

HOYT ARBORETUM FRIENDS 2025

# ANNUAL REPORT

*Bringing People and Trees Together*



CELEBRATING  
**40 YEARS** OF  
HOYT ARBORETUM  
FRIENDS

## LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

My first week as the Executive Director of the Hoyt Arboretum Friends in January of 2017 was so memorable, not so much for the work, but for the huge snowstorm that brought the city to a standstill. After a day or two, I was able to make my way to a bus then the MAX to the Washington Park station. From there, I trudged through at least eight inches of snow up the hill to my new office at the Visitor Center. It was an amazing way to start my tenure with HAF as I got to see firsthand how every person who was there that day was having their very best day. Myself included.



While we haven't had a deeper snowfall since, that "best day" feeling at Hoyt Arboretum has held true over my years of work here. When asked what my favorite thing about this place is, I say that it brings out the best in people, and I feel lucky to work somewhere that makes people happy.

As I started meeting the community of staff, volunteers, and park users, I was struck by how many people had such long-relationships with the park. For example, Joey Pope was one of the first people I met, and she had been volunteering since 1986 as a Board Member and then on our Advisory Council.

And so, I find myself nearly 10 years into my time here at HAF, and it doesn't feel like a long time at all. Maybe because I am surrounded by people who've been coming here since they were kids, people who've been volunteering for 25 years, and trees that have been growing for a century!

Forty years ago, a group of volunteers decided to formalize their role as advocates, fundraisers, and educators at Hoyt Arboretum by forming the non-profit Hoyt Arboretum Friends. Just like a tree, we have grown and become stronger over the years, as does our partnership with Portland Parks & Recreation.

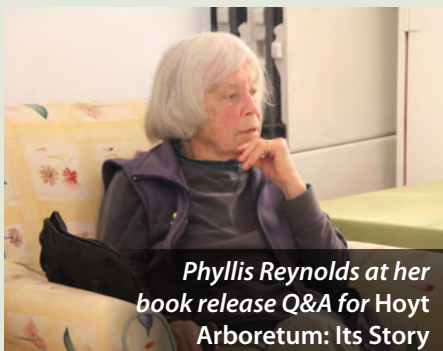
The Arboretum would not be the thriving destination it is today, serving people from across our city and welcoming visitors from around the world without the Friends. And of course, none of this would be possible without you, the members who make up the Hoyt Arboretum Friends. Thanks for working with us to care for, improve, and share Portland's Museum of Living Trees with the world.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Anna Goldrich". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Anna Goldrich  
Executive Director  
Hoyt Arboretum Friends

# FAST AND SLOW: 40 YEARS OF HOYT ARBORETUM FRIENDS

***“Interestingly, it was a lot then like it is now,”*** Phyllis Reynolds shares. She’s been familiar with Hoyt Arboretum since 1943, when she moved to the neighborhood as a teenager. ***“Back then, it was simply a place to wander around, where you’d hardly ever see anyone else.”***



**Phyllis Reynolds at her book release Q&A for Hoyt Arboretum: Its Story**

By the mid-1980s, the quiet place Phyllis remembers was also a park in need of support. Portland Parks was stretched thin, and the Arboretum, tucked into the West Hills, often felt separate from the rest of the parks system. In 1986, Hoyt Arboretum Friends was formed to help fill that gap.

City employee Sue Thomas was central to those early efforts, connecting Parks with a growing base of volunteers and supporters. Her background as a high school teacher and her graduate studies in plant genetics at Reed helped shape HAF’s mission alongside founding members like Joey Pope, who brought energy and strong community connections.

From there, growth came quickly. They raised funds from neighbors for a riding lawn mower, began mapping and labeling the Arboretum’s trees, and piloted programs like Arts in the Arboretum to draw new visitors to connect with the trees and trails.



**Sue Thomas and Fred Nilsen evaluate a newly installed bench at Hoyt Arboretum, 1989**

Alongside curator Fred Nilsen, Sue conceived the Bristlecone Pine Trail as a way to ***“display the world’s plants”***. Determined to get her hands dirty, she tapped a connection in Canada and drove a City work truck across the border to pick up some trees, only learning afterward that she was not supposed to do so. That truckload of trees became the foundation of the trail’s geographic collections, one of the Arboretum’s defining features and the first accessible paved trail in a Portland park.

A significant milestone came in the mid-1990s with the expansion of the Visitor Center and Bill de Weese Library. ***“We were so packed in that little office,”*** Sue recalls. ***“It opened up more opportunities for our programs”***.

Standing outside the Visitor Center

today, Sue pauses. ***“In many ways, a lot has changed in 40 years, but it also hasn’t. These are the same trees”***. She gestures toward a towering ginkgo, and shares, ***“That ginkgo was in a pot for years and years. It only ever got to about 6 feet tall until it was planted in the ground and shot right up!”***

Over four decades, HAF has built programs, community spaces, and connections between people and trees. Still, the Arboretum moves at its own speed, growing slowly, steadily, and into the future.



**Hoyt Arboretum Visitor Center construction, 1997**

## CURATOR'S REPORT



**Martin Nicholson**  
Hoyt Arboretum Curator,  
Portland Parks & Recreation

When HAF was first formed in 1986 I was a teen in New Zealand, and definitely wearing an acid wash denim jacket. That year, 39 trees were planted at Hoyt Arboretum. The

largest of those today is the red oak on the Bristlecone Pine trail, with others of note being the Franklin tree grove and *Stewartia pseudocamilia* (harder to obtain 40 years ago, thankfully now much easier to find this wonderful tree) both near the Maple/Wildwood Trail intersection.

In 2025 additions numbered 358 – many being small plants in our nursery,

an area much expanded due to the support of HAF. Plantings in 2025 were 45 and included new additions to the Camellia Collection, thanks to Arboretum Horticulturist Vinny. Some of the plants from our 2019 collection trip to coastal California- *Psuedotsuga macrocarpa*, *Quercus lobata*, and *Cercis occidentalis* were finally big enough to go out to the field. Three *Torreya taxifolia* grown as part of a conservation program led by Atlanta Botanic Garden also found a home in the Conifer Collection.

40 years ago, there were 4,657 plants representing 128 genera. Today we manage 7,135 plants representing 435 genera. A huge increase in plants to look after but also a much more diverse global tree collection for our goals of conservation and education.

In my time at Hoyt Arboretum (2026 will be my 20th season), it is great to see the friends group grow and take on the challenges of increased visitors and expanding need for nature education. The plant collection is shared with about 3 times more visitors than when I started in 2006, and now Plant Database is available to anyone with computer access. In my first year a paper book that I printed and bound in the back office was available to purchase for \$5. It was the only way (outside of a tour) a visitor could find out where a tree was in the 200 acres.

From volunteer programs to expanded hours I have seen firsthand how the Friends have enhanced the work Portland Parks staff do caring for the collection and the quality of the visitor experience.

## COLLECTIONS SPOTLIGHT

### Priority Tree Species for Conservation

This fall, Hoyt Arboretum's Curator participated in a seed collection expedition in California's southern Sierra Nevada mountains through the Botanic Gardens Conservation International's Priority U.S. Trees Conservation Awards.

They completed 84 collections from 42 plant species, including 3 tree species that are global conservation priorities: the Southern foxtail pine, Piute Cypress, and Sierra Juniper. These species are rare in the wild and underrepresented in botanical collections.



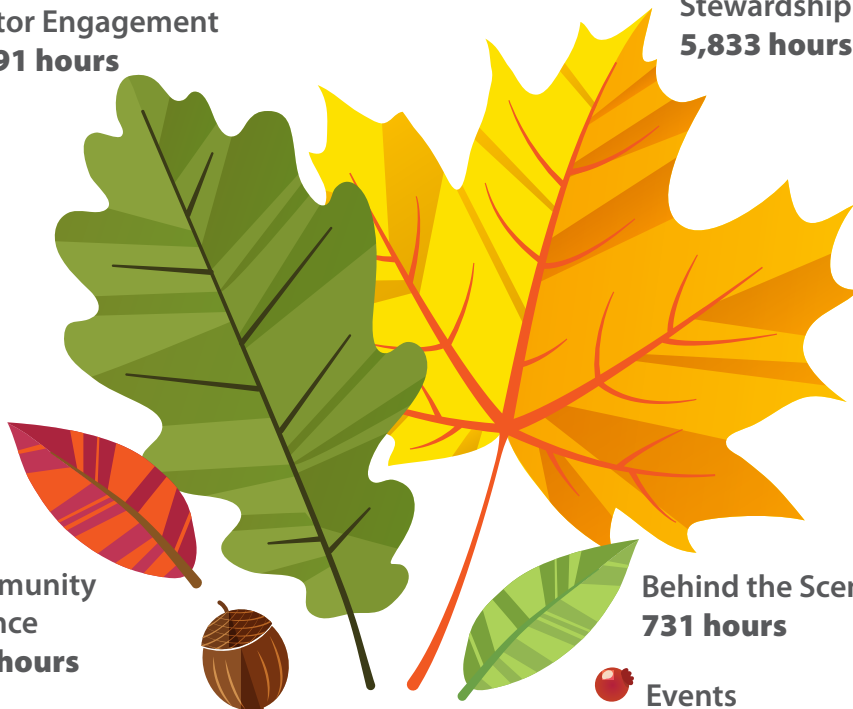
**Hoyt Arboretum's Curator, Martin Nicholson collects Southern foxtail pine cones from a mature tree in the Sierra Mountains.**

# VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS

Thank you to the 859 volunteers who contributed 11,497 hours across HAF programs in 2025!

Visitor Engagement  
3,591 hours

Stewardship  
5,833 hours



Community Science  
775 hours

Education  
457 hours

Behind the Scenes  
731 hours

Events  
110 hours

## A NOTE FROM BECKY



Becky Schreiber,  
Deputy Director, Hoyt Arboretum Friends

Through our volunteer-led Hike with Hoyt program, I get to see firsthand how meaningful connections form at Hoyt Arboretum. Last year, several participants who met on a guided hike continued exploring the trails together throughout the winter. It's a small but powerful reminder that when we bring people to trees, community follows.

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: COMMUNITY SCIENTISTS MONITOR FOR INVASIVE PESTS



Volunteer Mat Millenbach stands with a European ash he surveys at Hoyt Arboretum.

For the past five summers, volunteer Mat Millenbach has been a community scientist for Hoyt Arboretum's Early Detection of Invasive Pests project, carefully monitoring the park's ash trees for signs of emerald ash borer (EAB). With a background in forestry and a lifelong awareness of threats like Dutch elm disease and chestnut blight, Mat sees this work as both urgent and deeply personal.

On survey days, his process is methodical. He begins by scanning the tree's crown for signs of stress, then moves in close to examine the bark for the tiny, D-shaped exit holes that signal EAB. He lowers purple or green traps suspended in the canopy, sorting through sticky cards or filtered debris with a practiced eye and a small field kit. Each visit adds another data point.

For Mat, that data is part of a much larger story. He describes community science as a kind of historical record—information that can shape how we respond to emerging threats. With EAB now detected in Portland, that work feels especially important. Oregon ash, a cornerstone of our riparian ecosystems, is at risk, and early detection could help inform how these landscapes are managed in the years ahead.

# YOUTH PROGRAMS



**7,058**  
**CHILDREN**

visited Hoyt Arboretum on a field trip



**80%** of children on field trips attend schools in need and visited for **FREE** through HAF's **SCHOLARSHIP FUND**



**798** preschoolers and their caregivers participated in our **TREE TIME! WALKS**



**2,800** people joined our **FREE NATURE EDUCATION** events for youth and families



**116** CHILDREN participated in our **FOREST FIELD DAY HOMESCHOOL PROGRAM**

## A NOTE FROM CLAIRE



Claire Sanders, Youth Programs Manager, Hoyt Arboretum Friends

I came on board in February 2025, right before the Spring field trip season where we welcomed over 3,000 students. It was the best introduction to the HAF community, and I feel so fortunate to work with our growing team of Nature Educators, who bring so much talent and heart to the trails every day.

## A NOTE FROM KATE



Kate Nootenboom, Nature Educator and Membership Coordinator, Hoyt Arboretum Friends

I love welcoming new students to the Arboretum every day, but something extra special happens when those students are familiar. Through our Multi-Visit Curriculum some 1st, 2nd, and 7th grade classrooms visit the Arboretum twice a year. Watching them explore seasonal changes, reinforce memories, and connect deeply to a place over time is a true joy.



*Scholars looked at lichen, discovered living sculptures, sat inside trees, and just connected with the natural world by following their curiosity. Perhaps most importantly, they learned why protecting forests matters and how they can play a part in that work.*

*-HOLLA School K-5 teacher, Fall 2025*



*It was a banner year for fall color with hundreds of folks exploring the Nationally-Accredited Maple Collection on free public tours.*

## A NOTE FROM NINA



Nina Avila, Education Programs Director,  
Hoyt Arboretum Friends

Helping people connect with our global tree collection is at the heart of my work. With over 6,000 trees from around the world, our free public tours make it possible to share that diversity with a broader community. Seeing someone's face light up when they encounter a tree from across the globe is one of the most rewarding parts of that work.

## ADULT EDUCATION




**821**  
ADULTS  
participated in  
education programs



HAF hosted  
**107**  
PROGRAMS  
with



**49**  
NATURE  
TOPICS



**368** PEOPLE  
joined our volunteer guides  
on free public tours and hikes

## A NOTE FROM ROWAN



Rowan Moreno, Community Engagement  
Coordinator, Hoyt Arboretum Friends

Saturdays are some of my busiest, and most rewarding work days at the Arboretum. Bustling with classes, volunteer programs, and visitors, one of my favorite parts is connecting with our incredible adult education instructors and chatting with class attendees. It's wonderful to see how many different people are brought together by a shared love of nature and learning new things.

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Unaudited 12/31/2025

### ASSETS:

Cash in Checking	1,267,682
Cash in Money Markets	2,413,005
Cash in Investment Accounts	1,335,526
Endowment	427,670
Accounts Receivable	76,399
Grants Receivable	59,310
Future Facility Planning	91,345
Prepaid Expenses	7,508
Merchandise Inventory	23,586
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>5,702,031</b>

### LIABILITIES:

Accounts Payable	14,584
Payroll Liabilities & Accrued Vacation	13,064
Deferred Revenue	11,000
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>38,648</b>

### NET ASSETS:

Total Available for Operations	1,333,065
Reserves	400,000
<b>Total Unrestricted Net Assets</b>	<b>1,733,065</b>
<b>Total Temporarily Restricted Net Assets</b>	<b>3,502,648</b>
Endowment	427,670
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>5,663,383</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>5,702,031</b>

## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

### REVENUE:

Individual Contributions	503,469
Bequests & Memorial Gifts	228,620
Corporate Contributions	75,755
Foundation Grants	277,201
Government Grants	13,000
Future Facility Planning	3,015,510
Rental Income	82,168
Fees for Service (program revenue)	67,084
Event Income	31,947
Merchandise Sales	188,733
Interest Income	39,647
Unrealized Gain/ Loss on Investments	79,392
Realized Gain/ Loss on Investments	5,105
Other Revenue	3,025
In-Kind Contributions	71,998
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>4,682,655</b>

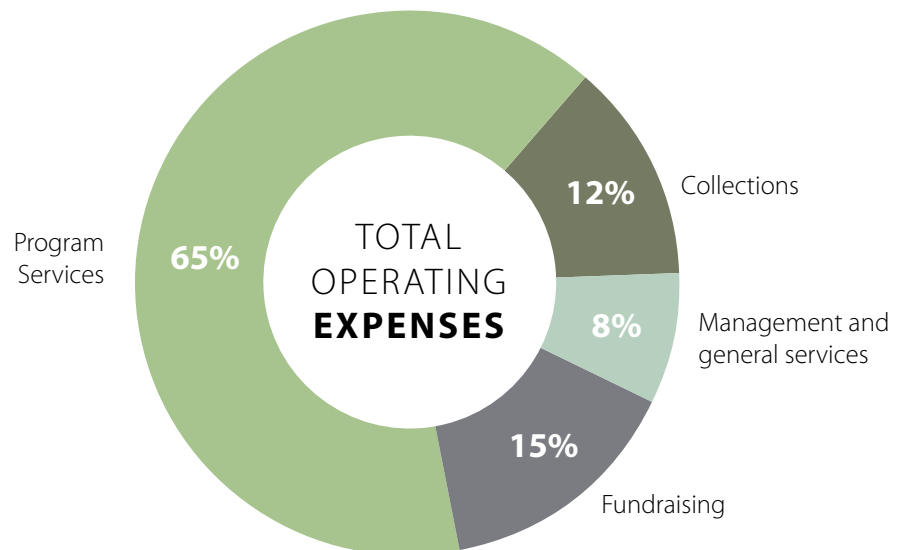
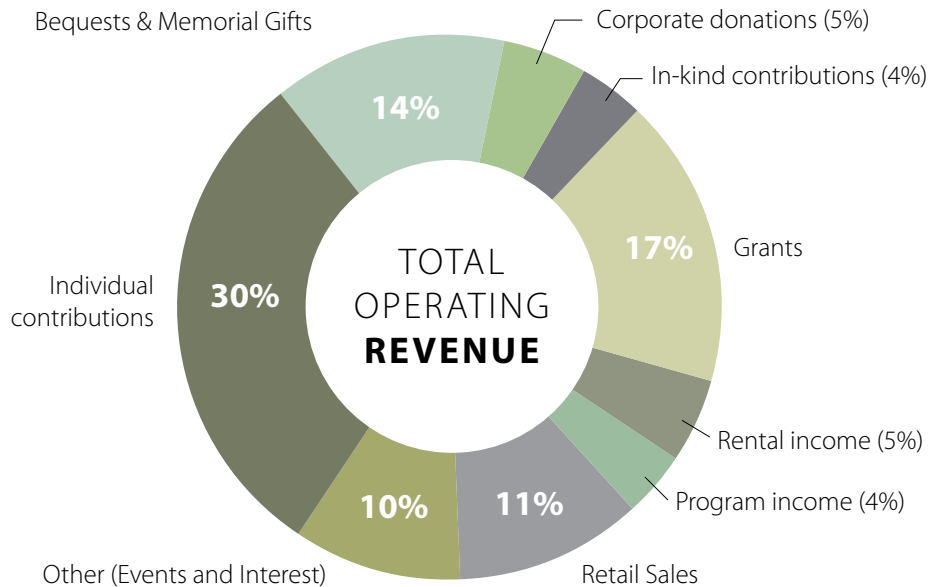
### EXPENSES:

Personnel	804,562
Accounting Services	29,120
Education Services	49,077
Collections & Landscape Services	21,857
Computer & Website Services	24,737
Marketing	5,356
Other Contract Services	128,100
Trail Improvements	71,330
Future Facility Contract Services	106,300
Gift Shop Merchandise	92,612
Staff Training & Development	5,181
Office Supplies	19,048
Insurance	7,352
Printing and Postage	46,741
Dues and Subscriptions	3,078
Miscellaneous Expenses	928
Bank Charges	15,314
Endowment Expenses	3,438
DEI Outreach and Training	5,010
In-Kind Contributions	71,998
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>1,511,139</b>
<b>Change in Net Assets</b>	<b>3,171,516</b>

# 2025 FINANCIALS

2025 was a year of growth and success for Hoyt Arboretum Friends. Field trips were booked to capacity, and under the leadership of our expanded education staff we welcomed more than 7,100 students to our outdoor classroom. Visitors were 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 big year for rental revenue, and our annual Forage in the Forest fundraiser was another record-breaking success.

Moving into 2026 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.



# Remembering Jack Lane

Some people leave their mark in ways that are hard to measure – felt in stories, in shared laughter, and in the quiet ways they showed up for others. For those who knew Jack Lane, he was one of those people.

Former Arboretum Curator Dan Moeller remembers Jack as both a dedicated volunteer and a deeply generous friend. The two first met in 2003, when Jack – newly retired after selling his company, Custom Cedar Products – joined the Tuesday Crew, bringing decades of hands-on experience with him. **“He was a funny guy,”** Dan says. **“Always cracking jokes, but also incredibly focused. He came to work, and he worked hard.”**

At the Arboretum, Jack was a central part of the volunteer community. He made the coffee, helped set the tone for the day, and took on whatever task was needed: hauling, planting, watering. Just as naturally, he became a mentor in the woodshop and out in the field. Jack shared his knowledge freely, teaching Dan skills that would shape both his work at the Arboretum and projects at home.

Not long after they met, Jack helped Dan rebuild a fence at his house – sourcing materials, lending his time, and working alongside him. **“He knew I needed a hand and was happy to give it,”** Dan recalls. **“That’s just who he was.”**

Friendships formed through shared workdays grew into something more. Jack and his wife, Sue, welcomed members of the Arboretum community into their home each year for a holiday gathering – a warm, festive meal that everyone looked forward to. It was one more way



**A newspaper clipping from a 2006 article in *The Oregonian* featuring Tuesday Crew. Jack Lane is depicted driving the truck.**

Jack showed his appreciation for the people in his life.

Time together often extended outdoors as well, into the forest for huckleberry picking trips. Jack approached even those outings with care and intention, crafting handmade picking baskets to wear around the waist (for efficiency...and competition) and packing thoughtful lunches to share.

**“He would give you the shirt off his back if he thought you needed it,”** Dan says. In many ways, that’s exactly what Jack has done. Through his generous bequest to Hoyt Arboretum Friends, and through the lasting culture of kindness and camaraderie he helped create, Jack’s legacy continues.



**Jack Lane’s legacy at Hoyt Arboretum also stands in the trees he planted including 3 dawn redwood ‘Ogon’ trees off Fischer Ln.**

# THANK YOU 2025 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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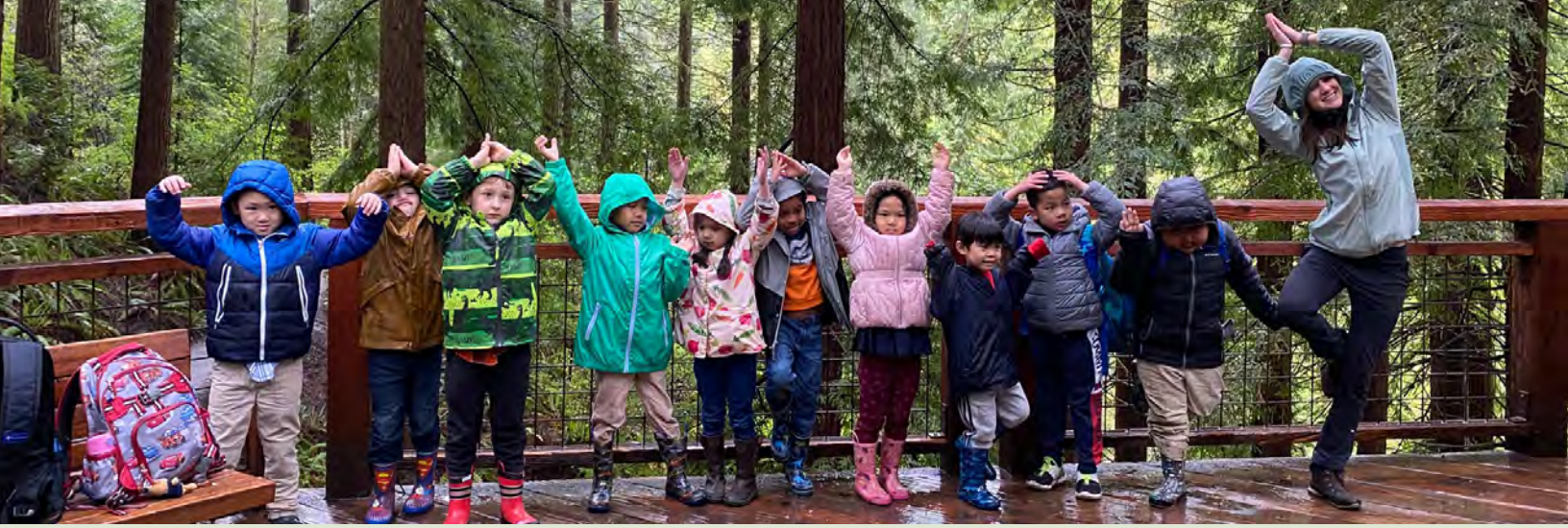
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*We have made every effort to include all donations from 2025. If our report contains errors, please accept our apologies. Notify Ajah Maloney, Development Director with record updates at 503-823-3655 or [ajah@hoytarboretum.org](mailto:ajah@hoytarboretum.org)*

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.



## Hoyt Arboretum's Historical Milestones

**1928**

Hoyt Arboretum is established

**1986**

HAF is founded for funding, volunteer, and leadership purposes

**1997**

Expansion of the Visitor Center and addition of the Bill de Weese classroom and library

**2008**

Redwood Observation Deck is built, for enjoying the towering redwood collection

**2026**

Bristlecone Pine Trail Accessibility Improvements Project

**1930**

The first curator plants the first tree

*Bolded entries are capital improvements funded by Hoyt Arboretum Friends.*

**1995**

The Stevens Pavillion is renovated, becoming part of the fabric of the Portland community, serving as a place for friends and family to gather and celebrate

**2004-2013**

Installation of more than 300 wayfinding, map, and interpretive panels

**2019**

Barbara Walker Crossing opens connecting Forest and Washington Parks



# THANK YOU

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

*The pictures included in the Annual Report were contributed by Mike Drewry, Steve Lannigan, and HOLLA school.*

Hoyt Arboretum Friends



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