

2026 Annual Report

Photo: August Jackson



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

Kalapuya people and their neighbors have met on the land we now know as Mount Pisgah Arboretum and used this place like you do for millenia. They have come to places like this along the Willamette to play and swim, cook and eat. They have gathered foods and medicines, and materials for basketry, tools, and clothing. This is, was, and will always be Kalapuya land.

Executive Director's Report by Ilana Jakubowski



Over the past year, the Arboretum has offered visitors an opportunity to pause, slow down, and reconnect with a sense of timelessness in nature. We have seen that this is a growing need, as hundreds of new members joined us and Arboretum programs saw increased participation.

This growth welcomes a broad range of community members who find their place in the Arboretum. From first-time visitors discovering the trails to long-established members whose needs and relationships to the landscape have evolved over time, people continue to find the Arboretum an accessible place to engage with nature. Throughout the year, the Arboretum has acted on our commitment to intelligently steward the land, advancing accessibility and ecological resilience.

Thanks to a generous grant from Travel Oregon, we began work on a project to update our aging informational kiosks and expand trail wayfinding posts. These improvements are designed not only to help visitors better navigate the landscape, but also to deepen understanding of the ecology, history, and stewardship of this remarkable place. Our new kiosks

will include all information in Spanish and English, along with audio descriptions of the kiosk panels and surrounding habitat. Updated wayfinding posts will also clearly identify accessible trail loops, helping more community members confidently experience the beauty of the Arboretum.

Both increased engagement and climate change call on us to take even greater responsibility in caring for this land. In the last year, we've expanded our ecological monitoring efforts by initiating a comprehensive tree inventory project and conducting our second winter amphibian egg mass survey. These data provide a valuable framework for future planning, fire resilience, and habitat restoration efforts as we adapt to environmental change.

All our work is made possible by the incredible team of staff who care for the Arboretum each day with dedication, creativity, and deep knowledge of the land. From maintaining trails and welcoming visitors to leading ecological monitoring projects, coordinating volunteers, and developing inclusive educational resources, our staff's hearts and expertise bring the Arboretum's mission to life.

Together, we engage with nature through interactive learning and stewardship, ensuring that both community and landscape continue to thrive for generations to come.

Site by Patrick Wegner, Habitat & Trails Manager

The site crew has been working hard to remove potential fuels across our site to minimize the risk and scale of impact of potential wildfire. Strategies include mowing fire breaks in strategic locations to minimally impact habitat health year-to-year, removing large amounts of woody fuels, and clearing ladder fuels (plant matter that could allow fire to move from the forest floor to tree canopies). This work is key to reducing potential devastation from fire in the Arboretum.

In the Winter, we pushed to clear fuels from the water garden. This area suffered in the 2024 ice storm, the many falling trees and branches greatly increased potential fuels in the following years. Volunteers and staff began with clearing around trails and service roads so we could utilize vehicles to access the most impacted areas. Additionally, volunteer crews cleared brush around the Adkison bridge and pond—maintaining important open water habitat for key species like western pond turtles and northern red-legged frogs.

Tree Inventory Project

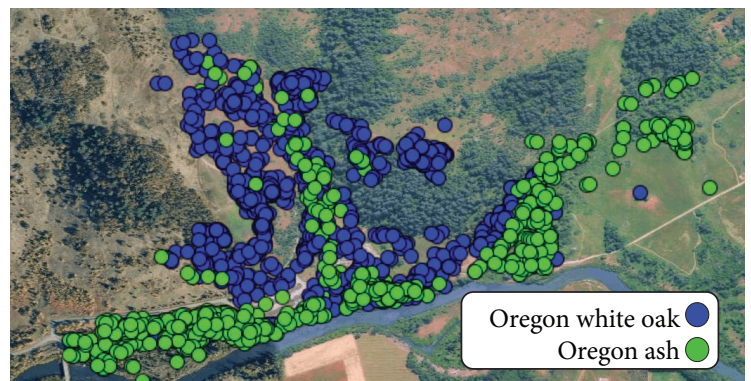
This year, we began an inventory project of all trees in the Arboretum. Using the mapping software TreePlotter, staff and trained volunteers are able to document the location, diameter at breast height, estimated height, health, species, and unique features of each tree. We started off with measuring one species at a time in a given area. We prioritized Oregon ash (*Fraxinus latifolia*) as the first species to document to ensure we can best plan for the impacts of the Emerald Ash Borer, an invasive beetle that infests and kills ash trees. So far, the Emerald Ash Borer has been found in Oregon and is anticipated to reach Eugene in the next ten years. After recording most of our ash population, we began documenting Oregon white oak trees (*Quercus garryana*), making note of legacy trees, older, well established trees with unique features, and flagging those that need release treatments from encroaching shrubs and young trees.

This project is possible thanks to generous support and training from the Oregon Department of Forestry and funding through Upper Willamette Soil and Water Conservation District.



Before and after fuels reduction near the Upper Plateau Trail.
Photos: Patrick Wegner

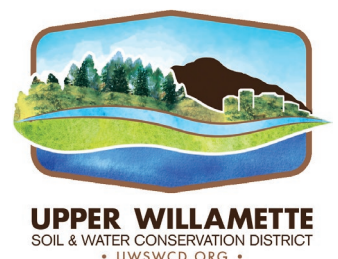
Thanks to our new Ventrac tractor that is capable of mowing wide areas and steep slopes, we were able to reduce fuels in areas that would have previously required a staggering amount of manual labor like the upper creek area by the Oak Savanna Trail. With this equipment and dedicated efforts, we will continue to push for a safer and more protected site, despite increasing fire risk.



Tree Inventory Map, June 2026

So far, we've surveyed:

- Over 3,000 trees
- An estimated 75% of Oregon White Oak and 95% of Oregon Ash
- 42 legacy Oregon white Oak trees in need of habitat restoration interventions



Education by Sara Spoden, Education Manager

In Spring of 2026, our beloved Spring Discovery Tour field trips hit record numbers, completing 37 tours and serving a total of 1,841 students this season! This is an all time record for our Discovery Tour program. We also introduced a fully revised 5th grade curriculum, focused on ethnobotany and the relationships between plants and people. In addition to our typical elementary school trips, we also expanded into serving several middle school groups this Spring.

We love to see the enthusiasm and excitement that Discovery Tours bring out in students. This year, kids raved: “This is better than the pumpkin patch!”, “How did you learn all of this, do you live here?”, and “Even if there aren’t frogs in the pond, I’m still happy for the journey we’ve had”. We look forward to new musings this summer & fall.



Nature Guides lead students on a Discovery Tour
Photo: Sara Spoden












2nd & 3rd graders investigate larkspur blooms on a Discovery Tour
Photo: Sara Spoden

We could not have done all of these tours without the dedication of our volunteer Nature Guides and Education Interns. This March, we were delighted to onboard eight new Nature Guides. They have hit the ground running - each guide bringing their own style, background, and passions to these place-based learning experiences.

This was the first academic year that we have hired our education interns to stay on for three seasons. After working with interns Willow and Gracie since September, we will certainly miss them and are so thankful for all of their help with Discovery Tours, cleaning and organizing, festival crafts, and so many other projects.



By the Numbers:

-  3,295 volunteer hours
-  188 track chair reservations
-  2,497 kids served in Discovery Tour field trips
-  48 guided nature tours
-  59 sponsored family memberships distributed
-  Over 200 native plants planted
-  650 gallons of invasive shiny geranium removed by volunteers
-  6,249 festival attendees
-  Over 500,000 visits

Caring For Our Interpretive Exhibits

Now that our four interpretive exhibits are well established and frequently visited, we identified an opportunity to partner with local businesses and volunteer groups to adopt maintenance of each exhibit and the Patricia Baker Wildflower Garden.

Mountain Rose Herbs forged a strong path, sponsoring the Incense-Cedar Exhibit for its installation in 2017, and since taking on its maintenance through annual work parties.

In January, employees of Oregon Community Credit Union (OCCU) came out to the Arboretum for a work party at the Wetlands Exhibit to explore the possibility of adopting the exhibit. The team had fun weaving willow through the metal structure of the exhibit and clear vegetation surrounding the trails, and decided it was good fit! OCCU employees came out for another work party on the exhibit in June - solidifying their adoption and relationship to this special place.

This March, The Obsidians, a local outdoors group that leads outings, provides education, and participates in stewardship, adopted maintenance of the Oak Woodlands and Oak Savanna exhibits.

Lane Community College Research Projects

This spring we had the opportunity to collaborate with Stacey Kiser and Susie Holmes, faculty from Lane Community College's Biology Department, to facilitate student research projects. Students came for an initial tour of the Arboretum to learn about the ecosystems and develop ideas for potential projects. Several groups moved forward with research projects at the Arboretum, setting up pheromone traps for brown marmorated stink bugs, compared turkey vulture observations here with those at LCC and Cascades Raptor Center, captured ticks in various locations, sampled for aquatic macroinvertebrates, identified algae as water temperatures rose, and picked through barn owl pellets to determine their diets. The research groups created posters summarizing their findings and presented them at a symposium on campus. Hosting these student research groups has not only helped us learn more about this land, but brings another aspect of nature education to the Arboretum and we look forward



The Obsidians maintain the Oak Savanna exhibit
Photo: Ilana Jakobowski

The Obsidians hit the ground running, bringing enthusiasm to the work (and longer hike!) up to the Oak Woodlands exhibits.

Working with these local businesses and groups offers an opportunity to build strong relationships between people and land while ensuring well maintained exhibits in the Arboretum and expanding our capacity to focus on maintaining trails, removing invasive plants, and mitigating wildfire risk in our Tuesday and Saturday work parties.

to working with students in the future to ask more questions, and maybe even find some interesting answers.



Top: Turkey vultures scavenge
Bottom: Barn owls

Photos: August Jackson & Jade Pfaefflin Bounds

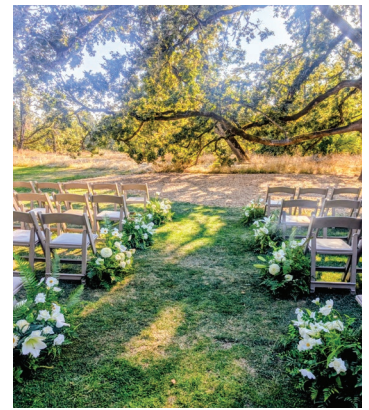
Festivals and Events by Tawnia Ross, Venue Manager

Reflecting on last year's event season, I am filled with gratitude for the memories created here, the loved ones remembered during celebrations of life, the fun-filled festivals, and the magical concerts that have filled this space with joy. We are so thankful that Mount Pisgah is treasured and enjoyed by so many people.

Each wedding we host has a unique story. Many couples who choose to tie the knot at Pisgah share a deep connection to the area. For so many, this place is more than just a venue; it's a backdrop to cherished childhood memories, from school field trips exploring nature, summer camps filled with laughter, or sunny days spent splashing in the river. It's no wonder they want to celebrate their love amidst these familiar and enchanting landscapes. The stories couples share about what brought them to this special spot



Top: Summer concert
Right: 2025 ceremony set up
Photos: Tawnia Ross



are always enjoyable to hear. This venue is truly special, attracting people from across the state and occasionally even from farther away, as they seek a picturesque setting that resonates with their hearts. We feel privileged to play a part in these beautiful celebrations. Here's to more summers filled with unforgettable moments!

Bringing The Future Into Focus: Introducing The Legacy Oak Circle

When COVID 19 shut down life as we knew it, the impact was profound. Many individuals, businesses, and nonprofits did not survive it. And the Arboretum, like so many, had to face the difficult question of how to create organizational and financial stability for an unknown future.

In 2023, two generous estate bequests from longtime Arboretum members gave us one answer to that question. For the first time in years, the future of the Arboretum came into greater focus.

Throughout 2025, as government funding and grants disappeared, we once again had to re-envision how to continue building and caring for a strong and resilient Arboretum.

Sustainability begins with a simple truth: the actions we take today shape tomorrow. When someone chooses to include the Arboretum in their will, it is a way of saying: I believe in this place, and I want it to thrive. It is an act of forethought — and of love.

Out of deep gratitude for that kind of generosity, we created the Legacy Oak Circle this year. The Legacy Oak Circle gives donors a chance to see the

Arboretum through the lens of the present, while glimpsing how their future gift will take root and grow for generations.



Photo: August Jackson

If you would like to be part of the Legacy Oak Circle, download and fill out the form on our website (mountpisgaharboretum.org/legacy-giving/) or email development@mountpisgaharboretum.org

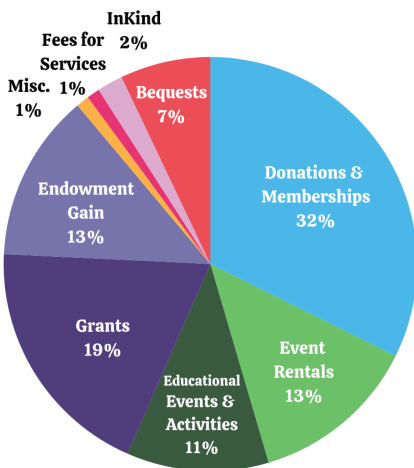


Financial Report by Matt Wilson, Board Treasurer

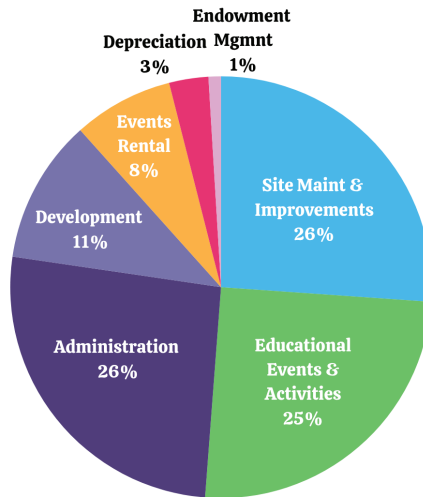
In 2025, Mount Pisgah Arboretum experienced a strong financial year, reflecting both careful stewardship and the continued generosity of our community. Total revenue reached approximately \$1.36 million, driven by robust membership dues and donations (\$430k), significant grant funding (\$253k), strong event rental income (\$177k), and educational program fees (\$154k). We were also humbled to receive over \$101k in bequests from generous supporters. Our endowment performed exceptionally well, growing to over \$1.22 million. On the expense side, we maintained disciplined spending at approximately \$945k, with site maintenance and improvements (\$245k) and educational programs (\$240k) representing our largest investments, followed

by administration (\$242k) and development (\$101k). The result was a remarkable net income of \$412k, a significant turnaround from the prior year's \$28k loss. Approximately \$87K of this is expenses we have yet to see realized, and the remainder was added to our investments and carried over to 2026 as a safety net. Cash increased substantially from \$900k to \$1.19 million, and total assets grew from \$2.44 million to \$2.85 million. Sustaining and building on this progress requires continued investment from members, donors, volunteers, and partners who help make our work possible year after year. We extend our deepest gratitude to our community whose steadfast support brings the Arboretum's mission to life.

Mount Pisgah Arboretum 2025 Income Total = \$1,357,035



Mount Pisgah Arboretum 2025 Expenditures Total = \$945,055



Statement of Financial Position

	12/31/2024	12/31/2025
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cash	\$ 900,400	\$ 1,188,104
Endowment	\$ 1,099,709	\$ 1,224,268
Accounts Receivable	\$ 40,456	\$ 7,220
Other Current Assets	\$ 13,646	\$ 31,849
Total Current Assets	\$ 2,054,212	\$ 2,451,441
Fixed Assets		
Buildings/Equip/Exhibits	\$ 389,182	\$ 402,908
Total Fixed Assets	\$ 389,182	\$ 402,908
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 2,443,394	\$ 2,854,349
LIABILITIES & EQUITY		
Liabilities		
Deferred Rental Revenue	\$ 74,900	\$ 82,400
Current Liabilities	\$ 58,544	\$ 50,019
Total Liabilities	\$ 133,444	\$ 132,419
Equity		
Restricted Net Assets	\$ 1,033,375	\$ 1,033,375
Retained Earnings	\$ 1,304,805	\$ 1,276,575
*Net Income	\$ (28,230)	\$ 411,980
Total Equity	\$ 2,309,950	\$ 2,721,930
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	\$ 2,443,394	\$ 2,854,349



Photo: August Jackson



Photo: August Jackson



Photo: Ilana Jakubowski



Photo: Jade Pfaefflin Bounds



Photo: August Jackson



Photo: Sara Spoden



Photo: Jade Pfaefflin Bounds



Photo: Jade Pfaefflin Bounds



Photo: August Jackson