



**PGE Parks  
Champion Award  
2024 Nominee  
Booklet**



**Portland Parks  
Foundation**



# Portland Parks Foundation

## **PPF's Vision**

People flourish with thriving parks.  
We help Portland communities create  
more equitable access to nature, play,  
health, and places of connection.

## **PPF's Mission**

Mission The Portland Parks Foundation mobilizes support to improve Portland's system of parks, natural areas, and public spaces.

We believe in the power of these places to strengthen communities, address historic inequities, and create a sense of belonging for everyone in Portland.

We seek transformational change by listening to communities and rally resources and opportunities to help realize their vision.

We collaborate with individuals, community groups, organizations, and institutions to develop long-term, sustainable improvements to the livability and beauty of our city.

We work to create the broadest possible access to recreation, creativity, education, and play in our parks and open spaces.

**We help people help parks.**





## **PGE Parks Champion Award**

The Portland Parks Foundation's PGE Parks Champion Award honors individuals who make outstanding contributions or provide significant service to a Portland park, community center, natural area, community garden, or park-related or recreation program through direct volunteer service. The winners each receive the opportunity to direct a \$1,500 grant from PPF to a community organization that aligns with PPF's vision: to help Portland communities create more equitable access to nature, play, health, and places of connection.



**The 2024-25 awards are  
generously sponsored by  
Portland General Electric**

Thank you to Portland General Electric for partnering with us to recognize the individuals and organizations in our community who are passionate advocates for creating safe and welcoming parks and greenspaces. The PGE Parks Champion Awards are an extension of PGE's commitment to empowering communities to create a cleaner, greener, more equitable Oregon. Through its [\*\*Project Zero\*\*](#) initiative, they are engaging youth and community members to learn, solve and take action through climate and clean energy education, environmental stewardship and access to green jobs. The PGE Parks Champion Awards embodies the very mission of Project Zero and reflects the significance that volunteerism plays in building strong, healthy communities.



**2024 PGE Parks  
Champion Awardees:**



**Andrea Wall**  
*Fanno Creek  
Headwaters*



**Juntu Oberg**  
*Northwest  
Trail Alliance*

**Read about all 12 of  
our nominees below!**





**SW 25th Ave  
Community Trail  
Fanno Creek Headwaters**

# PGE Parks Champion Award



**NOMINEE**

**Andrea Wall**

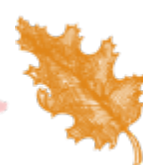
*Friends of Fanno Creek*

In 2016, Andrea created the Friends of Fanno Creek Headwaters, and her restoration efforts have involved the coordination of hundreds of volunteers to remove invasive ivy and blackberry and planting thousands of native plants in their place. Beyond invasive plant removal, her restoration efforts have improved stormwater management, creek bank erosion, and contributed to educational engagements for youth, teens, and community members.



Support this work  
and learn more:  
[myowf.org/friends-of-fanno-creek-headwaters](https://myowf.org/friends-of-fanno-creek-headwaters)

presented and celebrated by:



Portland Parks  
Foundation







## Forest Park Soft-Surface Trails

# PGE Parks Champion Award



### NOMINEE

## Bill Banister

### *Forest Park Conservancy*

Bill is a rockstar caretaker of Forest Park's 80 miles of trails; cleaning, maintaining, and repairing them on a near daily basis and a first responder in emergencies. Bill is known for not only having the necessary tools in his pocket, but also handily inventing tools to fix specific trail issues like clogged culverts. He holds a wealth of knowledge, and his passion and expertise contribute to daily trail access and volunteer enthusiasm.



Support this work  
and learn more:  
[forestparkconservancy.org](https://forestparkconservancy.org)

presented and celebrated by:

 Portland Parks  
Foundation







## Johnson Lake Natural Area

# PGE Parks Champion Award



### NOMINEES

## Bill Bradford & Kathy Oliver

Bill and Kathy have been stewards of Johnson Lake for over 9 years, dedicating their weekends to cleaning up hundreds of pounds of trash from the environment, bettering the health and safety of the lake, its inhabitants and its visitors. When the job is too big, they ask for help and make major improvements to the area. By creating connections with Johnson Lake, their work encourages people to return, recreate, and continue to care for it through trash removal or other habitat enhancement projects.



Support this work  
and learn more:  
[columbiaslough.org](http://columbiaslough.org)

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## Hoyt Arboretum

# PGE Parks Champion Award



### NOMINEE

## Des Murphy

### *Hoyt Arboretum Tuesday Crew*

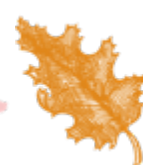
Des Murphy has been an integral member of Hoyt Arboretum's Tuesday Crew for 20 years. In 2023, Des volunteered nearly 200 hours with the Tuesday Crew alongside an additional 15 dedicated crew members, helping to keep the park clean, safe, and beautiful. He goes above and beyond, creating a culture of sharing knowledge and experience with others on the crew, and making teammates feel cared for.



Support this work  
and learn more:

[hoytarboretum.org/about/  
hoyt-arboretum-friends/](https://hoytarboretum.org/about/hoyt-arboretum-friends/)

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**Grant Park  
Mt. Tabor  
Khunamowkst Park**

# PGE Parks Champion Award



**NOMINEE**

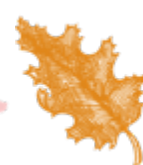
## **Hannah Crosfield** *Girls on the Run*

Hannah is a volunteer coach for Girls on the Run Greater Oregon (GOTR). As a coach Hannah helps guide 3rd - 5th grade girls through social-emotional curriculum over the course of 10 weeks. Coming to GOTR as a previous participant, she has successfully led 10 teams over the last 6 years. Hannah is known for her enthusiasm, patience and humor. Plus, she readily volunteers to work at parks sites which make the program accessible to more community members.



Support this work  
and learn more:  
[gotroregon.org](https://gotroregon.org)

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**Montavilla  
Community Center  
Gateway Green**

# PGE Parks Champion Award



## NOMINEE

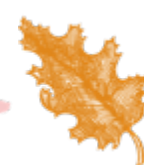
### **Jennifer Phillips** *Northwest Trail Alliance*

Jennifer Phillips has been a critical member of the Northwest Trail Alliance's mountain bike volunteer coaching staff for over three years. She patiently, cheerfully, and skillfully works with kids and adults of all ages in various settings, including those learning to ride a bike for the first time. Jenn has taken special time to provide one-on-one instruction and used her skill to perform bike clinics, allowing greater access to biking to the community.



Support this work  
and learn more:  
[nw-trail.org](https://nw-trail.org)

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**Gateway Green  
Powell Butte  
Montavilla Park**

# PGE Parks Champion Award



**NOMINEE**

**Juntu Oberg**

*Northwest Trail Alliance*

Juntu is Portland Parks & Recreation liaison for the Northwest Trail Alliance, where they voluntarily set up trainings and courses for anyone interested in mountain biking and multi-use trails. Since 2018, they have significantly expanded access to mountain biking for youth and families that face immense barriers to outdoor recreation. Through their work with NWTa, Juntu provides opportunities for participants through community social events, group rides, educational skills trainings and stewardship.



Support this work  
and learn more:  
[nw-trail.org](https://nw-trail.org)

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## Leach Botanical Garden

# PGE Parks Champion Award



### NOMINEE

## Norm & Kaye Fetscher *Leach Garden Friends*

Norm and Kaye have been actively involved with the Leach Botanical Garden on a weekly basis for over five years. Kaye contributes to fundraising and community engagement while Norm has taken the role of Garden Ranger, ensuring the safety and effectiveness of the garden's systems. The Fetschers are unfailingly kind, respectful, and welcoming to all visitors at the garden. They embody the mission of the garden to provide a safe, welcoming, restorative garden for all visitors to enjoy.



Support this work  
and learn more:  
[leachgarden.org](https://leachgarden.org)

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## Spring Garden Park

# PGE Parks Champion Award



### NOMINEE

**Pam Fox**

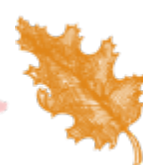
*Friends of Spring Garden*

As the Community Events Committee co-chair for Spring Garden Park, Pam has partnered with PP&R to host 9 volunteer events since October 2023, with 5 more planned for spring 2024. Her work has been a major boost for community engagement and outreach for the park. Pam also helps lead volunteers during events and works closely with park horticulturalists to plan projects and gather materials and tools, contributing to park sustainability and engagement.



Support this work  
and learn more:  
<https://swni.org/mult-nomah-neighborhood-association/spring-garden-park/>

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**Marquam  
Nature Park  
Forest Park**

# PGE Parks Champion Award



**NOMINEE**

**Robin Jensen**

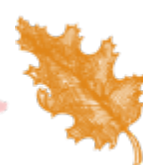
*Marquam Nature Park*

Robin Jensen has been volunteering to care for parks and natural areas in Southwest Portland for over 30 years. A major advocate for sustainable habitats and restoration, she was key in starting the Backyard Habitat Certification Program, seen now in over 11,000 yards. Robin's devotion to Marquam Nature Park can be seen in over 20 years of volunteer leadership and the development of a collaborative mosaic featuring flora and fauna to welcome visitors to the natural area.



Support this work  
and learn more:  
[fmnp.org/](https://fmnp.org/)

presented and celebrated by:



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**Whitaker Ponds  
Johnson Lake  
Wilkes Creek Headwaters**

# PGE Parks Champion Award



## NOMINEE

# Stephen Cameron

Steve is a devoted volunteer at Whitaker Ponds and other wetland areas, where his work contributes to habitat stability, tree canopy, and environmental education. He has helped lead high school students to build and install turtle basking platforms at Whitaker Ponds, and recently engineered a protective cage for the wapato bulbs he planted at Whitaker. Steve is known for his kindness, consistency, helpfulness, warmth, and his creative engineering mind.



Support this work  
and learn more:  
[columbiaslough.org](https://columbiaslough.org)

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**Lents Park  
Lent Elementary  
Lents Neighborhood**

# PGE Parks Champion Award



**NOMINEE**

**Tom Ralley**  
*Green Lents*

Tom Ralley is a certified master gardener who has worked with Lent Elementary school on community garden and conservations projects for over 16 years, partnering with Green Lents and the community. Tom can handle many tasks with ease: identifying needs, leading planting events, advocating for the projects. He works within the community to address historic inequities through conservation projects. He puts into action his hope for Lents to have improved livability.



Support this work  
and learn more:  
[greenlents.org](https://greenlents.org)

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