

2025 Annual Report

Photo: August Jackson



Mount Pisgah
Arboretum

Our mission is to engage people with nature through interactive learning and stewardship

Mount Pisgah Arboretum is located on the traditional homelands of the Kalapuya people. We humbly honor their past, present, and future, and are committed to finding meaningful ways to recognize their enduring legacy in the region.

Executive Director's Report by Ilana Jakubowski



Every day, I drive down Seavey Loop Road, passing the open fields on my way to the Arboretum. I often listen to the news on the radio; stories of uncertainty, struggle, and rapid change. But when I pull into the parking lot, turn off the engine, and open the door, the sound of headlines is

replaced by the chorus of birdsong. I've arrived. Here, I can lay down the weight of the world and breathe again.

As the world shifts around us, the constancy of the natural world offers a rare kind of solace. In the midst of division, nature reminds us of our shared humanity. It invites us to slow down, to listen, to remember we are all part of something larger. Nature is not just a refuge, it is a great unifying force. We must ensure this oasis of calm and connection are protected and nurtured.

Since stepping into the role of Executive Director last June, I've had the opportunity to witness the incredible dedication it takes to sustain this special place. From habitat restoration and trail care to education programs and festival planning, the

Arboretum thrives because of a shared commitment to the land and the community.

This work is made possible by many hands: a devoted Board of Directors, passionate and skilled staff, committed volunteers, generous donors, and a strong and growing membership. Together, we are stewarding a space that offers connection, healing, and joy to thousands each year.

This past year brought many exciting milestones. In 2024, we completed two improved access trail loops. These trails are the ideal complement to all-terrain track chairs now available for visitors to reserve free of charge. This initiative expands access to our trails and ensures more people can experience the beauty of this place, regardless of mobility.

In early 2025, we completed a five-year Strategic Plan. A core focus is ensuring the Arboretum is truly welcoming to a diverse range of people. We have also welcomed in new staff members and are particularly excited to now have a dedicated Communications and Volunteer Coordinator position.

There's more to do, but we're moving forward with clarity, purpose, and deep care. Together, we can ensure the Arboretum remains a place of solace, connection, and community long into the future.

Unveiling Our Strategic Plan

Over the winter, we completed our five-year strategic plan. This blueprint will guide our continued efforts to strengthen our mission, engage our community, and ensure the continued vitality of this remarkable place.

Strategic Goals

1. Increase Operational Capacity and Investments in Staff
2. Deepen our Engagement with Diverse Populations
3. Strengthen our Collaboration with Regional Environmental Stewards.

4. Provide Equitable Access to Programs and Resources.
5. Increase Funding & Broaden the Diversity of Funding Sources.
6. Develop Facilities that Enhance the Visitor Experience.
7. Enhance our Stewardship of the Natural Environment.

Learn more and explore the whole strategic plan on our website.

Site by Connor Reinecke, Facilities Manager & Patrick Wegner, Habitat & Trails Manager

With a major ice storm clean-up behind us, we've settled back into our typical rhythms of vegetation management, infrastructure projects, and teaching community members how to steward this beloved park.

With help from funding from the Bureau of Land Management and Lane County Parks for fuels reduction, we were able to steward 14% of the woody areas within the Arboretum. These areas were chosen based on their ecological value, fuel density, and risk to public safety. To reduce the fuel loads, we thinned out snags and removed blackberry, encroaching conifers, and ladder fuels to prevent fire from climbing into the canopy.

In this past year we were also able to reconstruct Howard Buford's bridge, recognizable as the Arboretum's main entrance. While this was a large undertaking for the staff, we were lucky to onboard 15 site interns this past year, many of whom helped out with shaping and fitting the new bridge to match its original design. These interns also learned many other skills including power and hand tool usage and maintenance, and habitat restoration techniques



Interns Satori, Chloe, and Lena with a Northwest salamander.
Photo: Sara Spoden

which they put to good use on projects around the Arboretum.

We appreciate all the interns and volunteers who have put their time into this place over the last year to create a space that is safe and welcoming to all. See you out on the site soon.

Amphibian Egg Mass Survey



Northwest salamander egg mass
Photo: Patrick Wegner

This past winter we conducted the first of hopefully many amphibian egg mass surveys. "What is an egg mass survey," you ask? This type of survey focuses on inventorying the clusters of eggs laid in bodies of water by our local amphibian friends, such as frogs, toads, and salamanders. These data on native amphibian populations are a useful indicator of ecosystem health year-to-year. A group of volunteers and staff conducted regular transects in areas that we believed would hold water long enough to produce results. In our first season, our 14 surveyors documented over 100+ Pacific chorus frog egg masses, 30+ Northwest salamander masses, and 1 Northern Red-legged frog egg mass. The findings are hopeful and will help drive our decision-making onsite.

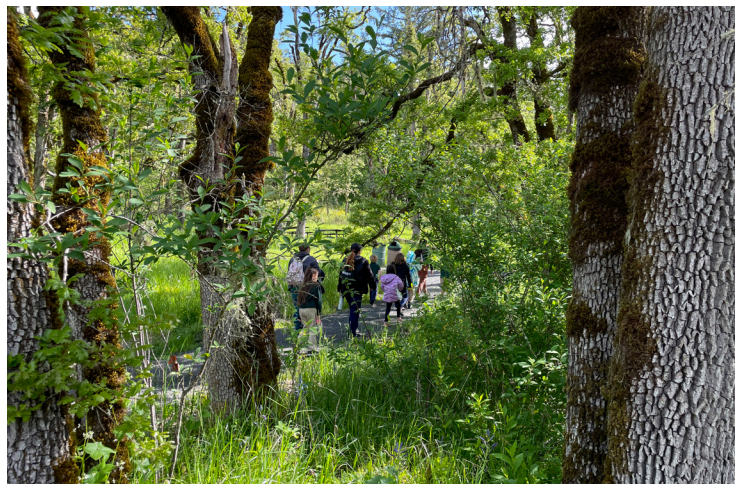
We look forward to next year's survey and if you're interested in helping out please reach out.

Education by Sara Spoden, Education Manager

Community partnerships make Mount Pisgah Arboretum flourish. Along with our beloved “Discovery Tour” field trips for kindergarten through 5th grade, this Spring we hosted groups from University of Oregon’s Environmental Leadership Program and Whole Earth’s Coyote Outdoor School. These partner groups provide local children with additional access to the outdoors and opportunity to build lifelong connections to the natural world. Whether it be through intercultural connections of migratory birds on Spanish/English guided trips in “Aves Comparjetas”, or through immersive land-based education for fifth and sixth-grade students in “Coyote Outdoor School”, together we reached a grand total of 2,481 students here at the Arboretum this year.



Staff co-lead a nature tour with Nurturely and Beyond Toxics
Photo: Maria Paz Aguirre, Nurturely



Nature Guides lead a Discovery Tour
Photo: Sara Spoden

Our weekend family nature tours and mindful meanderings are another great way to get outside, expand your knowledge, and foster a connection to your local landscape.

This April we teamed up with Nurturely and Beyond Toxics on a co-led “Resiliency Walk”. This tour was an experience that wove together environmental knowledge, community efforts, and personal well-being, to leave participants with tools for resilience in an ever-changing world. Feedback from participants was positive stating: “Learning about the history of the land and human relationship to it helped me see how what may appear as chaos to the Western Gaze is actually very coherent, efficient and balanced, and intervention that is not paired with deep listening and reciprocity is not effective even if it “looks” organized.”

We look forward to continuing our programmatic reach & community connections this Fall and into the new year with the knowledge that together in nature, we are better.



Photo: August Jackson

By the Numbers:

- ◇ Over **1,100** volunteer hours since January
- ◇ More than **40** David’s Chair reservations since January
- ◇ **2,481** kids served in Spring field trips
- ◇ Over **25** guided nature tours in 2024
- ◇ **62** sponsored family memberships distributed since January
- ◇ Over **100** native plants planted since January
- ◇ **6,041** Festival Attendees

Oak Woodland Exhibit

Our reimagined Oak Woodlands Exhibit was installed at the end of May after a few years of careful planning and consideration.

This new exhibit features stunning illustrations by local artist Emily Poole, depicting seasonal life, change, and interactions between the plants and animals in Oregon white oak habitat. Emily Poole has been our festival poster artist for the last few years, and these new illustrations are a visual to accompany this habitat exhibit. Her attention and care taken to accurately depict and celebrate local ecology is an inspiring discovery out on the trails.

The new iteration of the Oak Woodlands Exhibit provides more functional and accessible education while also working more cohesively with the land than past installations.

While some final tweaks are still to come to improve



The Oak Woodland Exhibit after initial installation in May
Photo: Jade Pfaefflin Bounds

the look and flow, we are proud to have the exhibit installed and these important ecological relationships on display.

Partner Highlight: TransWild Forest Frolic



This spring we partnered with Cascadia Wildlands and TransPonder to hold our third TransWild Forest Frolic - an event focused on making outdoor recreation and nature appreciation more accessible to trans, queer, BIPOC, and other marginalized communities. This year's Frolic was our largest yet, bringing in over 350 people to enjoy live entertainment, workshops, and activities including face painting, nature walks, and tree climbing with Tree Climbing Eugene. Visitors also had the opportunity to connect with over 10 different community nonprofits organizations participating in the event. Data collected from optional surveys showed that all survey participants reported feeling "safe" or "very safe" when visiting the Arboretum and 20% were visiting for the very first time. Overall, this was a great opportunity to help more members of the community discover their place in nature and we are looking forward to continuing to build on our mission of diversity, equity, and inclusion through ongoing events and programs like these.

Top: Attendees on a guided nature tour with MPA staff
Bottom: Attendees tie-dye t-shirts in a workshop
Photos: Cascadia Wildlands

Festivals and Events

by Tawnia Ross, Venue Manager

June welcomed our wedding and event season as our picturesque venue filled with the joyous laughter and heartfelt love of couples and their families and friends as they came together in celebration. Additionally, we opened our doors for celebrations of life, offering a thoughtful space to honor and remember loved ones who have passed away. The summer also brought an exciting concert lineup in the pavillion, featuring Amici's two-night concert series that will also return in 2025.

Fall brought a remarkable Mushroom Festival featuring live music, mouthwatering food from local vendors, handcrafted goods by talented artisans, and an expansive display of fungi put together by Lane Community College and Cascade Mycological Society. The 2025 events season kicked off with a vibrant Wildflower Festival, which brought together our dedicated staff, enthusiastic volunteers, and joyful



Wildflowers on display at the 2025 Wildflower Festival
Photo: Ilana Jakubowski

festival-goers to create a truly memorable community gathering. Attendees enjoyed engaging activities for children, enriching nature tours, a stunning display of local wildflowers, and informative talks that brought the beauty of the natural world to life. We extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who played a role in making this year's event a remarkable success!

Planning for a More Extreme Climate

In January 2024, an ice storm struck the Eugene and Springfield area with devastating force, hitting the Arboretum particularly hard. We suffered complete loss or damage to 60% of our trees, with torn limbs and entire trees strewn across every yard of ground. The cleanup task was monumental, requiring 80 volunteers who donated over 800 hours across two months before we could reopen to the public. The recovery also demanded \$90,000 for equipment rental, additional staff time, and contractors.

The community rallied with extraordinary support, helping us meet this urgent need. However, the experience made us acutely aware of how much damage extreme natural events can inflict on our 209 acres, and what it will take to maintain them through future climate extremes. From this realization, we established the Dave Donielson Natural Emergency Recovery Fund, honoring a man with deep love for both Mount Pisgah and safe recreation.

Dave visited the park weekly for over 30 years, and he valued nature while respecting its power. As we chart the wisest path forward, we recognize that financially planning for increased climate volatility is essential. Creating a fund to address extreme needs arising from severe weather and fire is our first step toward

ensuring the Arboretum remains a safely accessible and healthy natural treasure for our community.



Dave Donielson

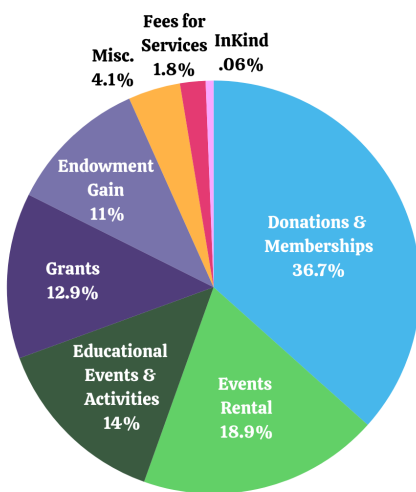
Donations to this fund can be mailed to us or made online through our website.

Financial Report by Charlotte Kreitlow, Board Treasurer

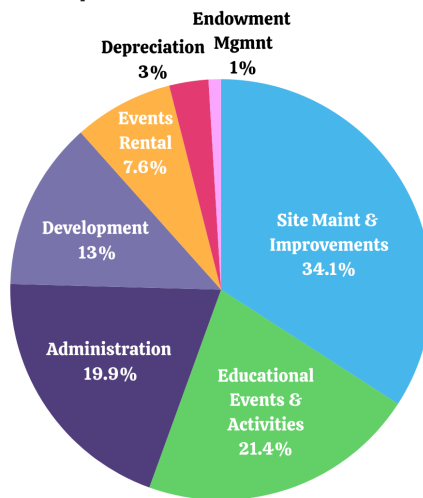
2024 began with the challenge of a severe ice storm, which caused widespread damage to the Arboretum's trees and infrastructure. Thanks to community donations with a large match, we were able to reopen the Arboretum safely in March. Overall, revenue and expenses have consistent trends year over year. Event rentals, donations and membership dues continue to provide roughly half of the annual revenue. Personnel costs are the largest expense category, as the staff has grown to better serve the community and members, while the site maintenance

and education departments have the largest expense allocation. There was a 10% increase in site maintenance and improvement expenses in 2024, mainly due to natural disaster recovery. We ended the year with a \$28k net loss, but had an \$11k increase in overall cash. This is an important distinction to make because some revenue is restricted or earmarked and will be spent in future years on specific projects. The endowment fund rebounded nicely after a large loss in 2022. We are incredibly thankful to our supporters and the community.

Mount Pisgah Arboretum
2024 Income Total = \$1,014,857



Mount Pisgah Arboretum
2024 Expenditures Total = \$1,043,086



Statement of Financial Position

ASSETS	12/31/2023	12/31/2024
Current Assets		
Cash	\$ 955,229	\$ 900,400
Endowment	\$ 1,032,269	\$ 1,099,709
Accounts Receivable	\$ 35,842	\$ 40,456
Other Current Assets	\$ 4,692	\$ 13,646
Total Current Assets	\$ 2,028,033	\$ 2,054,212
Fixed Assets		
Buildings/Equip/Exhibits	\$ 420,721	\$ 389,182
Total Fixed Assets	\$ 420,721	\$ 389,182
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 2,448,754	\$ 2,443,394
LIABILITIES & EQUITY		
Liabilities		
Deferred Rental Revenue	\$ 93,324	\$ 74,900
Current Liabilities	\$ 17,250	\$ 58,544
Total Liabilities	\$ 110,574	\$ 133,444
Equity		
Restricted Net Assets	\$ 1,019,419	\$ 1,019,419
Retained Earnings	\$ 906,690	\$ 1,318,761
*Net Income	\$ 412,072	\$ (28,230)
Total Equity	\$ 2,338,180	\$ 2,309,950
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	\$ 2,448,754	\$ 2,443,394



Photo: August Jackson



Photo: Sara Spoden



Photo: Lucy Rojas Henderson



Photo: Patrick Wegner



Photo: Kevin House



Photo: Sara Spoden

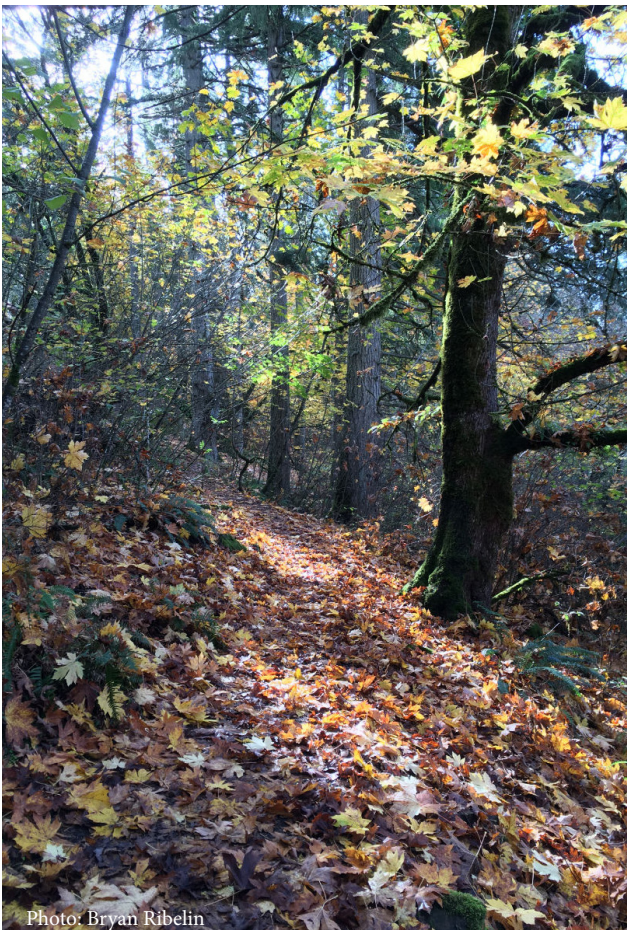


Photo: Bryan Ribelin



Photo: Greenlee Anderson



Photo: August Jackson