adopt a place or icon that held special significance for them took part in this amazing effort.

Time and the elements have taken a toll on this iconic art work and it is time to bring it back to its original glory. We are asking the community that loves Eco-Earth to step up and help with the restoration. It is a daunting task. We need your help to raise \$300,000 over the next two years. Once this goal is reached, the City will hire a professional restoration firm. Any unused funds will go toward a dedicated trust fund for ongoing maintenance. All donations help, no matter the size.

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It is not too early to be thinking about the 2022 Neighborhood Park Grants!



Could your neighborhood park use a new piece of playground equipment? Does the drinking fountain look like it was placed in 1944? How about a new informational sign about the pollinators in your park or possibly a chess table? The possibilities are endless and we hope you are looking at your neighborhood park with an eye to improvements. We do solo grants, or we are happy to partner with the City of Salem Park Improvement Fund to raise funds for your project if you have a larger project in

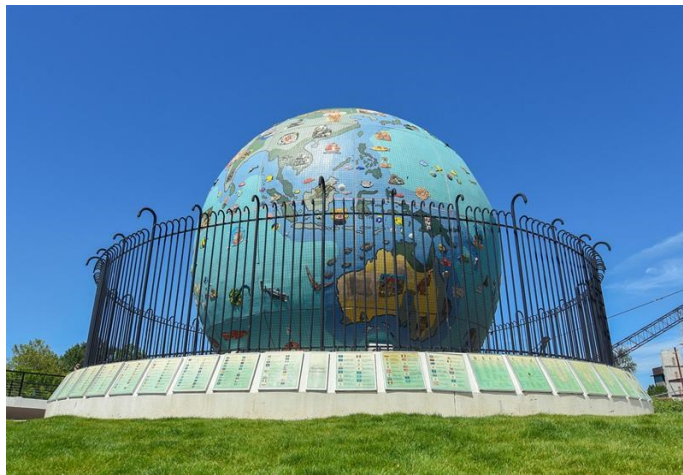
mind. Applications will be coming soon to your neighborhood association. These applications require a project description, a budget that Parks Operations will help you with, signatures of the NA Chair and Parks Chair, and the approval of Parks Operations. Send it off to SPF, P.O. Box 5764, Salem, OR 97304 or submit online at info@salemparksfoundation.org The deadline is May 30, winners will be announced in June.

How did we get from here...

According to [Wikipedia](#), the **Eco-Earth Globe**, sometimes referred to simply as **Eco-Earth**, is an outdoor structure depicting a globe, located in Riverfront Park in Salem, Oregon, in the United States. Completed in 2003, the globe was converted from an acid storage ball with a 26-foot (7.9m) diameter that previously belonged to Boise Cascade, a pulp and paper company. Conceived by Mayor Roger Gertenrich, the community art project was funded by community members and gifted to the City. According to Oregon Public Broadcasting, the sculpture “was an opportunity for students, and talented volunteers from Salem’s art community to collaborate and create hundreds of ceramic icons that represent and teach about different cultures.” Mary P.D. Heintzman, a local art teacher and artist, served as the project’s art director.



To here...



This dry description is accurate, as far as it goes. What it fails to capture is how personal this undertaking became. Thanks to Capi Lynn’s November 1, 2021 article in the Statesman-Journal, donations are already starting. Notes accompanying these donations relate the effort and love that went into the Eco-Earth project. They capture the pride and passion that went into ideas, art work, administration, construction and execution for the conversion of the ball from industrial fixture to art work.

This was a project that united Salem across neighborhoods, political orientation, occupation and status. It truly brought everyone together and, if the letters and cards accompanying donations are any indication, it made many lasting memories.

It allowed donors and artists to literally put places and objects that were special to them on the map. Families donated to remember their heritage. Individuals donated to honor countries, oceans, and animals. They created an amazing icon that has a place in our hearts and minds and helps our imaginations to remember that we live on a very special planet.

Riverfront Park has become the people’s park. Organizations small and large have raised millions of dollars to create a roll call of incredible projects: restoration of the Union Street Railroad Bridge; the Carousel; the Rotary Pavilion; the Peter Courtney Bridge that now connects Riverfront Park to Minto Brown Island Park; the Gerry Frank Amphitheater that honors the heritage of the Kalapooya indigenous people and recognizes that we are not the first to consider this place special. The Eco Earth Globe was one of the first of these accomplishments and everyone that was involved remembers the work and excitement surrounding it. It epitomizes the spirit of community that is Salem.

To Here???

Time, the elements, and lack of funding for art and park maintenance have combined to cause generalized deterioration to the Eco-Earth.

Salem Parks Foundation

believes the same spirit that brought the Eco-Earth into being still exists to rally and support the restoration of this iconic structure. If you agree, please consider a donation to this project. All donations help, no matter the size.

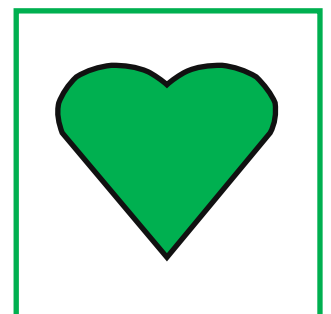
On Line: Go to

salemparksfoundation.org

and click on the donations button. In the notes section, specify that your gift should go to the Eco-Earth Project .

By Mail: send your check to Salem Parks Foundation, P.O. Box 5764, Salem, OR 97304. On the memo line of your check, please specify that your donation should go to the Eco-Earth Project.

Please: Send us your memories as well. We will capture them and add them to the trove of Eco-Earth history.



2021 Winter Park Hero Award

For this issue of our newsletter, we want to recognize the community effort that went into the conversion of the Boise Cascade Acid Ball to the Riverfront Park Eco-Earth Globe.

There are too many to name and we also do not want to miss anyone, so we will not try to list all the individuals but we want to honor everyone of them. You all are our

2021 Winter Park Heroes.



If you see this image, take a minute and say Thanks!

Salem Parks Foundation has been honoring Park Heroes for a while now, and we wanted to recognize them in a more tangible way, so we are awarding all our **Park Heroes** a badge so they can be recognized in the community. We hope they wear them proudly.

If you see City staff or volunteers wearing this badge, take a minute and say "Thank You for all you do for our community. "

Are parks important to you? Here's how to help 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 . You can donate to a specific park or to a park project.
- **Link** your Fred Meyer Rewards card to **SPF** at www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards .
- **Amazon Smiles.** SPF participates in the **Amazon Smiles** charity program. Please choose **SPF** as your charity at 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.
- **Bottle Drop/Give.** 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 info@salemparksfoundation.org We will arrange to get the bags to you.
- **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.
- **Make a charitable bequest** in your will to SPF and/or name it as a retirement plan beneficiary.