



**FRIENDS**  
of Buford Park  
& Mt. Pisgah



**Mount Pisgah**  
**Arboretum**

**Why are the Mount Pisgah Arboretum and Friends of Buford Park & Mt. Pisgah merging into a single nonprofit?**

To nurture and restore our connection to nature, to further protect and sustain the flora and fauna of this precious landscape, and to better serve the broader community of the Eugene-Springfield region as a unified voice for the greater Mount Pisgah area.

**What are the advantages of the reunion for the Arboretum and for the FBP?**

1) To expand and enhance the public's appreciation and knowledge of the greater Mount Pisgah ecosystem, and 2) To maximize the potential of our finite financial resources and the varied talents and experiences of our combined staff and volunteer networks.

**Why now?**

Over the past 32 years, the missions of both organizations have evolved in similar directions. From several important perspectives, our progress has converged to the point where the Arboretum and the Friends serve the public good in parallel ways and share many of the same goals. Also, the current stability of both organizations makes 2022 an ideal year to merge the two into one legal entity.

**When will the reunion be complete?**

We anticipate the most technical steps in the reunion process, for example gathering under a single tax ID number, will be completed in a little over a year. Other aspects of the process, such as completing a new strategic plan, branding and combining back office systems, will need additional time.

**What will the official name of the new organization be?**

Stay tuned!

**When will the reunion be announced to the public?**

January 2022

**What should a staff person or Board member say if a visitor or volunteer asks me about this change before the public announcement?**

"The Arboretum and the Friends are looking at the best ways both organizations can work more closely together to better serve the broader community and sustain and nurture the natural landscape of the greater Mount Pisgah area."

**How will the reunion affect the Friends or the Arboretum?**

On a day-to-day basis, we foresee no sudden or significant changes to the current work load or programming of either entity. In the future, we anticipate increased capabilities in education, restoration, and serving the public.

**What challenges will the reunion pose for the current staff of the Arboretum and/or the Friends?**

While the Arboretum and the Friends have a shared history with similar missions, they have had independent roles. Reuniting will shift some responsibilities and clarify others. The combined staff will have to adapt to a new organizational culture while coordinating work plans and identifying shared priorities.

**Will either organization incur any special financial costs during the reunion process?**

Yes. There will be upfront costs for consultation and legal fees associated with the reunion. While the current budgets of the Arboretum and Friends are well prepared to continue operating during this phase, additional support will be sought to facilitate the reunion process effectively and successfully.

**Will any staff positions be eliminated at either organization?**

While the structure and enhanced staff responsibilities of the larger, reunited organization are still to be determined, there are no plans to eliminate any of the current staff positions. The organization will be led by a combined Board of Directors and co-managed by its current Executive Directors throughout the transition.

**Will any new positions have to be created?**

We're confident that reuniting the organizations will result in extra resources to help fund new staff positions that may become necessary. For instance, additional staffing for areas in development, volunteer coordination, and park stewardship will be more feasible.

**How will this affect membership benefits for members of the Friends or the Arboretum?**

All members of the reunited organization will be able to combine the benefits currently offered by both groups.

**Will the price of any membership levels change?**

There are no plans to increase the cost of membership at this time.

**Beginning next year, will donors be able to contribute to either organization or to just the new single nonprofit entity?**

We sincerely encourage all donors, large and small, to continue supporting both organizations in any way they can. We look forward to announcing to all our donor networks when they can begin supporting the new combined nonprofit 501(c)3.

**What will happen to the Boards of Directors for the Arboretum and the Friends?**

Over the next year or so, both of the current Boards will merge into a single Board of Directors.

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