Dear Hoyt Arboretum Friends,

As our regular visitors know, Hoyt Arboretum is truly a world of trees for all seasons. 2017 was my first year at Hoyt Arboretum, where I am fortunate to spend most of my weekdays. Now it seems so long ago, but my first week at Hoyt was the week of the BIG SNOW of 2017. When staff was finally able to get up the hill (on foot from the MAX), we were greeted with spectacular beauty and quiet. As the day went on, neighbors stopped by to visit on skis and snowshoes while kids sleded down all possible slopes. The snow was followed by ice, and by the time it all melted, we had months of tree and trail clean-up ahead of us. That was followed by the incredible blooms of spring and then the deep greens of summer. The yellows and reds of fall were accompanied by mild weather, and we had record numbers of visitors. It was a memorable year.

Along with cleaning up storm damage, a top priority for 2017 was revitalizing our youth education program. We doubled the staff time devoted to youth education (and it still wasn’t enough), reached out to schools across the Portland region, and managed to double the number of youth who visited Hoyt Arboretum to learn about trees and plants. We updated our curriculum to better align with science standards and sought feedback from teachers to ensure we were helping them meet their classroom goals. We learned a lot. We needed to invest in the recruitment and training of volunteer field trip leaders, and we needed to devote even more staff time to these programs as the year went on. But most of all, we learned that teachers and students love coming to Hoyt Arboretum on field trips and that this is a program worth investing in and that will continue to grow.

It is a real privilege to work at Hoyt Arboretum, and each season up here is special in a different way. Probably the best part is the people who are drawn to Hoyt Arboretum—from the regular visitors and volunteers who are with us year-round, to the visitors who come from around the world to explore or visit a specific tree. They are as diverse as our global collection of trees, and it never gets old to sit at the front desk in the Visitor Center and chat with the people who come through the front door.

Our city and region are fortunate indeed to have this resource available 365 days a year and free to the public. It wouldn’t be possible without your support. Thanks for all you do.

Anna Goldrich
Executive Director
Education IN 2017

We believe that Hoyt Arboretum is THE BEST place in Portland for children to learn about trees and plants. This is why our 2017 Strategic Plan devotes an entire section to the expansion of our education programs. It is also our goal to draw students from all around the city to visit Hoyt. In 2017, we expanded our outreach to area schools—by year end, we had doubled the number of students who visited Hoyt Arboretum on a school field trip from the previous year, many who were visiting for the first time.
We will look back on 2017 mainly with a memory of the winter of 2016-17. Snow, wind, and cold defined the winter, and it started to seem like spring would never arrive. The high for the year was 105°F and the low was 11°F with rainfall coming in about average (although we had some very wet months). It was a year in which we de-accessioned 200 plants, most of which were lost to snow, cold, and wind. We also planted extensively—with a total 220 accessions added—replanting lost trees but also developing new planting areas.

We continued work in the Red Pine collection and expanded our ivy control area. Several new areas were planted: Lot A near the Children’s Museum was upgraded with curbs and new planting beds, a dwarf conifer area was planted near the Steven’s Pavilion to compliment a new stone masonry wall completed in April. A special planting of a root rot-resistant Port Orford cedar along the Redwood Trail served as a symbol of ongoing collaboration between the Arboretum, the American Public Gardens Association (APGA), and the U.S. Forest Service—the planting was attended by staff from all three organizations. A few other interesting species added were Acer heptaphlebium, Schefflera fengii, Adinandra glischoroma and one of the best looking birch trees, Betula insignis ssp. fansipansensis, from Vietnam.

We hosted an APGA training on plant pest identification and monitoring for 30 public garden employees from along the West Coast. We learned about monitoring techniques and pests of concern, and how public gardens are important sentinels for pest monitoring.

I was invited to visit our sister city of Ulsan, South Korea, representing Portland Parks & Recreation at their city’s Rose Festival and, in return, hosted staff from the City of Ulsan at the Arboretum to plant a tree commemorating our 30th anniversary as sister cities. This planting marked the creation of a Korean forest area as part of the geographic collection along the Bristlecone Pine Trail.

The Arboretum is supported by so many amazing staff and volunteers as we continue to work to improve the landscaped areas, control invasive species, and add to the diversity of the plantings at the Arboretum. Thank you for your support.

Martin Nicholson
Curator
The year of 2017 was another one of growth for Hoyt Arboretum Friends. Individual contributions led the way with 51% of total revenues, while gift shop sales increased 20% from the prior year. Personnel costs increased 7% as our team expanded to grow education and volunteer offerings. Landscape and other contract services remain a significant expense, which relate directly to program activities. Unrestricted net assets increased over 28% from the prior year, allowing HAF to strengthen its reserves and develop new projects.

Megan Whalen
Treasurer
**2017 Volunteer Breakdown**

9355 HOURS

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