We are the Portland Parks Foundation. We help people help parks.
Who We Are

OUR VISION
People flourish with thriving parks. The Portland Parks Foundation helps Portland communities create more equitable access to nature, play, health, and places of connection.

We help people help parks.

Over our history, with your help, we’ve raised over $18 million for Portland’s parks, natural areas, and community gardens. We’ve engaged thousands of volunteers, advocates, and donors across our city.

Here’s how we do it...

Special thanks to moda for its support of this 20th anniversary booklet.
We believe in partnerships.

We collaborate with a vast range of community partners to help people help parks throughout the city.

We are the chief philanthropic partner of

Portland Parks & Recreation
Healthy Parks, Healthy Portland
Portland Parks Foundation

A fiscal sponsorship helped us get our first donations to buy a banner, a table, and a chair, just to see what kind of community support there was for Gateway Green. This kind of simple sponsorship is so important for people who have a project, or just an idea! Then PPF connected us with a $10,000 sponsor that kicked off our first crowdfunding campaign. And that’s how Gateway Green got its start.

Linda Robinson
Gateway Green cofounder

We help people build new parks.

HOLLY FARM PARK, 2017
With a private donation through Portland Parks Foundation (PPF), the city optioned a 1.7-acre holly farm in rapidly developing Southwest Portland. PPF rallied additional support from the State of Oregon, Trust for Public Land, hundreds of neighbors, and even pro bono design services. The resulting park now offers a playground, skate park, and emergency node for one of southwest Portland’s densest clusters of affordable housing and immigrant populations.

GATEWAY GREEN, 2017
PPF worked with Friends of Gateway Green and Coca-Cola to crowdfund the masterplan and design for 25 acres of leftover land between I-205 and I-84 ramps, resulting in the city’s first multi-use off-road bike park.

THOMAS CULLY PARK, 2018
Built on a 25-acre former landfill in one of Portland’s most diverse and economically disadvantaged neighborhoods, Cully Park was developed by the social enterprise non-profit, Verde, in partnership with the city. PPF raised funds and helped leverage relationships and donations from major corporations.

DIRECTOR PARK, 2009
This “missing park block” nearly became a 12-story garage. But with major contributions through PPF by TMT Development and philanthropist Jordan Schnitzer, Director Park became one of downtown’s collection of public squares shaped by world-renowned designers.

Here are just a few parks sparked by donors and activists like you.

Clockwise, Gateway Green, Director Park, Holly Farm Park
Portland Parks Foundation has served as fiscal sponsor for improvements of Wilshire Park, Chapman and Lownsdale Squares and new gardens and a master plan for the South Park Blocks.

Working with community partners, PPF helped bring major fountains to Waterfront Park and Dawson Park.

Through a generous 10-year, $1-million commitment by Columbia Sportswear through PPF, Portland Parks & Recreation could renew and better maintain Sellwood Park.

A partnership with the Friends of Peninsula Park Rose Garden resulted in the restoration of the beaux arts brickwork and replanting the rose beds. One donor’s annual contribution even provides mulch for the Washington Park Rose Test Garden.

Portland’s park system is one of the jewels of our city. In order to maintain it, we need all hands on deck. Columbia Sportswear is proud to be among the companies that have contributed to maintaining our beautiful parks. The Portland Parks Foundation fills a critical need by providing a link for these kinds of public-private partnerships to flourish.

Tim Boyle
CEO, Columbia Sportswear

Whether a large corporation or a tiny volunteer group with an idea, we turn ideas into action.
We build bridges.

We connected multiple government agencies with 900+ individual contributions to fuse safety with artistry.

BARBARA WALKER CROSSING, 2019
Runners and walkers of the region’s most popular scenic path, the Wildwood Trail, long had to dodge speeding cars on a blind turn to cross West Burnside. For over a decade, advocates called for a bridge. Portland Parks Foundation built it. We rallied funds from PBOT, Portland Parks and Recreation, and Metro. More than two-thirds of the final $4-million budget came from major foundations, hundreds of individual donors, and pro bono services by the design and construction team. The artist-designed, international award-winning Crossing became the region’s first “crowd-funded” bridge.

The Barbara Walker Crossing creates a transformational connection between Hoyt Arboretum and Forest Park. People are coming from all over Portland and beyond to hike from Hoyt Arboretum to Pittock Mansion, allowing them to enjoy spectacular views of the city, a global tree collection and our extensive trail system. Thanks to the Portland Parks Foundation for putting together the complicated public/private coalition to create this incredible asset for the community.

Anna Goldrich
Executive Director,
Hoyt Arboretum
Portland Parks Foundation

We bring more fun to parks.

Corporations, businesses, and individuals help kids and adults play in parks throughout Portland.

BASEBALL, BASKETBALL, BIKES, AND CLIMBS
Portland Parks Foundation helped the NW Trail Alliance build the city’s first bike “pump track” for BMX and mountain bikes. With a generous contribution from Friends of Baseball, diamonds across the city got an upgrade. Working with REI, PPF was able to bring the mountains to the kids with mobile climbing walls. And in an extraordinary partnership with Nike for the company’s 30th anniversary, 35 Portland Parks & Recreation-owned basketball courts were resurfaced in recycled shoe soles.

Our support of parks is powered by you! Philanthropic dollars funds 93% of annual grants and programs.
We give our friends a lift.

**FRIENDS & ALLIES SUMMITS**
Twice a year, Portland Parks Foundation brings together the 200+ volunteer and non-profit organizations devoted to parks to learn best practices for fostering diversity, equity, and inclusion, raising money, and keeping volunteers.

**FISCAL SPONSORSHIPS**
From major city-changing initiatives like Albina Vision Trust to culturally specific efforts like the Native Gathering Garden to small, volunteer groups like Friends of Brooklyn Park, PPF provides fiscal sponsorship to organizations just getting started or who want to stay small and unburdened by becoming a non-profit.

**JOEY POPE FUND FOR PARKS LEADERSHIP**
With a generous legacy gift from our founding board chair, Joey Pope, and her family, PPF is launching a new grant program in 2022 aimed at emerging leaders and initiatives to better our parks and natural areas.

**SMALL GRANTS**
Twice annually, PPF offers a helping hand to community-based parks groups who do everything from educating young kids about nature to restoring watersheds to helping new immigrants learn about and enjoy our park system.

We grow grassroots parks groups with grants and training.

Clockwise: People of Color Outdoors (2021 Grantee); Bookmobile Babe (2020 Grantee); Luuwit View Community Garden (Day of Service 2020)
We inspire,
educate,
advocate, and
celebrate.

GREEN DREAMS
This ongoing series of public conversation vets candidates and spotlights national and local thought leaders in climate justice, racial equity, and parks and urban design.

PARKS CHAMPION AWARDS
Each year, PPF recognizes volunteer leaders who do everything from organizing and coaching kids’ sports leagues to starting new organizations devoted to getting BIPOC Portlanders involved in our parks and natural spaces.

FUNDING FOR PARKS
In 2020, PPF worked diligently to pass a new parks operating levy that is increasing maintenance, removing fees as a barrier to recreation programs, and assuring better care for the park system’s 1.2 million trees.

“I support PPF because of their work to ensure that Portlanders throughout the city can enjoy the benefits our parks provide. The Foundation’s work in empowering and growing diverse grassroots groups to play a greater role in stewarding our parks transforms a parks system into a parks community. And donating monthly makes supporting this work easy.”

Molly Baer Kramer monthly donor
We build community.

With your help, we bring free movies, performances and lunch to parks— and put a park on your wall!

PASEO
Portland Parks Foundation brought together a committee of BIPOC social justice and arts leaders and worked with more than 40 corporate, business and foundation sponsors to develop “Paseo,” the first large-scale downtown festival curated entirely by and for communities of color. When the Delta Variant preempted the live event, PPF pivoted and made videos by the artists to support a mutual aid fund.

SUMMER FREE FOR ALL
Portland Parks Foundation has long partnered with donors and foundations to support PP&R’s free movies and performances in parks throughout the city. The pandemic preempted programming in 2020 and reduced it in ’21. But look for SFFA’s return in 2022!

LUNCH + PLAY
With a Bank of America Neighborhood Builders Grant, PPF is enabling expansion of this program in 2022 with a fully dedicated and designed truck to bring free lunches and play to large affordable housing projects far from parks.

20TH ANNIVERSARY PARK POSTERS
In 2021, PPF worked with leading designers and, courtesy of a donation from environmentalist/patron John Miller, with Mullowney Printing Company, created the first four of a series of posters for some of Portland’s most iconic parks and trails.

For the past three years I, and my org Friends of Noise, have seen the impact of Portland Parks Foundation’s community building. Parks became gathering spaces that helped address the community members’ feelings of isolation as a result of the pandemic. PPF’s support of Lunch + Play was invaluable in helping youth and adults alike find places of peace and equilibrium when they needed it most. PPF’s creation of Paseo, a convening of an intersectional array of social justice leaders and BIPOC artists, shaped a new kind of celebration of building community centered on inclusivity.

Andre Middleton
Friends of Noise
OUR MISSION
The Portland Parks Foundation’s mission is to mobilize financial and popular support to ensure a thriving and accessible parks system for a healthy Portland. We believe that equitable access to urban parks and natural areas—sharing the positive outcomes of parks on recreation, physical and mental health, neighborhood economy and child development among all Portlanders—is fundamental to our mission and to sustain a great city.

Portland Parks Foundation’s recognizes that a commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion involves active engagement. PPF is committed to help dismantle barriers across the breadth of our work for Portland’s parks, including in our leadership and staff, donors, volunteers, partners, campaigns and projects.

We believe in Justice, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

Portland Parks Foundation
Board of Directors
Officers
Kia Selley, Chair
JR Lilly, Vice Chair
Lee Novak, Treasurer

At Large
Jules Bailey
Suzanne Bishop
Patricia Frobes
Bob Gandolfi
Subashini Ganesan
Maja Harris
Karen Kervin
Melissa Naito
Jonathan Nicholas
Mary Ruble
Silas Sanderson
Victoria Schwieffermann
Adam Wilson

Members Ex Officio
Mona Schwartz,
Office of Commissioner
Carmen Rubio
Mike Elliott,
Portland Parks Board
Adena Long, Director,
Portland Parks & Recreation

Emeritus
Zari Santner
Julie Vigeland

Clockwise: poet Demian Dinéyazhi’, dance collective Beautiful Street; multimedia performer Yawa Amenta; and musicians Joe Kye and Alex Addy, all performing for the Paseo Mutual Aid Challenge, benefiting groups like Gather:Make:Shelter, Congo Peace Project, Don’t Shoot Portland, and Portland Fruit Tree Project.
Our support of parks is powered by you!

Here’s how you can help.

Over the last 20 years, the Portland Parks Foundation has provided a platform for Portlanders, companies, and philanthropic organizations to support our Parks system. Their generosity has provided our residents with amenities, programs, capital improvements, and even new parks. Beyond technical assistance to Portland’s 200-plus parks volunteer and ally groups, the Foundation’s new Pope Fund for Parks Leadership will usher in a new generation of parks community leaders and initiatives.

Portland Parks Foundation helps people help parks — please help them do this work.

Carmen Rubio
Parks Commissioner

"Our donors make our work possible. Whether you are a $60 annual member or $1,000 Charles Jordan Circle contributor — any contribution makes a difference for parks."

Plus, as a member of Portland Parks Foundation, you are eligible for a host of perks and benefits such as invitations to special events, member-only swag, and more!

Make a one-time or monthly gift today, and create a life-long impact for Portland’s parks.

Visit www.portlandpf.org/donate

If you prefer to donate by cash or check, mail to:

Portland Parks Foundation
1500 SW First Avenue
Suite 760
Portland, OR 97201

Photos on pages 2, 3, 6, 8, 9, 12, 13, and 18 courtesy of Portland Parks & Recreation

Design: Omnivore
WE VALUE

COMMUNITY 🍁 We involve the voices, culture, intellect, and vision of Portland’s diverse communities in our decision-making.

EQUITY 🍁 We work for the broadest access to our parks and open spaces and will prioritize historically excluded communities to achieve this.

COLLABORATION 🍁 We believe outcomes are deepened when people with divergent perspectives work together.

TRANSFORMATION 🍁 We value, support, and celebrate the sustained work necessary to achieve change.

ACCOUNTABILITY 🍁 We will measure and report progress in our efforts to expand Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion.

Portland Parks Foundation