



Plan now for spring celebration

BY JANIS MOHR-TIPTON

This spring, 2023, we will be celebrating and honoring our very patient donors and volunteers who have supported Cantrall Buckley Park for the past year!

We offer our sincere apologies for the postponement of the planned October gathering. Our concerns of air quality, health issues, and availability of people to help plan the event became real, and we had to make the tough decision to postpone the event. We tried our best to get the notice out but apologize again for not getting the information to enough media outlets.

The good news is you can mark your 2023 calendars for Saturday, April 29. The park is already reserved, plans are moving forward, more nature-scaping improvements and projects will be finished, and the park will be in bloom for a great gathering of the community.

Throughout 2022 the park has welcomed community help in clearing areas of the park from invasive blackberries, vinca, and English ivy. Our helpers have included SOLVE volunteers and several youth outdoor education programs. ("SOLVE" was originally an acronym for Stop Oregon Litter and Vandalism; it is now the official name of a Portland-based nonprofit.)

Youth programs in 2022

The Applegate Partnership's Grow Youth program took root in the 2021-2022 school year with middle school students participating in outdoor education with classroom and field work outdoors in the park each week. They study plant identification, conduct soil studies, plant desired species, and learn to collect monitoring data. This year, students are returning to the park each week to continue collecting data, monitor changes from last year, and assess the work they can do that fits their curriculum needs.

We plan to continue the successful trail maintenance training this spring and encourage anyone interested in assisting to contact us.

We also expanded the Grow Youth program in October by partnering with Central Medford High School students. The course centered on ecological restoration, and 15 students participated three days a week. Course topics included invasive species, plant identification, riparian areas, cycling matter, soil health, and forestry tools. The course provides instruction, skill building, and hands-on training at the park's Dragonfly Place and the riparian area. The students are very engaged and have been a tremendous help in prepping the Dragonfly Place for the upcoming installation of our memorial boulder and planting of native species.

Finally, we have partnered with Southern Oregon University (SOU) graduate students for fall in the field with fifth- and sixth-grade students. This outdoor education program is providing practical experience for the SOU graduate students while providing curriculum and service work for them in the park. Some students are choosing to help with removing invasive species and some have helped with priming and painting the new garbage-collection boxes with park scenes.

Community volunteers

Thank you to each of our volunteers for all the hours you have given the park. We are currently working in the upper lawn area near the entrance and have cleared blackberries to make space for planting low-profile native shrubs and to create a more successful environment for our pollinator garden. We welcome more help, and I will be posting upcoming opportunities on the local media outlets.



Two Central Medford High School students paint a tree with a mix of latex paint and masonry sand down by the river to help deter a beaver from chewing on the tree. Photo: Benjamin Ho.



Central Medford High School students participating in APWC's Grow Youth Program at Cantrall Buckley Park behind (and in) a giant pile of English ivy they removed from Dragonfly Place (the Grandma Aggie Memorial site). Photo: Benjamin Ho.

Maintenance

Maintenance is really important for the park and other community settings. Maintenance of our project sites in Cantrall Buckley and around our community is critical for creating a healthy, useful, and aesthetically pleasing community space. The park needs your help; if we can develop a pool of volunteers, the required maintenance will feel more like a gathering and social time than work. Please consider including your youth with family participation.

Also needing maintenance assistance, the Ruch Outdoor Community School has a community garden area that needs support over the summer months. We

are working together to develop a pool of volunteers for both areas, and we ask that you please consider this as an opportunity.

Thank you again to all the people who support our community by donating time, labor, and funding for projects. Together we are a strong community with a vision for future generations.

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Park Enhancement and
Restoration Teams:

A Greater Applegate: 541-702-2108
Applegate Partnership and Watershed
Council: 541-899-9982
Ruch Outdoor Community School:
541-842-3850

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- Installs
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- Use of organic practices

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