

2008 ANNUAL REPORT

ASHLAND PARKS & RECREATION

North Mountain Park Nature Center





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OVERVIEW

This report summarizes the 2008 operation of the North Mountain Park Nature Center, a branch of the Ashland Parks and Recreation Department. The Nature Center oversees activities in three main areas: education, recreation, and restoration. Educational programs, which are presented to school groups and the community at large, focus on local natural and cultural history and the demonstration of eco-friendly practices. Recreational opportunities are provided through the Center's indoor exhibits, demonstration gardens, outdoor interpretive trails, and a variety of hands-on programs and events. Restoration activities engage students and citizens in a variety of activities geared toward enhancing native biodiversity at North Mountain Park and at other park sites in Ashland.

HISTORY

The idea of having a nature center at North Mountain Park arose from citizen input during the early planning phase of the larger sports park in 1995. After more than a year of well-attended public meetings, the Ashland Parks Commission approved the idea of restoring the floodplain portion of the 40-acre park and developing a nature center on the site. Since 1997, the Ashland Parks Department has funded the planning and implementation of the community-led vision for the Nature Center and its associated programs.

STAFFING

The Nature Center staff consists of three full-time permanent positions: a Stewardship Coordinator, an Education Coordinator, and a Receptionist. In addition, the Nature Center was again awarded an AmeriCorps volunteer during 2008, marking the sixth year this position has served the Nature Center. The Nature Center lost one temporary position during 2008—that of Interpretive Coordinator. This 80% time position, which combined the oversight of a variety of interpretive projects with the role of Educational Programs Assistant, was turned into a 7 month Graphic Design independent contract. Additional support staff includes the Park's Promotion Coordinator, Recreation Superintendent, and a variety of grounds and facilities management positions.



*From left to right:
Lucy Whitridge, Karin Onkka, Linda Chesney,
Sherrill Deckelman, Jim Janousek, and Kari Gies*

OVERVIEW CONTINUED...

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers continue to play a very important role in all areas of the Nature Center's projects and programs, logging a total of 4,381 hours during 2008. Oversight and support for this ever-growing pool of volunteers continued to be a joint effort of all staff members. A big focus of the volunteer coordination during 2008 was to show clearly where each volunteer was helping out and with which staff person he/she was working. To accomplish this, a new volunteer log notebook was created with color-coded categories and individual volunteer log sheets. Another addition during 2008 was the posting of a volunteer calendar on the main bulletin board to make it easier to coordinate volunteer projects and to help staff members become more aware of which volunteers to expect on any given day.

Service Outside the Nature Center

Volunteers put in hundreds of hours during 2008 in the Demonstration Gardens, the Natural Area, and at other park locations. Many hours were logged by members of the Ashland Garden Club, who continued to maintain the Heirloom Garden in front of and around the Nature Center. In addition, volunteers logged numerous hours throughout the year helping out with one or more of the bird monitoring programs at North Mountain Park. Volunteers participating in service learning programs logged many hours both at North Mountain Park and other park sites.



The Heirloom Garden at North Mountain Park

Program Instructors

Volunteers continued to play a significant role in helping to present the school field programs and service learning programs in the spring and fall. A new addition to the program line-up during 2008 was the Briscoe Geology Park program presented to students in the 4th grade. Volunteers attended a two-day docent training before helping to teach the students in the classroom and at the Geology Park. Volunteers were also utilized in the teaching of a variety of community education programs, which helped to keep program costs down.

Events

Volunteers again played a very significant role in all three events sponsored by the Nature Center this year: Earth Day, Migratory Bird Day, and the Salmon Festival.

Volunteer Recognition

All volunteers were invited to a recognition event in June. In addition, volunteers who contributed 20 or more hours during the year received a punch card good for any Ashland Parks & Recreation programs, while those contributing over 40 hours were able to choose between a Nature Center hat or t-shirt.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

Community programs held at North Mountain Park and other park facilities are offered to participants of all ages throughout the year. Topics include local and natural history, gardening, and sustainability.

In 2008, 98 Community programs were presented. All programs were open to the general public and were advertised in local venues, and through the Ashland Parks & Recreation Guide, and the Nature Center website and newsletter. Attendance was strong in 2008, and programs coordinated by the Nature Center were offered at other sites including Lithia Park, Briscoe School Geology Park, Hald-Strawberry Park, Oredson-Todd Woods, Southern Oregon University campus, the Bear Creek Greenway, and other indoor Ashland Parks & Recreation facilities.

Events

The Nature Center produced three major public events in 2008: Rogue Valley Earth Day in April, Migratory Bird Day in May, and the Bear Creek Salmon Festival in October. Since the location change of **Rogue Valley Earth Day** from the Nature Center to ScienceWorks Hands-on Museum, the Nature Center and Ashland Parks & Recreation have reduced their level of responsibility while still playing a major role in the event. Again in 2008, despite chilly weather, thousands of people turned out for the event.



2008 *Rogue Valley Earth Day* event
—Photo Courtesy Charles Bennett

Rogue Valley Migratory Bird Day is celebrated each year on the second Saturday of May at the time when International Migratory Bird Day is celebrated internationally. It is a collaborative effort strongly supported by Rogue Valley Audubon Society, the Klamath Bird Observatory and other volunteers. The event was attended in 2008 by approximately 200 participants who gave very positive feedback about their experience.

The fifth annual **Bear Creek Salmon Festival**, coordinated by a committee of contributing partners, was designed to enable participants to visit a variety of exhibits located throughout the park and to learn about salmon and ways of helping to protect and enhance their habitat including the conservation of water and energy, eating sustainable salmon, planting native plants, cleaning up streams, and reducing storm water pollution. Rainy weather put a damper on this year's attendance. An estimated 600 visitors came to the event, down considerably from the previous Salmon Festival. Slightly more than 300 salmon dinners were served (including discounted volunteer meals). A good time was had by those who attended, but North Mountain Park staff and the committee are considering possible changes to the event for next year.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS CONTINUED...

SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Pre K: The Nature Center's main outreach to children ages 2 to 5 during 2008 was through a series of puppet shows. The puppet shows, which are presented year-round to both families and pre-schools, introduce young children to their local natural and cultural environment. Each show uses animal puppets to enact a story that teaches a seasonally appropriate lesson. The puppet show is followed by a snack and craft or discovery activity. Weather permitting, the activities utilize an area of the park's gardens or Natural Area. Families and teachers are encouraged to take the children on a tour of the park after their activity as a way of re-enforcing the lesson of the day. Along with 14 community puppet shows presented in 2008, six additional puppet shows were presented to local preschools.

K to 5th grade: 2008 was the twelfth year that Ashland elementary students came to North Mountain Park for field trips. Continuing to follow the Scope & Sequence that was finalized with the help of teachers in 1999, the topics presented included History of the Rogue Valley and Geology of the Rogue Valley. A new addition to these programs was the development of a History Background Booklet and a Geology Background Booklet. These booklets are being developed as a series, one for each of the six Scope and Sequence topics, and form the core of the Nature Center's interpretation on local natural and cultural history. In the history programs 26 classes participated, and in the geology programs 28 classes participated.



Nature Center instructor, Heidi Wacker, instructs an elementary school student.

A new program was developed this year for classes interested in learning more about geology. The program incorporates a classroom presentation and a site visit to the new Briscoe Geology Park in Ashland. In addition to the program, teachers receive a 30-page curriculum guide and each student receives a 6-page workbook. During the fall, three 4th grade classes participated in the Briscoe Geology Park program.

The Interpretive Signs of North Mountain Park program, which up to this time had always involved sixth graders, was offered to a fifth grade class at Walker school during the spring of 2008. The class helped to write and illustrate a series of signs which interpreted local history. The signs were incorporated into the atmosphere of the old barn, where they could be viewed by recreational visitors as well as students who participated in the spring history programs.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS CONTINUED...

SCHOOL PROGRAMS

6th—8th grade: In 2008, 21 middle school programs were presented to Ashland students. Seven 6th grade classes participated in the all-day Compass and Survival program, which was again held at EarthTeach Forest Park in the Cascades; six 6th grade classes participated in Water of the Ashland Middle School which combined an in-class presentation with an outdoor service-related activity on the Ashland Middle School campus. Eight 7th and 8th grade classes participated in a three-part program on Ethnobotany.

High School: This year the Nature Center informally adopted a policy to serve the Ashland High School (AHS) community by providing staff support to those teachers providing outdoor science and ecology activities, such as the forestry field trips organized by AHS science teachers, Jim Hartman and Todd Hobein. North Mountain Park staff and AmeriCorps volunteer helped facilitate two field trips in Ashland for three environmental studies classes and one field trip to the Applegate Valley.

STUDENT PROJECTS

The Nature Center facilitated one student project during 2008. Southern Oregon University Geology major Julie Smitherman worked two semesters researching and writing a visitor booklet for the new Briscoe Geology Park. As an outcome of her involvement with the new park, Julie became a Geology Park Docent, leading 4th grade classes through the program, which took place both in the classroom and at the Briscoe Park. Ashland High School student Aaron Morrison, who completed his project at North Mountain Park during 2007, held his Eagle Scout Ceremony near the Shastamma, which he helped build in July of 2008.



Southern Oregon University student Julie Smitherman

RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

NORTH MOUNTAIN PARK

Nature Center

The Nature Center remained open Monday through Friday from 8:30am until 4:30pm throughout the year. During the summer, the Center was open on Saturdays from noon until 5:00pm. The Nature Center continued to serve as a hub for guests of all kinds, from first-time visitors to neighbors who make frequent visits. The main tools for orienting visitors to the park continued to be the bulletin boards, the brochure racks, and the large outdoor interpretive map, in addition to a full-time receptionist.

The main exhibit room continued to be set up to interpret local cultural and natural history. During the spring, the room highlighted the history of the Rogue Valley while the fall installation featured geology. New this year was the incorporation of a Sustainability Wall in the Exhibit Room. During the geology installation, the sustainability wall was used to demonstrate a variety of things that people can do to reduce their use of fossil fuel.

Adjacent to the main exhibit room is a lab room which is also used as an interpretive area for visitors. New this year was the development of a wildlife sightings board inside the lab room. This board is intended to clue visitors into interesting plant and animal sightings around the park. A “teaser” board in the reception area was also developed this year to guide visitors back to the lab room sightings board. The lab room was also used during the spring to again display the live-feed spy cam which views the inside of a swallow nest box located in the park’s Natural Area. Near the spy cam there is also a monitor showing the current weather as reported by the park’s roof-mounted weather station. This year the weather station’s data was consistently linked to the Nature Center’s website. Web browsers can now view this almost real-time weather information and past data by going on-line to www.northmountainpark.org and clicking on *Online Weather Station*.



A live-feed spy cam is located inside a swallow nest box in the park’s Natural Area. The feed can be viewed inside the Nature Center and online at www.northmountainpark.org.

Also housed within the Nature Center is a collection of over 1,200 books and periodicals, all of which are catalogued using the library of congress system. This collection is available for visitors’ use during regular visitor hours. The collection, which grew by approximately 5%, continued to be maintained by a single volunteer.

RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES CONTINUED...

Gardens

The Heirloom and Demonstration Gardens surrounding the Nature Center serve as a resource for many park visitors, docent tours, educational programs, and as habitat for a variety of wildlife. In 2008, the gardens were again maintained primarily by both casual and highly committed volunteers as well as Nature Center staff. As a new incentive this year, volunteers were offered free gardening mini-workshops on a monthly basis during the growing season. These workshops were well received by volunteers, who can utilize their new skills both in their home gardens and at North Mountain Park. The Jackson County Master Gardeners have agreed to assist with similar programs in 2009.

Heirloom Garden

The Heirloom Garden was designed and is maintained by members of the Ashland Garden Club. Based roughly on the American Victorian Garden, this garden is designed in a more informal style, reflecting the Pacific Northwest pioneer era. New interpretive signs in each of the garden beds can be used by park visitors in conjunction with the spiral bound garden booklets located on the west porch.

Demonstration Gardens

The Demonstration Gardens serve as a model for citizens interested in creating wildlife habitat and in practicing sustainable gardening techniques at home. The gardens were again used in several community education classes offered this year. Seeds collected from the demonstration gardens will be available to participants in our first annual seed swap, as well as in the Nature Center reception area year round.

Interpretive Trails

The wood chip trails, which cover approximately 8 acres within the Natural Area of the park, continued to be maintained by Parks Staff and a variety of volunteers. The trails provide physical recreation, wildlife observation, and, a chance to learn more about the local natural history through the Park's interpretive signage. There were several new small interpretive signs placed along the trails during 2008, including one highlighting the activity of a very active beaver near Bear Creek, and another one describing the use of the umma, a winter dwelling, in the Indian Village.

The Ethnobotanical Trail, which was constructed in 2005, continues to be used to show how local Native Americans utilized a variety of native plants. This year, a series of benches were added along the trail so that park visitors could stop to relax.

In addition to the interpretive signs and brochures, the park features two areas used to highlight local cultural history. The first area, commonly referred to as the Indian Village, contains a winter lodge or umma, such as those utilized by the Shasta when wintering near Lithia Park, a tanning rack, a fish rack, and a fire ring. During the summer of 2008, a covered shade structure, made of native madrone and cattail, was added to the village.

At the other end of the park is an old barn structure. As part of the history program offered during the spring, this area was embellished to more closely resemble a pioneer homestead. Added features included an heirloom garden, a working water pump, and a series of chicken nest boxes. These features will remain as part of the park's permanent outdoor interpretation.

RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES CONTINUED...

Additional Park Amenities

One of the most popular features of the park continues to be the spiral serpent sandbox. This feature was given an added bonus during the summer of 2008 with the addition of a large umbrella to shade approximately a third of the sand area. Another popular feature is an area along the bike path which is now used for the building of temporary shelters. In the past, as many times as park workers have taken the structure down it has been re-built, so it is now being maintained as an exploration feature of the park. In conjunction with the field programs during the spring of 2006, seven small animal homes were built near the amphitheater. Four homes (coyote, red-tailed hawk, bear and turtle) are being maintained for use in conjunction with the park's Animal Discovery Kit. In addition to the features described above, North Mountain Park contains two small playgrounds, a bike path, and several ball-fields, all of which can be used by park visitors.

Discovery Kits



The Nature Center has developed a series of kits that can be checked out at no cost any time the center is open. The kits are used in exploring the natural and cultural features of North Mountain Park. They are geared for families or small groups, ages five and older. During 2008, four kits were available: Aquatic Insects, Birding, Owl Pellets, and Rock Cracking.

An afternoon along Bear Creek with North Mountain Park's 'Aquatic Insects' Discovery Kit

Drop-in Programs and Events

While the majority of the Nature Center's community programs require pre-registration, a few do not. These programs, all of which are free, are offered so that visitors may come and go at will. During 2008, 38 drop-in programs were offered at North Mountain Park in several areas including: birding, monitoring, and gardening.

RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES CONTINUED...

OTHER PARK AND SCHOOL SITES

Briscoe Geology Park

This park is located at the former Briscoe Elementary School, which closed due to lack of enrollment. The idea for the Geology Park came up during a Nature Center-led teacher workshop in 1996. Since that time, local geologist Len Eisenberg has donated his time, talent, and financial support for the completion of the park. The Nature Center has worked with Len to create a series of sign, a visitor booklet, and a series of docent-led school programs for the park. This unique Geology Park, which features three Time Walks and hundreds of interpretive tiles, can be visited at any time. The Nature Center coordinated three school programs and two community programs at the Geology Park during 2008.

Lithia Park

Nature Center staff also worked on a series of new signs for Lithia Park during 2008. One of the signs, which will be installed at the front of the park, is an orientation sign featuring a hand-painted map of the entire park. A series of other signs will provide information on the ducks that inhabit the upper duck pond in Lithia Park and will help to inform visitors of the relationship between the overfeeding of the ducks and the poor water quality in the pond.

Ashland Community Garden

Located on the Ashland Creek Park property on Hersey Street, the Ashland Community Garden provides recreational garden space for non-commercial organic gardening. There

are 43 plots of various sizes that are leased by annual subscriptions at the start of each calendar year. A volunteer garden manager and Nature Center staff collaborate to coordinate garden registration, volunteer involvement, and other activities. In 2008, a new policy was implemented requiring a minimum of four hours of volunteer effort by all members,



Ashland Community Garden on Hersey Street in Ashland

above and beyond their own plots. This effort helped maintain common areas and contributed to planning and coordination of other garden endeavors. In addition, several public classes and tours took place at the Community Garden. Several new community garden plots are under construction at Scenic Park and will also be coordinated by Nature Center staff when they become available this spring.

RESTORATION AND STEWARDSHIP ACTIVITIES

The Nature Center staff coordinates restoration and stewardship activities both at North Mountain Park and other park and school sites throughout the city of Ashland.

NORTH MOUNTAIN PARK

The approximately 14 acres lying within the Bear Creek 100-year floodplain, having been designated as a natural area, continue to be managed to maximize fish and wildlife habitat values and for use in compatible educational and recreational programs. This overall project includes several in-stream and riparian treatments designed in the attempt to return the property to a state that emulates its pre-disturbance (grazing, mining, road building, etc) condition. Ashland Parks staff continues to work directly and coordinate stewardship activities to increase habitat diversity and restore wetlands and riparian functions at North Mountain Park. **The main focus in 2008 was the increase of habitat and species diversity through further control of invasive non-native plants and propagation and planting of native trees, shrubs and perennials. A seasonal parks employee contributed significantly to restoration efforts in the Natural Area, primarily controlling invasive Himalayan blackberries.** Follow-up work took place in areas previously addressed, including: 1) the native black-cap raspberry restoration area just east of the Bear Creek alcove where non-native blackberries are being replaced by black-cap raspberries propagated in the Nature Center nursery; and 2) the oak savannah above the softball fields which was planted by the Lithia Springs Home girls and a Job Council crew with about seventy native oaks propagated in the Lithia Park nursery.



*Bear Creek at
North Mountain Park*

Monitoring at North Mountain Park

Natural resource professionals volunteers, Ashland Parks & Recreation staff, and students participate in monitoring efforts at North Mountain Park to guide an adaptive management approach to restoration efforts. It is our goal to contribute valuable scientific data to regional and global monitoring programs, teach about monitoring methods and strategies, and engage participants in exciting, authentic environmental stewardship.

Weather Station

The weather station, located on the roof of the Nature Center, feeds weather data to a monitor in the center for visitor viewing. Beginning in 2008 the weather station data can now be viewed online. This service is popular with gardeners as well as 'weather-geeks'. In conjunction with the efforts of the City of Ashland's Conservation Division to promote water conservation, citizens can use the ET, or evapotranspiration rates, accessible online to help regulate their irrigation use, thereby conserving water.

Photo Points

Photo monitoring of the park's habitat restoration areas continues. This process began in 1999. The purpose is to document changes as viewed from permanently established locations, or photo points.

RESTORATION AND STEWARDSHIP ACTIVITIES CONTINUED...

Monitoring at North Mountain Park Continued...

Birds

Several established bird monitoring programs involve citizen volunteers, professional biologists, and staff at North Mountain Park. Rogue Valley Audubon is partnering with the Nature Center for the seventh season of **Project FeederWatch**, a nation-wide program directed by Cornell Lab of Ornithology, which takes place from November to March. Audubon coordinator/volunteer Denny Niebuhr has compiled a 6-year summary which is posted on the North Mountain Park website, www.NorthMountainPark.org. Throughout the year, **monthly area search surveys** are conducted by expert level volunteers. These surveys were initiated by volunteer and retired ornithologist, Barbara Massey, who included the first two years' data in her book, "Guide to Birds of the Rogue Valley." She will be compiling a 10-year report in 2009. **Nest box monitoring** in the spring utilizes volunteers to maintain and monitor use of numbered nest boxes at North Mountain Park. Park visitors are invited to record their wildlife sightings on a dry erase board outside the Nature Center. This information is recorded on a monthly basis and reviewed by staff for updates to the North Mountain Park database. Klamath Bird Observatory (KBO) contracted with Ashland Parks & Recreation to operate the mist-netting and banding station at N MT Park during the breeding and fall migration periods this year. KBO provided programs for four school classes and seven community and informal education programs. KBO's educational programs and half of the banding effort were provided as their contribution to the mist-netting and banding project this year.

Hydrology

During the winter quarter of 2008, the Southern Oregon University (SOU) Hydrogeology G315 class, taught by adjunct professor Robert Coffan and assisted by others, installed a fully functional monitoring well in the shallow aquifer at N MT Park next to the bike path and slightly north-west of the batting cage. The well is in an excellent location for the assessment of groundwater conditions between the city of Ashland and Bear Creek. During spring of 2008, the G316 class collected water level measurements, sampled the monitoring well, and submitted water samples for laboratory analysis. Bear Creek was also sampled. Various parameters were analyzed by SOU students in the science lab. Results were provided to the Oregon Water Resources Department, Jackson County, and the City of Ashland. These field experiences proved to be a very important aspect of the students' learning about water resources because, typically, the study of natural sciences, though it is all part of the whole, is broken up into discrete areas to facilitate understanding, researching, and teaching. This lab, over time, illustrates the interaction between groundwater and surface water, as well as communities and natural riparian environments.

Animal Forensics Study

Under the direction of Bonnie Yates at the National Fish & Wildlife Forensics Lab in Ashland, a monitoring study is underway at North Mountain Park after the discovery of a dead deer in the Natural Area. In animal forensics, determination of the "time of death" (TOD) or time since death is a major component in the investigation of illegal wildlife killing, also known as poaching. Using a controlled setting that allowed for natural decomposition processes to occur, data on changes in the immediate postmortem period, gross changes to the soft tissues related to the passage of time and climatic variation, and the succession of insects that visit and colonize a carcass are documented and submitted to Bonnie by AmeriCorps volunteer Jim Janousek and Lucy Whitridge. The information will be made part of training materials for estimating TOD.

RESTORATION AND STEWARDSHIP ACTIVITIES CONTINUED...

RESTORATION AT OTHER PARK SITES

Clay Street Park

Clay Street Park, located on Cemetery Creek just off of Ashland Street, was the site of a riparian planting work party in the fall of 2007 after Ashland Parks staff removed a major stand of blackberries. Several volunteer follow-up efforts were coordinated in 2008 for the continued planting, controlling of weeds, and laying of mulch in the park's riparian area.

Lithia Park

In 2008, work parties and service learning programs addressed the education of citizens and the control of invasive species in Lithia Park. Scotch broom and English ivy were the principal species removed, with other alien problem species also targeted.

Ashland Pond

Ashland Pond, below Quiet Village, is a site often used for educational exploration by Helman School teachers and students, as well as by neighborhood visitors. Ashland Parks staff recently repaired a failed control structure allowing the pond to begin filling again after the failure had caused the pond to lose water. Ashland Parks crews also assisted with removal of blackberries on the site. The Nature Center staff and our AmeriCorps volunteer assisted Lomakatsi Restoration Project staff this fall with a planting work party that involved classes from Helman School. The site offers rich opportunities at a close walking distance to the school. North Mountain Park staff may be involved in future restoration and educational activities.

STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The Nature Center staff coordinates stewardship activities at North Mountain Park as well as at other park and school sites. According to the EPA, "Environmental stewardship is the responsibility for environmental quality shared by all those whose actions affect the environment." By engaging in stewardship activities, participants make a connection with, and gain understanding of, their environment while helping to make positive changes in their communities.

Service Learning

Service learning is a teaching and learning strategy that integrates meaningful community service with instruction and reflection for the enrichment of the learning experience and for the teaching of civic and environmental responsibility. During 2008, 21 classes and service groups (580 individuals) in grades 3 to 12 came to North Mountain Park and other park sites to participate in service learning programs.

Outdoor Service

Outdoor Service programs provide students and community members with opportunities to engage in outdoor service activities at North Mountain Park or other park sites. Participants are provided with tools, snacks, instruction and background information relevant to the specific service projects. No formalized educational program is included. In 2008, 15 groups totaling 175 individuals participated in service programs facilitated by Nature Center staff and volunteers. In addition 219 hours of individual service were logged in the Natural area in 2008.

SUSTAINABILITY

The Nature Center promotes sustainability through educational and stewardship programs, interpretive displays, and resource materials, and by modeling sustainability practices.

GREEN BUSINESS PROGRAM

In 2008, North Mountain Park Nature Center and Ashland Parks & Recreation Department participated in an assessment process with the City of Ashland's Green Business program. The City of Ashland's Green Business Program is a voluntary program that encourages environmental stewardship while practicing economical and ecologically sound business practices. Flexible criteria are addressed for organizations of any size and type. They center on activities that promote resource conservation, reduce waste, minimize pollution and provide education for employees and the public. Their hope is that participation will bring numerous benefits to participating businesses including: lower resource and waste disposal costs, the satisfaction of minimizing impacts on the natural environment, and recognition for working to build a stronger and healthier community.

GREEN LIVING PROJECT



Energy-efficient hand dryers at North Mountain Park

In 2008 plans were developed for "The Green Living Project." The goal of this project is to promote the sustainable living practices demonstrated on-site at North Mountain Park Nature Center and its surrounding grounds. Educational information about these practices will be made available through classes including: a web page, an interpretive brochure, and interpretive signs. The intended result will be for community members and park and website visitors to incorporate these sustainable living ideas into their own lifestyles. As a start, two energy-efficient hand dryers were installed in the Nature Center, replacing the paper towel dispensers. Additional grant money will assist in developing this project further in 2009.

NORTH MOUNTAIN PARK NATURE CENTER 2008 AT A GLANCE

Community Programs & Events

Number of programs: 98

Number of events: 3

Number of day camps: 2

School Programs

Number of pre-school programs: 20

Number of K-5th school programs: 58

Number of K-5th home school programs: 5

Number of 6th-8th programs: 21

Number of 9th-12th programs: 3

Number of student projects completed: 1

Total number of students served: 1,900

Service & Service Learning Programs

Number of Outdoor Service programs: 15

Number of Service learning programs: 21

Total number served: 530

Volunteers

Number of North Mountain Park individual volunteer hours logged: 2,800

Number of group volunteer hours logged: 820

Number of event volunteer logged: 448

Number of work party hours logged: 126

Number of mandatory service hours logged: 187

Total: 4381

Projects Completed

Installation of a new shade structure as part of the outdoor Native American Village

Installation of a pump/garden as part of the Pioneer Interpretation near the Barn

Installation of a new large umbrella for the Spiral Serpent sand play area

Development of a ramped trail from the Pavilion into the Natural Area

Construction of new metal roof on the barn

Development and installation of four orientation signs at the new Briscoe Geology Park

Installation of a new indoor wildlife sightings board

Updated History of the Rogue Valley program along with a new background booklet

Updated Geology of the Rogue Valley program along with a new background booklet

Continuation of blackberry removal between Bear Creek and Ethnobotanical Trail

Propagation and planting of 420 trees, shrubs, and wildflowers at North Mountain Park and off site

Installation of groundwater monitoring well at North Mountain Park

Installation of two low energy hand dryers at North Mountain Park (part of the Green Living Project)

Community Education Programs 2008

Season	Program	Date/s	Instructor/s	Location
WINTER / SPRING	Project FeederWatch	January 5, 19 February 2, 16 March 1, 15	Rogue Valley Audubon Society	North Mountain Park
	Winter Bird Walk	January 5	Vince Zauskey	North Mountain Park
	Hawks, Masters of the Sky	January 9	Dick Ashford	North Mountain Park
	Preschool Puppet Theatre	January 11 February 8 March 14 April 11	Staff	North Mountain Park
	Drawing & Creative Writing in Your Nature or Garden Journal	January 12, 13 ,19	Irene Brady	The Grove
	Pruning Wisteria	January 15	Patrick Marcus	North Mountain Park
	GPS and Geocaching	January 26	Alexandra Steiner	North Mountain Park
	Crafting with Gourds	February 2	Staff	Pioneer Hall
	Ashland History — What North Mountain Park Tells Us	February 6	Jan Wright & Staff	North Mountain Park
	DOs and DON'Ts of Landscape Design	February 12	Bonnie Bayard	North Mountain Park
	“Collected from the Wild” — A Natural Basket Class	March 1	Louisa Lenz-Porter	North Mountain Park
	Peter Britt’s Pioneer Victorian Garden	March 5	Donn Todt	North Mountain Park
	Nature and Landscape Draw- ing	March 8, 9, 15	Irene Brady	The Grove
	Pine Needle Basketry, an Introduction	March 8	Sue Yamins	North Mountain Park
	Propagation — Growing your Own Plants	March 15	Jennifer Ewing	North Mountain Park
	Composting — Such a Green Thing to Do!	March 15	Jennifer Ewing	North Mountain Park
	Spring Garden Work Party Volunteer Orientation	March 19	Staff	North Mountain Park
	Exploring Art in Nature	April 3, 10, 17, 24	Rebecca Slosberg	North Mountain Park
	Spring Wildflower Walk	April 5	Jim Duncun	Lithia Park
	Spring Birding Walk	April 9	Staff	Oredson-Todd Woods
	Rogue Valley Earth Day Celebration	April 19	Staff	ScienceWorks Hands-on Museum
	Noxious Weed Pull	April 26	Staff	Lithia Park
	Spring Nature Walk	April 29	Staff	Hald-Strawberry Park
	Rogue Valley Geology	May 7	Len Eisenberg	Briscoe Geology Park

Community Education Programs 2008 Continued...

Season	Program	Date/s	Instructor/s	Location
SUMMER	Migratory Bird Day	May 10	Staff	North Mountain Park
	Nature Sketching & Journaling	May 24, 25, 31	Irene Brady	The Grove
	The Universal Medicine Wheel	May 29	Nancy Bloom	Community Center
	Flintknapping: The Art of Making Stone Tools	June 7	Jeff Gottlieb	North Mountain Park
	Birding-by-Ear	June 11	Ashley Dayer	North Mountain Park
	Demonstration Garden Tours	June 11, 28 July 16, 26 August 13, 23 September 10, 27	Susan Lander	North Mountain Park
	Preschool Puppet Theatre	June 13, 27 July 11, 25 August 8, 22	Staff	North Mountain Park
	Summer Morning Bird Walks	June 14 July 12 August 9	Rogue Valley Audubon Society & Klamath Bird Observatory	North Mountain Park
	Composting Classes	June 14 July 12 August 23 September 27	City of Ashland Conservation Commission	Recycling Center
	Moonlight Overnight	June 17—18	Staff	North Mountain Park
	Nature & Landscape Drawing	June 21, 22 & 28	Irene Brady	The Grove
	Pest Management for the Organic Home Gardener	June 21	Patrick Marcus	North Mountain Park
	Exploring Nature Youth Day Camp	June 23—27	Siskiyou Field Institute	North Mountain Park
	Volunteer Appreciation Night	June 26	Staff	North Mountain Park
	Let's Pull Together	June 28	Jackson Cooperative Weed Management Area Group	North Mountain Park
	Youth Nature Writer's Camp	July 7—11	Oregon Writing Project	North Mountain Park
	Edible & Medicinal Plant Walk	July 9 August 30	Jon Carlson	North Mountain Park
	Birds in the Hand	July 12	Ashley Dayer	North Mountain Park
	Full Moon Nature Walk	July 16	Staff	Lithia Park
	Wildflower Walk	July 26	Jim Duncan	MT Ashland

Community Education Programs 2008 Continued...

Season	Program	Date/s	Instructor/s	Location
SUMMER	Dream Pillow Making	July 31	Mieko Flynn	North Mountain Park
	Smoke on the Horizon: The Role of Fire in Our Forests	August 3	Jim Janousek	Ashland Fire Ecology Trail
	Blackberry Wine Making	August 13	Carla David	North Mountain Park
	Full Moon Nature Walk	August 17	Staff	North Mountain Park
	Star Party	August 23	Southern Oregon Skywatchers	North Mountain Park
FALL	Preschool Puppet Theatre	September 12 October 10 November 14 December 12	Staff	North Mountain Park
	Fall Projects in the Perennial Garden	September 13	Jennifer Ewing	North Mountain Park
	What is an Old Growth Forest?	September 20	Thomas Atzet	North Mountain Park and field trip
	Autumn Delight Tree Walk	September 10, 27	Anne Rich, Kelly Cruser, John Rinaldi	Lithia Park
	Bicycle Birding	September 27	Bob Quaccia	Bear Creek Greenway
	Introduction to Permaculture	October 1	Cynthia Care	North Mountain Park
	Nature and Landscape Drawing for Beginners	October 4, 5 November 8, 9	Irene Brady	The Grove
	Bear Creek Salmon Festival	October 4	Staff	North Mountain Park
	Green and Solar Tour	October 11	Ashland Conservation Division	Various locations around Ashland
	Rogue Valley Geology	October 18	Len Eisenberg	Briscoe Geology Park
	Nature Drawing & Water Color Pencil Painting	October 25, 26 November 22, 23	Irene Brady	The Grove
	Hargadine Cemetery Tour	October 25	Jan Wright	Hargadine Cemetery
	Composting with Worms	October 29	Paige Prewett	North Mountain Park
	Restoration Work Party	November 1	Staff	Clay Street Park
	Project FeederWatch	November 8, 22 December 6, 20	Rogue Valley Audubon Society	North Mountain Park
	Soap-Making Workshop	November 8	Louisa Lenz-Porter	Community Center
	Natural Cleaning Products	November 19	Staff	Pioneer Hall
	Natural Holiday Wreaths	December 5, 6	Staff	North Mountain Park
	Holiday Crafts from Nature	December 17	Staff	The Grove
	Wonders of the Winter Solstice	December 18	Richard Moeschl	Pioneer Hall

School Programs 2008

2008 School Program Participants — North Mountain Park Nature Center

School	Teacher	Grade Level	Program/s
BELLVIEW	Renee Gardiner	1	History (spring)
	Candace Palmesano	3-5	History (spring); North Mountain Park Geology (fall)
	Max Schmeling	3-4	History (spring)
	Pamela Eddington	2	History (spring); North Mountain Park Geology (fall)
	Laura Rogers	2	History (spring); North Mountain Park Geology (fall)
	Shirley Preskenis	4	North Mountain Park Geology (fall)
	Cathy Murphy	5	North Mountain Park Geology (fall)
HELMAN	Mia Driscoll	K	History (spring); North Mountain Park Geology (fall)
	Michelle Cuddeback	5	History (spring)
	Kari Smith	1	History (spring); North Mountain Park Geology (fall)
	Tia McClean	1-2	History (spring); North Mountain Park Geology (fall)
	Gail Buettner	1	History (spring); North Mountain Park Geology (fall)
	Valerie McCoy	2	History (spring); North Mountain Park Geology (fall)
	Mary Snowden	K	History (spring)
	Shirley Sumner	1-2	History (spring); North Mountain Park Geology (fall)
	Berit Larson	3	History (spring)
	Trish Dorr	4	North Mountain Park Geology (fall); Briscoe Geology (fall)
	Mark Sherbow	4	North Mountain Park Geology (fall)
WALKER	Inge Kendrick	1-3	History (spring)
	Debi Blair	3	North Mountain Park Geology (fall); Briscoe Geology (fall)
	Diane DeMerritt	1-2	History (spring)
	Shannon Wolff	1-2	History (spring); North Mountain Park Geology (fall)
	Nancy Keim	4-5	History (spring); North Mountain Park Geology (fall); Briscoe Geology (fall)
	Lynn Fain	3	History (spring); North Mountain Park Geology (fall)
	Nancy Sirski	2	History (spring); North Mountain Park Geology (fall)
	Morgan Cottle	5	History (spring); North Mountain Park Geology (fall)
	Stephanie Henner	K	History (spring); North Mountain Park Geology (fall)
	Chris Stokes	1	History (spring); North Mountain Park Geology (fall)
	Heidi Heidig	5	North Mountain Park Geology (fall)
	Rebecca Jones	2	History (spring)
	Amy Kneeland	4	North Mountain Park Geology (fall); Briscoe Geology (fall)
	Courtney Carver	3-4	North Mountain Park Geology (fall)
	Kathleen O'Shea	3-4	North Mountain Park Geology (fall)
	Kathleen Mateas	2	North Mountain Park Geology (fall)
Tim Brandy		Compass and Survival (spring)	

School Programs 2008 Continued...

2008 School Program Participants — North Mountain Park Nature Center

School	Teacher	Grade Level	Program/s
WILLOW WIND	Judith Ann McBride	3-5	History (spring);
	Shirley Cochran	K	North Mountain Park Geology (fall)
	Sue Pindell	4-5	North Mountain Park Geology (fall)
HOME SCHOOL	Home School	K-3	History (spring)
	Home School	3-5	History (spring)
	Home School	K-3	North Mountain Park Geology (fall—2 classes)
	Home School	3-5	North Mountain Park Geology (fall)
ASHLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL	Lynn Kuntsman	7	Ethnobotany (spring—4 classes)
	Kristi Healy	7-8	Ethnobotany (spring—4 classes)
	Susan Frey	6	Compass and Survival (spring)
	Terry Karlin	6	Compass and Survival (spring); Compass and Survival (fall); Water (fall)
	Andy Burt	6	Compass and Survival (fall); Water (fall)
	Bonnie McCracken	6	Compass and Survival (fall); Water (fall)
	Dick Streng	6	Compass and Survival (fall); Water (fall)
	Gary McNeal	6	Water (fall)
	Therese VanReenen	6	Compass and Survival (spring); Water (fall)



Ethnobotany program at Ashland Middle School

Service Learning 2008

Group	Leader/Teacher	Date	No. of People	Service Hours	*Total Hours	Work Completed/Location
Southern Oregon University — Japanese students	Meagan Lauing	2-7	7	2.5	10.5	Trail chipping at North Mountain Park
Lithia Girls	Megan Mitchell	2-9	12	2	12	Birding and trail chipping at North Mountain Park
Home school	Diane Kloek	2-15	14	3	21	Planted willows, chipped existing plants near beach creek, and birding at North Mountain Park
Lithia Girls	Megan Mitchell	2-16	12	2	12	Project FeederWatch (birding) at North Mountain Park
Medford Opportunity High School	Kate Giles	2-21	4	2	4	Cut back blackberries along bike path and birding at North Mountain Park
Medford Opportunity High School	Kate Giles	2-22	3	2	3	Weeded non-native vegetation around pine trees (pine trees) at North Mountain Park
Medford Opportunity High School	Kate Giles	2-28	6	2	6	Removed poison hemlock from ethnobotanical trail (Ethnobotany) at North Mountain Park
Medford Opportunity High School	Kate Giles	2-29	4	2	4	Cleaned tools and other equipment (Water Quality) at North Mountain Park
Jacksonville Elementary	Patricia Kuhn	4-10	20	2	20	'Pine Tree' Service Learning at North Mountain Park
Ashland Middle School	Terry Karlin	4-25	25	2	25	'Bird Nerds' Service Learning at North Mountain Park
Sacred Heart Girls Scouts	Patty Hubbert	4-30	14	2	14	Chipped trails and 'What's in Bear Creek?' Service Learning at North Mountain Park
Howard Elementary	Cheryl Lashley	5-9	25	2	25	'Bird Nerds' Service Learning at North Mountain Park
Butte Falls	Danielle Cozad	5-14	27	2	27	'Bird Nerds' Service Learning and trail chipping at North Mountain Park

*Correct service learning hours (hours multiplied .5)

Service Learning 2008 Continued...

Group	Leader/ Teacher	Date	No. of People	Service Hours	*Total Hours	Work Completed/ Location
Howard Elementary	Cheryl Lashley	5-19	75	2	75	'Bird Nerds' Service Learning at North Mountain Park
Ashland Middle School	Eric Sandrock	5-21	84	2	84	Ivy pull and 'Weed 'Em and Eat 'Em' Service Learning at North Mountain Park
Sacred Heart Girls Scouts	Susan Prelhere	6-1	15	2	15	'What's in Bear Creek?' Service Learning at North Mountain Park
Willow Wind	Sherly Cochran	6-2	7	2	7	Riparian weeding and 'What's in Bear Creek?' Service Learning at North Mountain Park
Orchard Hill	Bonnie Swanberg	6-2	75	2	75	Mulching and 'What's in Bear Creek?' Service Learning at North Mountain Park
Migrant Education Camp	Bill Hunt	7-16	15	2	15	Mulching and Ethnobotany game 'Trade It' Service Learning at North Mountain Park
Konaway Nika Tilliam	Chava Florendo	7-29	25	2	25	'What's in Bear Creek?' Service Learning, chipped and watered black-capped raspberries at North Mountain Park
Havurah Camp Gesher	Ayala Zonnenschein	8-6	15	2	15	'Mulching and Macros' Service Learning at North Mountain Park
Unitarian Fellowship	Louise M Pare	9-28	20	2	20	Mulched paths and Ethnobotany game 'Trade It' Service Learning at North Mountain Park
Willow Wind	Kevin Cooney	10-22	10	1	5	Water quality testing and spread grass seed in the natural area at North Mountain Park
Walker Elementary	Amy Kneeland	11-21	23	2	23	Ethnobotany program and planted native shrubs at North Mountain Park

*Correct service learning hours (hours multiplied .5)

Outdoor Service 2008

Class	Individual/ Teacher	Date	No. of People	Service Hours	Total Hours	Work Completed/ Location
Lithia Girls	Megan Mitchell	1-19	12	2	24	Mulched oak, oak sprouts on far side of park and observed birds in Buffet at North Mountain Park
Lithia Girls	Megan Mitchell	1-26	9	2	18	Created habitat piles out of down branches and created a small stone bridge at North Mountain Park
Lithia Girls	Megan Mitchell	3-1	12	3	36	Chipped oaks and put in identification stakes at North Mountain Park
Lithia Girls	Megan Mitchell	3-15	12	3	36	Cut back blackberries near bathrooms along Beach Creek at North Mountain Park
Willow Wind	Mimi Chouard	4-11	13	2	26	Created new compost pile and created pioneer garden at North Mountain Park
Lithia Girls	Megan Mitchell	5-24	13	3	39	Planted willows and chipped existing plants near Beach Creek at North Mountain Park
Lithia Girls	Megan Mitchell	5-31	10	3	30	Pulled non-native weeds and chipped trails at North Mountain Park
Lithia Girls	Megan Mitchell	6-14	13	3	39	Chipped black-capped blackberries and watered, planted OR sunshine at North Mountain Park
Lithia Girls	Megan Mitchell	6-28	11	3	33	Pulled starthistle at North Mountain Park
Lithia Girls	Megan Mitchell	7-27	13	3	39	Weeded scouring rush and watered oaks at North Mountain Park
Lithia Girls	Megan Mitchell	10-1	12	1.5	18	Strung up salmon banners and cut out salmon hats for the Bear Creek Salmon Festival at North Mountain Park
Lithia Girls	Megan Mitchell	10-25	14	3	42	Spread compost in garden beds and planted native grasses in the riparian area at North Mountain Park
Community Work Party	Ashland Parks & Recreation	11-1	16	3	48	Restoration work party, weeded, and mulched plants in riparian area at North Mountain Park
Lithia Girls	Megan Mitchell	11-22	12	3	36	Planted native shrubs at North Mountain Park
The Siskiyou School	Catherine Razi	12-5	16	1	*16	Weeded and mulched native riparian plants at Clay Street Park

*Correct outdoor service hours (hours multiplied .5)

North Mountain Park Natural Area



North Mountain Park Nature Center
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