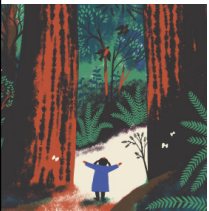


Leadership, Partnership,
Community

We help
people help
parks



Reflecting on 2022–2023 and looking ahead

Dear Friends,

I am sending our 2022–23 Impact Report with my deepest gratitude for your support. This booklet draws together the Portland Parks Foundation’s work for the last two years and brings to a close my five years as Executive Director.

During 2020 and 2021, like so many non-profits, we improvised through the pandemic while doing some deep soul-searching. We rethought our mission and began transforming aspirations for greater justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion (JEDI) into actions with measurable outcomes.

That organizational reset blossomed into the accomplishments of the last two years. We expanded our grant programs and established the Joey Pope Fund for Parks Leadership (p.12). We completed the first in what we hope will be a series of new playgrounds in underserved neighborhoods (p.4). We moved forward long-stuck redos of O’Bryant Square, now Darcelle XV Plaza (p.6), and the Thompson Elk Fountain (p.2).

It’s a very good moment for a transition. We have strong financial reserves. Our Interim Executive Director, Jessica Green, knows PPF inside and out. Since joining us in 2017, she’s overseen operations, developed our “Friends & Allies” programs, and guided our JEDI work.

It’s been an honor to work for PPF. But none of our accomplishments happen without loyal donors. Our motto is, “We help people help parks.” The heart of that “we” is you. Together, we’ve been very busy, as you will see in this report. Our staff and board hope you’ll continue powering this work. See page 19 for the many ways you can help.



RANDY GRAGG, *Executive Director*



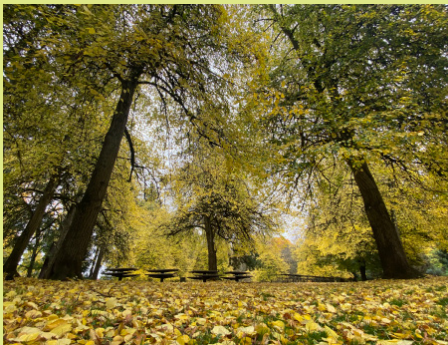
↑ Interim Executive Director Jessica Green with former Executive Director Randy Gragg.

Cover, middle right: Thompson Elk Fountain in winter, courtesy of Jeffrey Phillips

Land and people

The Portland Parks Foundation recognizes that our city and its parks rest on the traditional village sites of the Multnomah, Wasco, Cowlitz, Kathlamet, Clackamas, Bands of Chinook, Tualatin, Kalapuya, and many other tribes who lived along the Columbia River. As settlers and guests on these lands, we commit to learning and building relationships and actions to support indigenous peoples' sovereignty and priorities and pledge to recognize their knowledge, creativity, humor, and resilience.

It is also important to reflect on how each of us came to this place. We are all responsible for understanding the history of colonization and genocide of indigenous people and to commit to learning, building relationships and action to support indigenous sovereignty, priorities and actions.



Our vision

People flourish with thriving parks. We help Portland communities create more equitable access to nature, play, health, and places of connection.

Our mission

The Portland Parks Foundation mobilizes support to improve Portland's system of parks, natural areas, and public spaces. We are the chief philanthropic partner of Portland Parks & Recreation.

Our work

2022–2023



Restoration and return: David P. Thompson Elk Fountain

Scan or click QR code
to learn more:

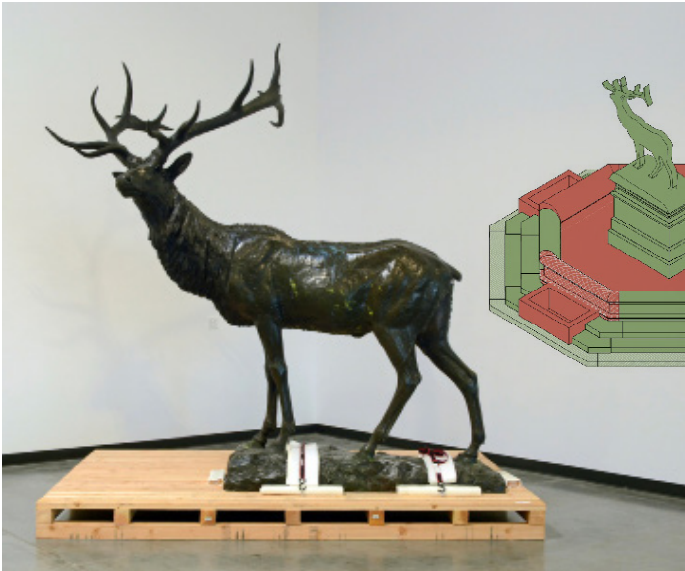


Commissioned in 1900 to honor the Humane Society, the David P. Thompson Elk Fountain stood nobly between Chapman and Lownsdale Parks for 120 years.

During 2020's downtown civil unrest, the City removed the fountain. But with four city bureaus overseeing the fountain — none experienced in granite fountain artwork restorations — bringing the fountain back proved complex.

PPF saw an opportunity to help. Generous donors underwrote a feasibility study. Working with the offices of City Commissioners Carmen Rubio, Dan Ryan, and Mingus Mapps, PPF developed a private/public partnership:

- PPF commissions design/engineering for the Elk Fountain's restoration and return
 - The Portland Water Bureau contracts the construction
- The partnership will expedite the restoration by 18 months. Look for the Thompson Elk Fountain's return in 2024.



- ↑ Scope of work:
- Full restoration
 - Possible refabrication of up to 18 granite pieces
 - Seismic reinforcement
 - Recirculating pump
 - Return to SW Main St.



DAVID P. THOMPSON

After shepherding a herd of sheep from Ohio to Oregon City at age 19, Thompson became an accomplished surveyor, businessman, banker, and two-term Portland mayor. He supported abolition and black suffrage, opposed Chinese exclusion laws, and co-founded the Oregon Humane Society and Portland's first library, the seed that grew into the Multnomah County Library system. Inspired by the Skidmore Fountain, he commissioned the Elk Fountain.



“It is my purpose to make this fountain useful as well as ornamental, a monument to the Oregon Humane Society.

I have little care for a costly monument in Riverview cemetery, where I expect my ashes to be deposited when my body has been cremated [as per his will], and I want this work constructed where it will be of benefit to humanity and...animals...”

DAVID P. THOMPSON

TIMELINE

JULY 2020: After weeks of civil unrest across the city, particularly downtown, RACC and Portland Water Bureau remove Thompson Elk Fountain.

AUGUST 30, 2020: William Hawkins writes OregonLive op-ed arguing for restoration and makes first donation to PPF. Others follow.

SPRING, 2022: Concepts for new, fountainless base provoke historic preservationist protests.

MAY 11, 2022: Led by Commissioners Ryan, Rubio, and Mapps, City Council passes resolution to fully restore and return the fountain and statue to historic location. PPF begins work on feasibility study and cost estimate.

SPRING, 2023: PPF works with City Hall to develop private/public partnership to restore and return the fountain.

AUGUST 2023: With over \$160,000 in private contributions, PPF commissions design and engineering.

2024: David P. Thompson Elk Fountain returns!

With contributions from Bill and Kit Hawkins, Ronna Hoffman, John Russell, Tim & Mary Boyle, Steve Dotterer, the Kinsman Foundation and 60 others.

Let's play! Rose City Park Playground Project

In 2019, a determined trio of neighbors got an idea: build a better play structure for Rose City Park. The existing playground hadn't seen improvements in decades. So Joe Saraceno, Benjamin Dudley, and Rachel Gittner formed the Rose City Park Playground Project (RCPPP). With other neighbors and nearby businesses, they hosted barbecues, networked, and threw a huge "play day" celebration in the park. Working as volunteers — even through the pandemic — they raised \$25,000.

Their efforts impressed then-Parks Commissioner Carmen Rubio and PPF who, together with PP&R, created a private/public partnership to split the \$260,000 cost. With a major gift from the Walker Family Foundation and over 100 other generous donors, grassroots advocacy blossomed into a new playground for Rose City Park.

Completed in spring 2023, this accessible new play structure serves over 2,000 neighborhood kids — more than 200 living across the street in Home Forward's Ellington Apartments.

PPF is working with PP&R to similarly partner on future playgrounds in underserved neighborhoods.



↑ Rose City Founders: RCPPP's founders Joe Saraceno, Rachel Gittner, and Benjamin Dudley.

Scan or click the QR code to hear what the kids think of their new playground!



← One of Rose City Park Playground's new features.



“The RCPPP started as neighbors trying to inspire a community to revitalize the playground

at Rose City Park. We soon learned that we could only go so far on our own. PPF was a critical partner that helped us navigate all the complexities of city government, and then boosted our fundraising efforts through their incredible donor relationships. We could not have completed this project without their Herculean support. PPF truly helps people help parks.”

*JOE SARACENO, Co-Founder,
Rose City Park Playground Project*

↓ Rose City Park’s playground had not been updated in decades.



“The Portland Parks Foundation stands as an invaluable partner to Portland Parks & Recreation and the City of Portland, enhancing our capacity to create transformative urban spaces. Their unwavering commitment strengthens community engagement, fosters well-being, and ensures equitable access to vibrant parks. Together, we’re crafting a greener, more connected Portland. Portland Parks Foundation helps people help parks — let’s continue to support this essential work to continue Portland’s legacy of resilience, unity, and flourishing green spaces for generations to come.”

*DAN RYAN, City Commissioner
for Culture & Livability*

↑ Commissioner Dan Ryan speaking at the new Rose City Park Playground celebration, June 17, 2023.

Reimagining O'Bryant Square: Hello Darcelle XV Plaza!

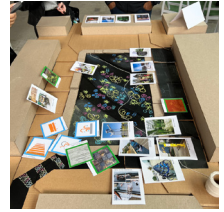
Long nicknamed “Needle Park” and then closed entirely in 2018, O'Bryant Square became Portland's most blighted public space — right in the heart of downtown's densest cluster of hotels and locally owned shops.

After years of advocacy by PPF, City Council voted to demolish O'Bryant in 2022, but with little public money to build anew. PPF offered a faster, cheaper plan: invite the community's ideas — and their participation — to give the Square temporary new life until enough money for a new plaza can be found.

With 16 private and public sponsors, PPF partnered with PP&R, Portland State University's Center for Public Interest Design, and Harvard University's Loeb Fellowship to engage over 1,000 community members in:

- 7 webinars with Loeb Fellows and local experts in public space and community engagement
- 400 survey responses
- 8 stakeholder meetings
- 2-day public workshop
- 14 community design visions

Result: Momentum for a new, community-led public space and a new name — Darcelle XV Plaza — honoring the neighborhood's queer history and the late local treasure, Walter Cole, the world's longest-performing drag queen.



↑ Public workshop in the former Finnigan's Toy Store March 2023.

→ Fourteen local design teams distilled community feedback into possible visions for O'Bryant Square (before it was renamed). Their drawings show the excitement and optimism Portlanders feel for downtown and the possibilities of public space.

Scan or click to check out the full community outreach report online.



Community Vision Partner Sponsors



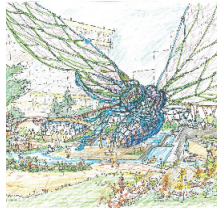
Major Sponsors



Friends



With In-Kind Support
From NBP Capital &
Metropolitan Group



↑ Public workshop in the former Finnigan's Toy Store March 2023.



"The diversity of businesses, residents, property owners, social services, and city agencies,

and cultural organizations, designers, community members, and national design talent that PPF rallied to think about this one block offers a model for reimagining the future for all of the central city."

NOLAN LIENHART, *Director of Urban Design, ZGF, and Reimagining O'Bryant participant*

Friends & Allies Summits: growing partnerships

In 2020, PPF began gathering Portland's 200+ parks volunteer and non-profit community groups for twice-yearly summits to learn, inspire, and connect with each other.

A steering committee of parks community members shapes our two annual summits. In the spring, we celebrate volunteerism, leadership, and community, and in the fall, we cross-fertilize inspiring keynote speakers with workshops.

Year after year, the Summits strive to:

- Prioritize historically excluded groups
- Provide hands-on technical support
- Foster collaborations and partnerships
- Increase capacity of grassroots organizations
- Maintain and strengthen current partnerships
- Inspire the creation of new organizations and programs
- Build a city-wide network of parks advocates

Learn more [here](#).



"For Green Lents, the Friends and Allies summits stand out as events we eagerly anticipate. We have grown to

trust the authenticity behind the equity, diversity, and inclusion efforts that underpin and drive these summits, and look forward to exceptional content and engaging events."

DASHA FOERSTER, Community Director, Green Lents



"As a parks professional and Portland resident, the Summit has been an invaluable event to help me

feel plugged in and lay the foundation for connections based on shared visions. There doesn't exist a better venue to meet the people who truly labor to make our parks and recreational facilities a better, more welcoming place."

WILL CORTEZ (he/they), Accessibility Project Manager, Metro Parks & Nature

Celebrating volunteers: Parks Champions

Since 2017, PPF has honored the backbone of our parks system — volunteers. Our annual Parks Champions awards draw nominations citywide. A community-led committee selects two champions. They range from legacy caretakers of small garden plots to being star organizers of events and activities. The two honorees receive grants they can direct to the parks organization of their choosing.

2022 CHAMPIONS

LAURA CAMPOS for bringing the view and voices of Native Americans to parks and park activities throughout her civic engagement.

CHRISTIE QUINN for her work with Bookmobile Babe, distributing books in parks and encouraging community literacy.

2023 CHAMPIONS

PAUL TAYLOR and **ZORA HESS** for their work in the Columbia Slough removing trash, remediating pollution, and recycling fishline.

STEPHANIE LAMONICA for developing new educational programming initiatives for neighborhood kids in Pier Park: Understory Restoration Program and Next Door Nature Program.



↑ Volunteers planting trees at Pier Park and maintaining grounds at Gateway Green.

← Kayakers skimming trash in the Columbia Slough.

Small Grants power big work

A bequest from the late parks supporter, Nancy Hebb Freeman, established PPF's small grants program in 2017. With additional funding from US Bank and PP&R's Community Partnership Program, PPF delivered 48 grants in 2022–23 to groups expanding access to underserved communities and caring for our parks and natural areas.

The range of organizations and initiatives supported is vast: from groups improving essential assets like community gardens and other food sources to traditional “friends” groups stewarding parks to emerging organizations strengthening cultural ties between parks and immigrant and BIPOC communities. They educate, weed, clean streams, mentor, dance, and perform poetry. Together, they bring diversity and access to our parks system.

→ PPF's small grants fund programs ranging from free kids book giveaways to bilingual paddle programs.



Click or scan to learn more.

SMALL GRANTS RECIPIENTS, 2022–2023

Atabey BIPOC Medicine	Independent Publishing	Scott School Basketball
Black Parent Initiative	Resource Center	Program
Black Food Sovereignty	Municipal Eco Resiliency	SMART Reading
Coalition —	Project	Tiger Tiger: A Celebration
Black Futures Farm	Pacific NW Council	of the AANHPI
Bookmobile Babe	of Water Protectors	Community
Columbia Slough	Parkour Visions	Transformative Living
Watershed Council	Portland Opportunities	Community,
Dance United	Industrialization Center	International
Friends of Brooklyn Park	+ Rosemary Anderson	Ukrainian Foundation
Friends of Gateway Green	High School	Urban Nature Partners PDX
Friends of Pier Park	Prose before Bros	Vanport Placemaking
Haki Community	Push Movement	Ventura Park PTO
Organization	Rose City Rollers	Verde
Impact Northwest	Roseway Heights Middle	Wild Diversity
and the SUN (Schools	School PTA	Willamette Riverkeeper
Uniting Neighborhoods)	SailzChange	



In partnership with



Parks' next generation: the Joey Pope Award

PPF asked parks advocate, philanthropist, and our founding board chair, Joey Pope, a question: "How would you like to be remembered in 30 years?" We explored many possibilities with Joey and her family. The idea they embraced: a fund to boost new parks leaders. Joey, her family, and her many friends — over 200 donors in all — established the Joey Pope Fund for Parks Leadership.

The Joey Pope Award is open to nominations from the public each spring and recognizes an emerging leader, organization, or initiative promoting greater innovation and accessibility in Portland's system of parks and open spaces. Each honoree receives a \$10,000 grant to advance their work, plus a year of customized technical assistance from PPF and its network of partners.



↑ From generous philanthropist to hands-on volunteer, Joey Pope was her generation's greatest citizen parks advocate.



← Joey Pope (center) with the late former Parks Commissioner Charles Jordan and former Executive Director Linda Laviolette, founded PPF.

Click or scan to learn more about the award.



"The experience of nature is essential for life as a human being."

JOSEPHINE (JOEY) POPE, *Founding Board Chair, Portland Parks Foundation*



**2022 HONOREE: PAMELA SLAUGHTER,
PEOPLE OF COLOR OUTDOORS**

Pamela Slaughter founded People of Color Outdoors (POCO) to create opportunities for Black, Indigenous and all people of color to enjoy and learn about nature in a safe, welcoming, caring community. POCO blends networking, outdoor career opportunities, environmental education, history, and outdoor skills — and, “of course, fun.” POCO hosts youth summer camps and training opportunities for members to lead future POCO outings.



“The Joey Pope Award is the biggest thing that’s happened to POCO. The most important thing is that

it is a recognition of us, of our work, that we should keep going and doing things the way we’re doing them because it’s making a difference.”

PAMELA SLAUGHTER, Founder and Executive Director, People of Color Outdoors, 2022 Joey Pope Award Recipient

→ Volunteers planting produce at Black Futures Farm.



2023 HONOREE: BLACK FUTURES FARM

Black Futures Farm (BFF) combines community-building with a production farm, growing meaningful human relationships alongside plants and produce. On 1.15 acres in the Brentwood-Darlington Neighborhood, BFF grows and harvests 17 different fruit trees and numerous vegetables, flowers, medicinal and cooking herbs. BFF aims to heal and rebuild the connection between Black people and the land, cultivating a healthy place for the Black community to gather in joy.



Building a festival from the ground up: Paseo

Inspired by the Spanish custom of enjoying a leisurely walk through the city, Paseo brought the South Park Blocks to life with the creative expressions of communities historically excluded from downtown.

In the wake of the national outrage over George Floyd's murder, PPF gathered a steering committee of BIPOC arts and social justice leaders who shaped Paseo to be an expression of art, healing, and community in our oldest downtown park spaces.

Year one, COVID forced Paseo to pivot to videos. Year two, Paseo brought 5,000 people to the South Park Blocks for a fully blossomed three-day festival. In July of 2023, the third Paseo took shape as three themed "Sunday-Fundays" under the towering elm canopy of Shemanski Park. Individual curators shaped each Sunday with a theme:

- Creative Revolution, an outdoor pop-up school with hands-on music and art-making
- Green Grooves brought together the first collaboration between Portland's all-Black and all-jazz radio stations, The Numberz and KMHD
- Land Back honored the Indigenous movement to restore rights and cultural practices

Learn more [here](#).

Produced in partnership with



Presenting Sponsor



Other three-year sponsors include: The Standard, Northwest Natural, Travel Oregon and many others.



↑ Sherrie Davis playing Native American flute at Paseo 2023.

→ Other Paseo highlights included DJ Jaysii, Powwow punk rock from 1876 Band, the Native American dancers and singers of Four Directions, and poetry banners by Oregon Poet Laureate Anis Mojgani.

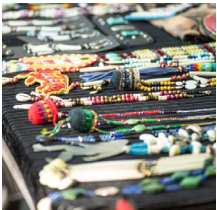
↓ Murals painted with IDEAL PDX during Paseo 2022.



The art of partnerships

In 2022 and 2023, PPF partnered with a variety of individual groups to bring our parks alive with creativity. We partnered with pianist Hunter Noack's famed "In a Landscape" performances in the North Park Blocks, Vietnam Memorial, Kelley Point Park, and Washington Park's amphitheater. We co-presented Literary Arts' Portland Book Festival in the South Park Blocks. And we partnered with artist Nanda D'Agostino's Mobile Projection Unit to merge video, dance, and landscape in the trees and landforms of Mt. Tabor and Kelley Point parks.

↓ Hunter Noack's "In A Landscape" concert at Washington Park, a benefit for PPF, July 8, 2023.



Financials

For PPF, 2022 became a year of laying the foundation for \$1 million in major impacts realized in 2023 that will echo far into the future in joy and betterment of our downtown and parks system:

- Completion of Joey Pope Fund for Parks Leadership endowment
- Securing the private/public partnership for Thompson Elk Fountain’s restoration and return
- Reimagining O’Bryant Square
- Completion of Rose City Park Playground
- Expanding our Friends & Allies Summits
- Growing our Small Grants Program

INCOME 2022	AMOUNT
Individual	\$595,525.48
Corporate	\$68,269.99
Foundation	\$115,455.00
Government	\$171,976.44
Merchandise	\$24,046.00
Sponsorships	\$63,020.00
TOTAL	\$1,038,292.91

EXPENSES 2022	AMOUNT
Programs	\$659,209
Administration	\$179,614
Fundraising	\$173,391
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,012,214

Portland Park Foundation Posters

To celebrate our 20th anniversary in 2021, PPF commissioned a series of posters by leading Portland designers to honor Portland's most iconic parks and gardens. We've completed 10 so far, from the historic 1913 Peninsula Park to Luuwit View Park, completed in 2017. We've sold over 1,000 posters and counting!

This year, we commissioned two new posters:

- Best known for her Wildwood Trilogy illustrations, Carson Ellis has portrayed an awestruck child in the towering conifers of Hoyt Arboretum.
- Having spent many afternoons with her children in Leach Botanical Garden, Jax Chow offers a sumptuous collage of the flora and pollinators they discovered. Hoyt and Leach are the two Portland places longtime parks advocate, philanthropist, and our founding board chair, Joey Pope, most impacted. And, so, we are devoting all sales proceeds to the Joey Pope Fund for Parks Leadership.

As the holiday season approaches, click the QR code to check out all 10 of our posters. →

And look for our upcoming poster honoring the David P. Thompson Elk Fountain!



HOYT ARBORETUM
PORTLAND PARKS FOUNDATION



LEACH BOTANICAL GARDEN
PORTLAND PARKS FOUNDATION



↑ Hoyt Arboretum
by Carson Ellis.
Leach Botanical Garden
by Jax Chow



↑ Ribbon cutting ceremony with the kids at Rose City Park Playground



“Even though we like to donate to special campaigns for specific park projects, we also give an annual

gift of general support because we know that everything Portland Parks Foundation does makes a difference.”

CHARLIE & DARCI SWINDELLS,
*Longtime PPF Supporters &
Legacy Circle Members*



“I make a monthly gift to PPF because I know every drop of support gets directed to dependable,

sustainable, and consistent cash flow for all our projects. If everyone just pitched in a little each month, together, we can have a huge impact on our city parks and open spaces.”

JR LILLY, *Navajo/Dine
Vice Chair, PPF Board*

Ways to Give

Become a Donor

Your gift makes a difference for Portland's parks. Your employer may match your donation!

Sign up for Monthly Giving

It's a simple and effective way to ensure strong, steady, year-round support for Portland's parks.

Join the Legacy Circle

Become a member of our Charles Jordan Legacy Circle with your annual gift of \$1,000 or more.

Explore Planned Giving

By including us in your long-term financial plans, you guarantee our impact for years to come.

Make a Business Gift

Choose from project-specific sponsorship packages, or donate to help with everything at once.

Learn more at portlandpf.org/donate or contact us directly:

JESSICA GREEN
Interim Executive Director
jgreen@portlandpf.org



Scan or click the QR code to donate



Thank you
for your support!

Portland Parks Foundations is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Our EIN is 93-1319970. Donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

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ZARI SANTNER
Former Director of Portland Parks
& Recreation



JULIE VIGELAND
Community Volunteer

Dear Friends,

I am honored to present the 2022–23 Impact Report for the Portland Parks Foundation. These have been full and productive years for the organization and we could not have done any of this work without you. Thank you to our supporters, funders and partners!

I also want to express my gratitude to my fellow board members for their passion and dedication. And, on behalf of the entire board, I want to thank the PPF staff and leadership for their outstanding work.

Achieving our mission takes continuous support from our partners. To that end, we hope that you will reach out to us with any questions or feedback, or to explore new ways for us to work together. We are profoundly grateful for your involvement and we thank those who support, fund, and donate to our work.

Please join our board of directors in financially supporting PPF with your year-end charitable giving.

Most sincerely,

KIA SELLEY, *Board Chair*
Portland Parks Foundation