HOYT ARBORETUM FRIENDS

2018

ANNUAL REPORT

Your Support Makes The Difference
Dear Friends,

For 90 years, Hoyt Arboretum has served the public as an educational and recreational resource, a place where people can learn about trees and conservation. 90 years felt like an important birthday, so we celebrated the whole month of April with special tours, a big party and lots of cakes!

But more than anything, I’ll remember 2018 as the year of the yellow school bus. My desk faces the Visitor Center courtyard, and just about every day from April through October, a yellow bus would pull up mid-morning, open its doors and the next 30 minutes would be filled with excited chatter, long bathroom lines, and snacking. Our able education team, led by Emily Lytle, would bring order to the chaos, arranging kids and chaperones into their small groups and sending them out onto the trails with their trained volunteer Arboretum Naturalists for a hiking adventure that, for most of them, was their first time exploring Hoyt Arboretum and for many of them was their first time in a forest.

Quite a few were apprehensive and needed assurances that their guide would not get lost and that we’d all find our way back to the Visitor Center by lunchtime, and I’m pleased to report that we didn’t lose a group all year! They would meet back at the Stevens Pavilion for lunch to blow off a bit more steam before climbing back into the yellow bus and heading back to school.

Visitors and staff alike enjoy watching these students have memorable experiences in nature at Hoyt Arboretum. But, to be perfectly honest, we also enjoy that moment when they get back on the bus, and the peaceful quiet settles back over the park.

You helped to make these incredible experiences possible for over 3,000 local children in 2018, and we expect to expand that number again in 2019. You also helped us create new trails, add new trees, offer new classes and programs, and engage more volunteers than ever before.

Hoyt Arboretum is such a wonderful and welcoming public resource – your support makes it all possible. Thanks for all you do.

Anna Goldrich, Executive Director

2018 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

OUR TREE AND PLANT COLLECTIONS

• Began a concentrated effort to remove invasive English ivy at Hoyt Arboretum. Most ivy will be gone by 2020.
• The Red Pine Collection is in its third year of restoration: this year we added new species to our nursery that will be planted in a few years.
• The Creek Trail re-route opened a new area for our New Zealand and Australia collections
• Added new Hemlocks to the collection along the White Pine Trail

EDUCATION, TOURS AND CLASSES

• For the second year in a row, we doubled the number of students visiting Hoyt Arboretum on school field trips. This year more than half came with the help of our scholarship program that pays for school buses. Thanks to You!
• We launched Tree Time! a walk and story program for preschoolers and their parents that encourages nature exploration.
• Seven Family Forest Days offered hands-on science activities and self-guided walks with different natural themes.
• New adult classes like bird identification, wildlife tracking, arts and craft workshops, yoga and tai chi brought first time visitors to Hoyt while offering our long-time supporters new ways to engage.
HOYT ARBORETUM VOLUNTEERS
• Managed 1,291 volunteers with 12,375 hours of service.
• Hosted more than 100 arborist volunteers for our 31st annual Arborists in the Arboretum.
• 31 new volunteer Arboretum Naturalists helped to lead field trips for local students.
• Corporate stewardship crews – from 25 local companies, representing 700 employees – volunteered more than 2,000 hours to maintain trails.
• Our beloved Tuesday Crew added 2,130 hours of Arboretum maintenance to keep our plants healthy and our trails in great shape.

RECREATION HIGHLIGHTS
• Improved and extended a section of the White Pine Trail to create better access to new acreage added to the Arboretum in 2014.
• Added a guided hike series for visitors to learn trails and meet fellow outdoors lovers.
• Created a Bristlecone Pine Trail loop as part of a reroute of the Creek Trail, which suffered flood damage in 2017 and was at risk of future flooding and added a new geographic collection area.
New Zealand Collection

When the Creek Trail washed out during the winter snow and rain of January 2017, it threw us all for a loop. The trail was in such a steep area that we weren’t sure how to fix it in a way that it wouldn’t happen again during the next heavy rain. The solution – to move the trail to the other side of Fisher Lane – and this change came with a few added benefits. It created a Bristlecone Pine Trail loop by creating a connector trail, and it opened up a fairly sunny and protected new area for plantings. This allowed Curator Martin Nicholson to add two long awaited collections – New Zealand and Australia to this area of Hoyt Arboretum, which is our Geographic Collection.

The majority of the Arboretum is arranged according to phylogeny – meaning that plants that share common evolutionary ancestors are grouped together. The exception to this is the Bristlecone Pine Trail, where trees are grouped geographically according to their country of origin.

The new section of Creek Trail was laid with staff and volunteer support, and then Martin began looking for appropriate trees and plants for these areas. In 2019 the planting of this area began, and you can visit it today, just a short way in from the Bristlecone Pine Trailhead at the small parking area.

To date, we’ve planted more than 70 plants from New Zealand and Australia, representing over 15 species.
2018 FINANCIALS

As we look to the future, 2018 helped place Hoyt Arboretum Friends on solid footing for new projects and expansion to come. Our individual donors lead the way with 38% of total revenues, which shows the strong relationships the Hoyt Arboretum Friends have built with our members, neighbors and the community. Foundation grants increased to $68,000 in 2018 from $5,500 in 2017, demonstrating how our new and expanded educational programs are meeting the needs of the community. Personnel costs increased 20% as our staff grew to meet that demand. Landscape and other contract services remain a significant expense, which relate directly to program activities at the arboretum.
Thank You 2018 Donors

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MISSION STATEMENT
To maintain and improve Hoyt Arboretum and its collection for all people through advocacy, resources, awareness, and education.