



HOYT ARBORETUM FRIENDS 2024

# ANNUAL REPORT

*Bringing People and Trees Together*



## LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

I recently enjoyed a memorable walk at Hoyt Arboretum on what I expect will be the quietest day of 2025. It was February 14th and there was a nice layer of about 4 inches of fluffy snow on the ground. Snow days are a favorite of mine...as long as they come in the winter, don't knock down any trees, and go away in a few days. With my trusty companion Elvira by my side, I visited some favorite areas: up to the overlook, along Bray Lane to the Redwood Deck, and through the bamboo back to the Stevens Pavilion. We heard the distant sounds of children sledding and saw one person skiing through the woods, but we were otherwise alone.



While that lovely, quiet day is fresh in my memory, the park is starting to bustle with spring. Just today our growing nature education team completed training for the spring field trip season. Field trips are starting several weeks earlier than usual as we work to meet the demand. Buds are starting to swell in the Magnolia Collection, and we know that before long, the bustle of spring will be followed by the crowds of summer and on through the year.

We have big plans for the year ahead. As our Hoyt Arboretum Friends team is growing, we can offer more ways for people to engage with and enjoy the park. You'll see more family-friendly opportunities, additional ways to volunteer at Hoyt Arboretum, and of course, increased opportunities to learn amidst our global tree collection.

It is pretty special to work at Hoyt Arboretum. Even in the depths of winter, we have so much to look forward to each year. And with all of the challenges we face at the national and global level, at this one park, with our amazing community of support, we know that the coming year will be full of positivity. Thousands of children will explore the trails, many of them having their first experience in a forest. Hundreds of volunteers will choose to spend their time at Hoyt Arboretum, making the park better for all to enjoy. And hundreds of people will come here to learn more about plants, to exercise or create art, and to collect scientific data.

Thanks for your support, your friendship, and for joining with us to make Hoyt Arboretum such a wonderful community resource.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Anna Goldrich'.

Anna Goldrich  
Executive Director  
Hoyt Arboretum Friends





Martin and partners from University of British Columbia and Polly Hill Arboretum hike toward Mount Eddy to collect foxtail pine and Western white pine seed cones.

## CURATOR'S REPORT



Martin Nicholson  
Hoyt Arboretum Curator,  
Portland Parks & Recreation

2024 will be most remembered for the January storm event which brought low temperatures with high wind and ice, resulting in widespread damage across the region.

Hoyt Arboretum did not escape the effects of the storm,

but initial impacts to large trees was only part of the story. Daily high temperatures reached only 15°F for a 36-hour period, which resulted in a lot of plant mortality. Many plants that did survive had extensive cold damage, which can take years to recover from.

The Wollemi pine grove that was planted in 2023 sustained extensive damage with 9°F at the bottom of their expected cold-tolerance; however, all of the plants have since regrown. By the end of this summer, they should be better than prior to the storm. Typically, we do not use a lot of

fertilizer in the Arboretum, relying on our mulch to build healthy soil. Many of the cold-impacted plants received fertilizer to boost growth after losing so many leaves, which seemed to help their recovery.

The cold weather and tree damage meant we lost power to our greenhouse propagation area at a key time, and 18 seedling foxtail pines from our 2023 collection trip died. In September 2024, we did a quick trip to Northern California to collect additional foxtail pine seed, along with 48 additional seed lots and cuttings. These include *Arctostaphylos* spp., *Styrax redvivi*, 3 penstemon species, and dwarf golden Chinkapin (*Chrysolepis chrysophylla* var. *minor*). Our journey took us south to Blake Mountain, and I highly recommend this out of the way but worthwhile destination!

Scan the QR code to read intern Shaueel Persadee's blog post: Recollections of a Collections Trip



# 208

## TREES & PLANTS LOST

due to cold damage, especially species from the Southern Hemisphere



# 206

## TREES & PLANTS

were **ADDED** to the collection, many to replace losses



# 50

## SEEDS AND CUTTINGS

were collected to grow in our nursery





**BEFORE**



**AFTER**

*Martin leads a team in replanting the hillside at the corner of Fischer Ln. and Fairview Blvd. The compact, rounded, blue spruce in the foreground of this picture is *Picea pungens* 'Moonstone', a flagship cultivar and contribution from Iseli Nursery.*

## SPRUCED UP

A significant loss from the January 2024 ice storm was a large, healthy, 130-year-old Douglas-fir along Fairview Blvd that fell due to waterlogged soil and high winds. The tree took out power lines and other trees at the corner of Fischer Ln and Fairview Blvd. But, as with many tree removals, we saw this as an opportunity to add new plantings.

Utilizing climate assessment tools and observations about the collections, we determined that replacing the lost true firs (*Abies spp.*) with more *Abies* would not align

the collections with future climate pressure. Instead, spruce (*Picea spp.*) were selected as a group of conifers which generally have more heat and drought tolerance.

A mix of 13 spruce cultivars was selected to add interest at this very visible corner. Due to its location, the Hoyt Arboretum team chose slow-growing, compact cultivars with brightly colored foliage.

***HAF is grateful for the generous support of The Harry A. Merlo Foundation for this project.***

## IN THE HERBARIUM

In 2024, Plant Taxonomist and Herbarium Curator Mandy Tu completed a **first ever inventory of the herbarium's 6,000+ voucher specimens**. She made sure that every voucher was accurately named and represented in the database, that each specimen sheet had a good quality photo image, and that all specimens were evaluated for condition (no loose parts, no insect damage, etc.). In all, approximately **1,000 specimens were fixed, updated or rephotographed**.





# VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS

Hoyt Arboretum thrives thanks to the incredible dedication of our volunteers, whose contributions come in many forms: welcoming visitors, leading seasonal tours, educating children about nature, gathering data for community science projects, stewarding the trees and trails, and so much more.

In 2024, 844 volunteers contributed 10,745 hours across our programs.

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: NO IVY DAY

On a quintessential Portland fall day (warm and with a torrential downpour), a group of 10 volunteers forwent their cozy cafe Saturday to pull English ivy at Hoyt Arboretum. This late October crew marked Portland Parks & Recreation's 21st annual No Ivy Day, and our final Saturday Crew of the season.

English ivy is one of the Arboretum's most voracious foes, invading the understory, creeping up trees, damaging bark, and blocking light. Stewardship crews are crucial in the fight against ivy, especially in sloped areas where hand-pulling is our only option. This crew worked along the western slope between Creek Trail and Fischer Ln. where ivy was choking the yew, nutmeg, cedar, and native trees that grow in the area.



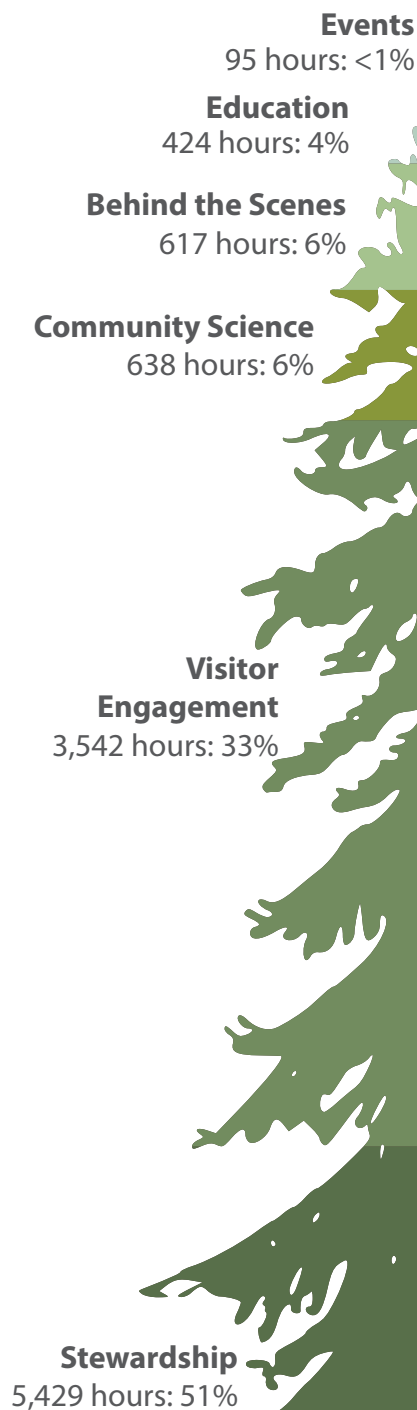
**Volunteer Steward, Glen,**  
carries a fallen branch  
to the debris pile.

Despite the weather, spirits were high among the volunteers. A trio of friends collecting ivy to weave baskets chatted and laughed as they worked—even though a stylish, bright yellow raincoat was claimed by the mud (an unexpected in-kind donation to the Arboretum!). A father and teenage son pulled a massive ivy stem as thick as a wrist and as tall as the high school junior himself from the base of a yellow cedar.

Glen, one of our most dedicated stewardship volunteers, had to improvise mid-work when his belt broke—tying it back together with an ivy stem. He and Joe, a retired military physical therapist,

participated in every single Saturday Crew of the year, pulling weeds, mulching, clearing debris, pruning, and so much more! Joe's philosophy: physical work with a community like this keeps you young.

Thank you to all our volunteer stewards for keeping Hoyt Arboretum safe, beautiful, and accessible to all! We couldn't do it without you!





**5,412**  
**CHILDREN**

visited Hoyt Arboretum on a field trip



**70%**

of children on field trips came from schools in need and visited for

**FREE** through HAF's **SCHOLARSHIP FUND**



**718**

preschoolers and their caregivers

participated in our **TREE TIME! WALKS**



**150**

**CHILDREN**

from 60 homeschool families participated in our new Forest Field Day **HOMESCHOOL PROGRAM**



**1,800**

people joined our

**FREE NATURE EDUCATION** events for youth and families



**Nina Avila**  
Education Programs Director,  
Hoyt Arboretum Friends

## NINA'S CORNER

For those of you who joined any of our many programs last year, we may have exchanged emails, shared wonders from the trails together, or you might have seen me dashing around getting a program started! But, if our paths haven't crossed before—hi!- I'm Nina, the Education Programs Director for HAF. It is my pleasure to oversee all of our nature education offerings for both youth and adults at Hoyt Arboretum, and in my 3rd full year with the Friends, 2024 was one for both growth and refinement.

We piloted multi-visit curricula for elementary and middle school students, launched a homeschool program, and added bilingual Spanish components to support more of our educational opportunities. We also had record-breaking participation in existing programs like school field trips, Tree Time! Preschool Walks, Pop-Up Nature, and Family Forest Days. Our adult education programs also flourished, with expanded free public tours and hikes, and more workshops than ever, thanks to our incredible community of instructors.

It was a joy to see so many people eager to learn about and connect with trees and nature, and I can't wait to see where next year takes us!



We are so grateful for the opportunity to visit the arboretum for free! Many of our students do not get to access nature in a meaningful way very often. Our school is located on 82nd Avenue and we don't have much green space to explore nature, let alone walk through the woods. Removing barriers allows all of our students to fulfill their right to experience nature.

—Molly Cunningham, 3rd grade teacher,  
Vestal Elementary





*Hoyt Arboretum intern, Shaueel Persadee co-leads a tour with Amy Stewart, local author of The Tree Collectors.*



**1,025**

**ADULTS**

connected with trees  
through education  
programs



**408**

**PEOPLE**

joined free public  
tours and hikes in  
the spring, summer,  
and fall



In 2024 HAF hosted

**108** CLASSES with  
**43** DIFFERENT TOPICS



**TREES  
FOR ALL**

Free public tours of Hoyt Arboretum were more accessible than ever in 2024. The "Trees For All" tour explored trees and plants around the Visitor Center and Overlook paved trails, and we offered our first American Sign Language interpreted tour. These programs will continue in 2025.



**475**

**7TH GRADERS**

from 5 local middle schools  
took part in the  
second pilot year of our  
**CLIMATE CHANGE  
CURRICULUM.**

Scan the QR code  
to watch a video  
about what we  
learned:



STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION  
Unaudited 12/31/2024

<b>ASSETS</b>	
Cash in Checking .....	565,755
Cash in Money Markets .....	146,863
Cash in Investment Accounts .....	1,286,816
Endowment .....	370,765
Accounts Receivable .....	23,921
Future Facility Planning .....	91,344
Prepaid Expenses .....	5,550
Merchandise Inventory .....	26,937
<b>Total Assets .....</b>	<b>2,517,952</b>

<b>LIABILITIES</b>	
Accounts Payable .....	3,828
Payroll Liabilities & Accrued Vacation .....	11,257
Deferred Revenue .....	11,000
<b>Total Liabilities .....</b>	<b>26,085</b>

<b>NET ASSETS</b>	
Total Available for Operations .....	1,086,014
Reserves .....	400,000
<b>Total Unrestricted Net Assets .....</b>	<b>1,486,014</b>
<b>Total Temporarily Restricted Net Assets ..</b>	<b>635,088</b>
Endowment .....	370,765
<b>Total Net Assets .....</b>	<b>2,491,867</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets .....</b>	<b>2,517,952</b>

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

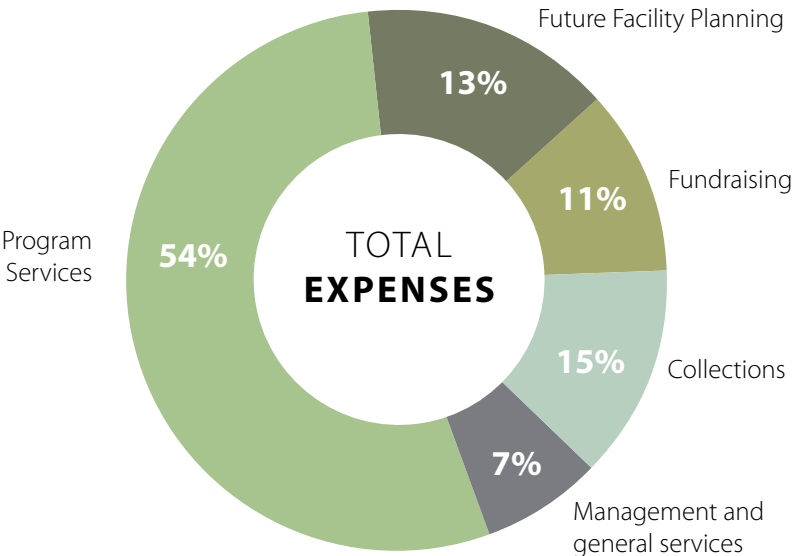
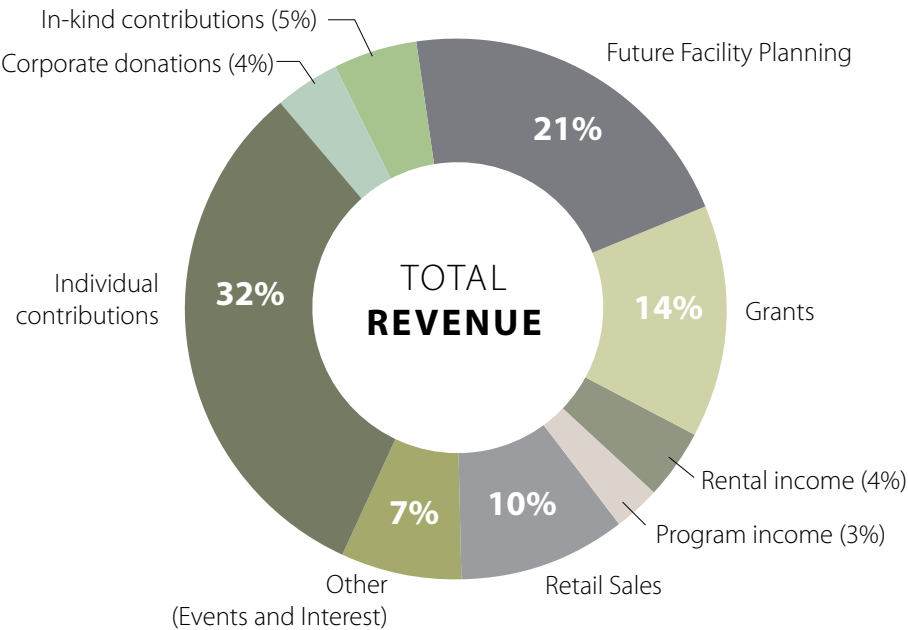
<b>REVENUE</b>	
Individual Contributions .....	564,130
Corporate Contributions .....	58,991
Foundation Grants .....	240,000
Government Grants .....	13,000
Future Facility Planning .....	365,000
Rental Income .....	71,896
Fees for Service (program revenue) .....	52,569
Event Income .....	29,460
Merchandise Sales .....	169,176
Interest Income .....	31,946
Unrealized Gain/ Loss on Investments .....	65,201
Realized Gain/ Loss on Investments .....	1,597
In-Kind Contributions .....	87,529
Trail Improvement Grant Reimbursement .....	(200,769)
<b>Total Revenue .....</b>	<b>1,549,727</b>

<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Personnel .....	673,029
Accounting Services .....	26,567
Education Programs .....	52,083
Collections & Landscape Services .....	20,138
Computer & Website Services .....	12,451
Marketing .....	4,954
Other Contract Services .....	176,615
Future Facility Contract Services .....	100,600
Gift Shop Merchandise .....	83,673
Staff Training and Development .....	16,759
Office Supplies .....	18,183
Insurance .....	6,032
Printing and Postage .....	35,099
Dues and Subscriptions .....	2,735
Miscellaneous Expenses .....	15,273
Bank Charges .....	14,474
Endowment Expenses .....	3,283
In-Kind Contributions .....	87,529
DEI Training and Programs .....	5,740
<b>Total Expenses .....</b>	<b>1,355,218</b>
<b>Change in Net Assets .....</b>	<b>194,509</b>

2024 FINANCIALS

2024 was a year of growth and success for Hoyt Arboretum Friends. The number of visitors to Hoyt continues to be strong and field trips are booked to capacity. Under the leadership of our expanded education staff we welcomed more than 5,400 students to our outdoor classroom. Visitors were both generous and engaged, and sales at the Hoyt Arboretum Visitor Center gift shop remain strong. Outdoor weddings and other events continued the recent trend, resulting in another strong year for rental revenue. We celebrated the Arboretum at our annual Forage in the Forest event by raising more funds than expected and surpassed our annual fundraising goal.

Moving into 2025 our financial position remains strong. We will continue to invest donor support in expanding education, volunteer, and conservation programming, pursue park improvement projects, and plan for a future at Hoyt Arboretum where we have the capacity to serve all who visit to learn, explore, and hike the trails.





## *A Lasting Legacy*

### Remembering Joey Pope

In 2024, the Hoyt Arboretum community said goodbye to Joey Pope, a founding member and past Board Chair Hoyt Arboretum Friends. Her contributions are profound and lasting, as she dedicated years of service, including fundraising for the Visitor Center and leading efforts to upgrade the Bristlecone Pine Trail in 2019. Joey was a tireless advocate for parks, but she understood that parks are only good as the people who care for them. Her support the staff at Hoyt Arboretum, in both large and small ways, ensured that the park could thrive.

Joey's quiet yet powerful presence left a lasting impact on all who knew her. She fostered countless connections between people and nature, and her leadership and generosity continue to shape Hoyt Arboretum. We are deeply grateful for her influence and continue to honor her memory through the work we do every day. Thank you, Joey.



## *An Original Naturalist*

### Honoring William Sefler



Hoyt Arboretum Friends is honored to celebrate the life and legacy of William Ernest "Bill" Sefler, a dedicated member since 1992 whose deep love for nature led him to become part of our Sequoia Legacy Society, leaving a generous bequest in 2024 upon his passing.

His niece Mary Ann shared with us that Bill "was one of the original naturalists, teaching us about the importance of trees, flowers and plants to our ecosystem long before I ever heard anyone else talking about it." Bill and his wife, Hazel, always lived close to nature, tending fruit trees, berry bushes, and wildflowers. Even into his late 90s, Bill remained active—hiking with friends, swimming, and tending community garden plots.

Bill will be remembered for his warmth, kindness, and the deep conversations he shared with loved ones. His nephew Bob recalls that his "Uncle Bud" was sharp and well-read, and could just as easily discuss the stock market as college football. After his passing at age 98, his family honored his final wish, scattering his ashes beneath a tree at Henry Hagg County Park—"a fitting resting place for a lifelong naturalist."

We are deeply grateful for Bill's generosity and commitment to future generations of trees and friends at Hoyt Arboretum.



# THANK YOU 2024 DONORS

## INDIVIDUAL DONORS

### \$10,000+

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By including Hoyt Arboretum as a beneficiary in their wills, bequests, and other planned gifts, Sequoia Legacy Society members are the protective canopy of our living museum. We're thankful to the following members for making the ultimate commitment to the future of tree conservation, education, and stewardship.

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*Names highlighted in green have passed.*

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If you have included Hoyt Arboretum Friends in your estate plan or would like to learn more about how to do so, we invite you to contact Ajah Maloney, Development Director at 503-823-3655 or [ajah@hoytarboretum.org](mailto:ajah@hoytarboretum.org)

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*We have made every effort to include all donations from 2024. If our report contains errors, please accept our apologies. Notify Ajah Maloney, Development Director with record updates at 503-823-3655 or [ajah@hoytarboretum.org](mailto:ajah@hoytarboretum.org)*

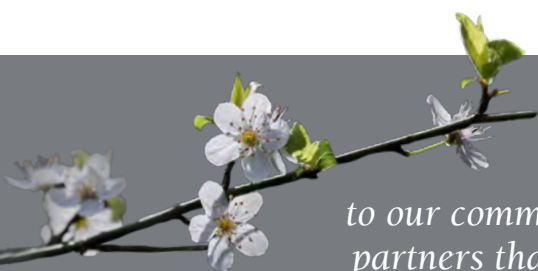
Thank you also to all of our donors who wish to remain anonymous. Your support helps to sustain our education and conservation programs throughout the year.





## CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF TUESDAY CREW

In 2024, we celebrated a significant milestone in our volunteer program – the 40th anniversary of the Tuesday Crew. Founded in 1984, this devoted stewardship group has worked alongside Hoyt Arboretum's curator for decades, caring for the arboretum's trees and trails. This year was also a special moment for Tuesday Crew members Ed Kushner and Des Murphy (center of the group picture), who both began volunteering at Hoyt Arboretum in 2004. Their 20 years of service is a truly remarkable achievement!



## THANK YOU

*to our community of members, volunteers, board, staff, and partners that work together to serve our students, visitors, trees, and trails.*

*The images in this report were generously contributed by Mike Drewry, Rhonda Dorsett, and Steve Lannigan.*

Hoyt Arboretum Friends 

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