

2010 Annual Report



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Mission...

To share knowledge of the local natural and cultural environment
and to foster healthy and sustainable communities.

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North Mountain Park Nature Center

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2010 AT A GLANCE

Community Programs & Events

Number of programs: 135
Number of events: 3
Number of day camps: 2

School Programs

Number of K-5 school programs: 39
Number of K-5 home school programs: 4
Number of 6-8 programs: 4 Map & Compass; 4 Water
Number of 9-12 programs: 2
Number of Briscoe Geology Park programs: 18
Total number of programs: 71
Total number of students served: 1,988

Outdoor Service & Service Learning Programs

Number of Outdoor Service programs: 8
Number of Service learning programs: 17
Total number served: 469

Student Projects

Number of student projects: 8
Total number of students served: 10

Volunteers

Number of North Mountain Park individual volunteer hours logged: 3,966
Number of group volunteer hours logged: 156
Number of event volunteer hours logged: 75
Number of work party hours logged: 68
Number of mandatory service hours logged: 222
Total number of volunteer hours: 4,487

Projects Completed

Living Willow structure
Willow corral
Domestic animal display near the barn
Restoration plant walk and outdoor display
North Mountain Park plant checklist
Compost brochure
Green Living compost signs
Green Living garden signs
Environmental Art service learning program development
Water conservation lesson plan for Ashland High School
Part II of the Native American Background Booklet
Completion of 12 Native American and 12 Ethnobotanical Interpretive Cards
Updating the entire set of Bird Interpretive Cards
Updating all 8 Discovery Kits
Installation of 7 CreatureQuest Boxes



OVERVIEW

This report summarizes the 2010 operation of the North Mountain Park Nature Center, a branch of the Ashland Parks & Recreation Department. The Nature Center oversees activities in three main areas: education, recreation and stewardship. 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. Educational and recreational opportunities are provided through the Center's indoor exhibits, demonstration gardens and outdoor interpretive trails. Restoration activities engage students and citizens in a variety of activities geared toward enhancing native biodiversity.



Demonstration Gardens —
Backside view of the North Mountain Park Nature Center.

Along with programs and activities at North Mountain Park, the Nature Center staff is becoming increasingly involved with projects at other park sites. One example of this extension relates to the coordination of the three community gardens, which are located at Scenic Park, Clay Street Park, and Ashland Creek Park. Nature Center staff have also increased the reach of potential interpretive opportunities by coordinating a number of surveys which will be used to help guide interpretive projects in Lithia Park and other park and trail locations. Volunteer work parties have also been extended beyond North Mountain Park, and this is a trend which is expected to continue.

STAFFING

The Nature Center staff includes three full-time positions: a Stewardship Coordinator, Linda Chesney; an Education Coordinator, Kari Gies; and a Receptionist, Sherrill Deckelman. In addition, Americorps Volunteer, Libby VanWyhe finished her year of service with the Nature Center in August of 2010. Due to internal staff changes, Libby, along with volunteer instructor Deirdre Young, were brought on board to assist with reception. There were two key contractors hired during 2010 to help develop educational and interpretive materials: Jayme Neil came on in late May to assist with the research and development of the park's Native American programs, and Karin Onkka continued to bring her graphic design skills to bear on a variety of interpretive projects at North Mountain Park and Lithia Park.



Karin Onkka —
Interpretive Coordinator for the North Mountain Park Nature Center.



OVERVIEW CONTINUED...

VOLUNTEERS / INDOOR

While volunteer receptionists helped enormously by assisting visitors and staff from the front counter, numerous other volunteers were critically helpful behind the scenes, assisting staff on a wide variety of projects. In 2010 these volunteers contributed by prepping materials for school programs, researching and formatting of Discovery Kits, editing numerous written materials, formatting all manner of interpretive materials and assisting with the design and production of exhibits and bulletin boards.

Ongoing volunteer assistance was also very helpful in the ongoing maintenance of the Nature Center's large collection of objects, the maintenance of the books and other Resource Room materials, the cataloguing of digital photos, and the updating and maintenance of a variety of records related to the Center's ongoing monitoring and educational programs. Altogether, over 800 hours were logged by volunteers helping with visitor services and other associated projects inside the Nature Center during 2010.

VOLUNTEERS / OUTDOOR

North Mountain Park conducts outdoor service programs and community work parties that offer students and community members outdoor service and stewardship opportunities. Participants are provided with equipment, gloves and snacks. While no formalized educational program is included, participants receive instruction and background information relevant to the specific service projects. In 2010, students from the Lithia Girl's Home, as well as a number of unaffiliated community members, participated in eight service days facilitated by Nature Center staff. Service activities included composting, constructing the environmental art mandala and removing invasive species such as blackberry, puncture vine and yellow star thistle. In addition, a dedicated contingent of individual volunteers conducted 239 hours of Outdoor Service.

In addition to service projects, volunteers continued to provide a critical component to the teaching of outdoor programs. Volunteers contributed 790 hours teaching the outdoor K-5 Field Programs, and another 248 hours were tallied by volunteers helping with Service-learning programs. Bird monitoring volunteers logged 154 hours, and 125 volunteer hours were logged for community events. In addition, a record number, 1,311 hours, were provided by volunteers helping in the Demonstration and Heirloom gardens.



Southern Oregon University exchange student Kana Hashimoto helped teach acorn processing during the fall field programs.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS & EVENTS

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

In 2010, 135 Community Education programs were offered, including many workshops which were taught by volunteer instructors. Even though some fees were raised and scholarships were not available this year, enrollment was strong with many people self-registering far in advance of scheduled dates and few program cancellations due to low enrollment. The Nature Center staff coordinated programs at North Mountain Park, Lithia Park, Briscoe School Geology Park, Hald-Strawberry Park, Oredson-Todd Woods and several other Ashland Parks & Recreation facilities and provided a program for seniors at Hunter Park Senior Center.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

The Nature Center was involved in the production of three free public events in 2010: Rogue Valley Earth Day on April 24, Migratory Bird Day on May 8, and the Bear Creek Festival on October 2. North Mountain Park staff served on the planning committee for Rogue Valley Earth Day which took place again at ScienceWorks Hands-on Museum. Planning, publicity, logistics, and recycled craft activities were some of Ashland Parks & Recreation's responsibilities. Ashland Parks & Recreation/North Mountain Park will again sponsor next year's event and provide limited support but will not serve on the planning committee.

Rogue Valley Bird Day was celebrated on the second Saturday of May in keeping with International Migratory Bird Day tradition. This collaborative effort was strongly supported by Rogue Valley Audubon Society, the Klamath Bird Observatory and other volunteers. Attendance in 2010 was approximately 250 to 300 participants of all ages. The all-ages bird calling contest and Name-That-Bird contest (new this year) drew several enthusiastic participants and a large appreciative audience. Also new this year, was the participation of the Ashland Art Gallery which provided creative hands-on art activities at the event.

The Bear Creek Festival, formerly **Bear Creek Salmon Festival**, experienced sunshine and warm temperatures for the first time in several years. The event is a great opportunity to showcase the entire park, and the good weather helped to facilitate that. The festival is coordinated by a committee of contributing partners. It features exhibits and activities through which participants learn how to protect fish habitat in local streams, enhance wildlife habitat in riparian areas, conserve water and energy, and reduce storm water pollution. The food concession was contracted out again this year, reducing the work load on staff and volunteers. An estimated 700 visitors came to the event, slightly more than the previous Salmon Festival. Very positive feedback was received by participants and exhibitors.



A Middle Rogue Steelheader instructs a young angler.
Photo Courtesy Jim Chamberlain



EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS & EVENTS CONTINUED...

SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Grade K-5: 2010 marked the fourteenth 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, topics covered during 2010 included: “Animals of the Rogue Valley” in the spring and “Native Americans of the Rogue Valley” in the fall. A total of 1,025 children participated in the programs this year.

A new feature of the spring programs was the inclusion of live farm animals, including ponies, sheep, and goats, into the domestic animal portion of the programs. The new woven willow corral, which was made without the use of any hardware, conveniently housed the animals which volunteers brought out to each of the programs. In 2010, 19 classes participated in this program. The Park’s Native American Village played a significant role in the fall programs. Both the willow shade structure and the cedar-roofed umma were updated in preparation for this use. The Native American programs were attended by 20 classes. In addition, four home school programs were presented, two in the spring and two in the fall.

Middle School Programs: Four Compass and Survival classes were taught to 6th graders



6th grade students attempted to build a shelter as part of their Compass & Survival program.

during the spring. A significant change in this annual offering was the relocation of the class to the Oredson-Todd Woods site. This change was an improvement in terms of time and money over the older version, which was taught at Earth Teach up in the Cascades. A second 6th grade program, Water of the Ashland Middle School, was presented at the school to four classes in mid-November. During the service portion of this program, the rain garden, which had been installed during last year’s program, was utilized as a demonstration of water conservation.

High School Programs: A program on water conservation was offered to two high school science classes in February 2010. With the help of the Jackson Soil and Water Conservation Agency, this program incorporated two rain barrel construction labs.

Geology Park Programs: This was the third year of presenting programs to school groups at the newly developed Briscoe Geology Park. This program, which is open to any classes in grades 3 through 12, includes both a classroom presentation and a site visit to the Geology Park. Classes were taught by local geologist and park designer, Len Eisenberg, who presented 18 programs in 2010.



EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS & EVENTS CONTINUED...

STUDENT PROJECTS

2010 marked the fifteenth year that the Nature Center partnered with Ashland High School and Southern Oregon University (SOU) on senior, capstone and thesis-level projects. Ten students, including three high school seniors, four undergraduate students and three graduate-level Environmental Education students completed projects with the Nature Center.



SOU graduate student Sarah Finstad created a plant display and plant walk to help teach Park visitors about the use of plants in the Park's restoration efforts.

Projects included two citizen surveys, the creation of an interactive map activity highlighting ethnobotanical plant uses, the use of track plates and trip cameras in the Park's mammal monitoring program, the development of two interpretive displays, the creation of a new plant walk, and the painting of a large mural in the Nature Center's exhibit room. In addition, several students from SOU came to the park on their own time to help teach school programs and service learning programs.

SOU graduate student Josh Hodorf volunteered to help teach children about Native American hunting traditions.



EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS & EVENTS CONTINUED...

SERVICE LEARNING PROGRAMS

Service learning is a stewardship strategy which integrates meaningful community service with instruction and reflection in order to teach civic and environmental responsibility. These programs offer discrete service and educational components which provide a reciprocal benefit to the park as well as the student group. During 2010, 26 classes and service groups (563 individuals) in grades 3-12 participated in service learning programs. Service learning projects resulted in 549 hours of outdoor service conducted at North Mountain Park, and other park sites.

North Mountain Park offers service learning activities on a variety of subjects including: aquatic macro-invertebrates, birding, water quality, ethnobotany, and invasive species control. In the last year, we augmented our offerings by developing a new service learning activity in collaboration with a local Environmental Artist, Gabriella Kirby. In the new Environmental Art activity, students are introduced to the principles that unify this artistic movement. Students then create their own art pieces using natural materials. The service component of the activity includes construction and maintenance of a landscape-scale environmental art mandala. Approximately 60 students participated in the construction of the mandala as well as in the removal of invasive species to enhance the surrounding habitat.



Environmental Artist Gabriella Kirby leaps with enthusiasm!

2010 also saw several staffing changes at the Nature Center. For the last six years, service learning programs have been coordinated by full-time *AmeriCorps* members from the Northwest



Libby VanWyhe instructs service learning participants.

Service Academy (NSWA). The position of Service Learning Coordinator has played a vital role in the park's educational programs, stewardship and organization. Unfortunately, this year, NSWA funding was cut at the federal level, and this important staff position disappeared when the last *AmeriCorps* term ended in September. With increased volunteer commitment, North Mountain Park will continue to offer service learning; however, it will be challenging to meet the community demand for these programs.



VISITOR SERVICES

NATURE CENTER

During 2010, the Nature Center was open to the public each Monday through Friday. Local community members, as well as many out-of-town visitors, enjoyed the services of the Nature Center throughout the year. Although the main exhibit room was temporarily closed due to the painting of the new mural and the updating of exhibits, the reception area was in continual use by visitors. Visitors inquired and learned about the park's activities and events, local wildlife sightings, hiking areas, dog-friendly parks, and sustainability opportunities.



Jenna Kesgen designed and painted the exhibit room mural.



Along with the exhibit room mural, there were several interpretive materials completed during the year including a plant checklist, which lists all of the native and

non-native plants found at the park, a new compost brochure, and several new interpretive cards for to Native American lifeways and local mammals.

In addition, a variety of existing materials were updated, including the completion of the Native American Background Booklet, the inclusion of plant sketches in the Native and Ethnobotanical Plant Booklets, and updates to all of the Interpretive Bird Cards.



VISITOR SERVICES CONTINUED...

GARDENS

The Nature Center's Heirloom and Demonstration Gardens serve as a resource for park visitors, docent tours, educational programs, and as habitat for a variety of wildlife. The gardens were beautifully maintained this year by a core group of highly committed volunteers as well as "drop-in" gardeners. In spite of summer's late start, the season was very successful.

Heirloom Garden

Based roughly on the American Victorian Garden, this garden is designed in a somewhat less formal style, reflecting the Pacific Northwest pioneer era. The Heirloom Garden was designed and is maintained by members of the Ashland Garden Club. This group of dedicated gardeners continued in 2010 with their long-term, volunteer commitment.



The rose arbor at the entrance to the Demonstration Garden.

Demonstration Gardens

The Native Plant Garden, Butterfly and Reptile/Amphibian Gardens, Herb Gardens and Bird Buffet were a main attraction for many park visitors in 2010. They continue to serve as a community model for creating wildlife habitat and practicing sustainable gardening techniques in a residential setting.



Grace Green and Lyn Levin volunteer with enthusiasm in the demonstration herb garden.

The gardens were also used in community education classes and school programs. Seeds collected from the gardens were made available to the public during the annual seed swap in January, and seed packets were for purchase in the Nature Center throughout the year. The volunteer gardening season began this year with a spring orientation and work party which attracted new volunteers. The season

ended with a small autumn appreciation gathering during which the volunteers contributed some excellent feed-back that will help to guide garden-related activities next growing season.



VISITOR SERVICES CONTINUED...

NATURAL AREA

Living Willow Shelter and Willow Corral

A graceful, woven structure was constructed in the park's Natural Area early this year. As the native willow boughs grow, they will enhance the beautiful living shelter from which students can learn about nature while listening to the creek. Native willow was also used to weave a functional corral for farm animals that participated in the spring school programs. The corral was also used at the Bear Creek Festival in October and will remain as an attractive part of the pioneer exhibit area near the barn.



Libby VanWyhe shows off the living willow shelter.

Interpretive Trails

The Ethnobotanical Trail was used in many school programs and service learning activities to show how local Native Americans utilized the native plants of our region. Several nodes along the trail are used to interpret the area's cultural roots. The "Indian Village," which interprets pre-historic Shasta lifeways, was used throughout the year during various school programs and community service programs and events. The "pioneer barn" was used to interpret early Ashland history. New in this area, is a self-guided plant walk and a farm animal display. Walking trails were maintained by volunteers and staff to provide physical recreation, wildlife observation, and access to interpretive signs and displays.

Discovery Kits

Discovery Kits can be checked out for children between the ages of 6 and 12, for use throughout the park. Topics of these hands-on kits include rock-cracking, birding, the dissection of owl pellets, aquatic insects, animal tracks and signs, and birding. The kits are very popular both with kids and parents as well as grandparents. All eight kits were updated in 2010 to include an easy-to-use instructional booklet.

CreatureQuest

The CreatureQuest is a fun, new place-based adventure that uses clues and observations to encourage exploration of the Natural Area of North Mountain Park. Using clues in the CreatureQuest passport, visitors can discover some of the wild creatures that might be seen in a variety of habitats. This activity is suitable for individuals and groups of all ages. It allows participants to search at their own pace using the clues, map and directions provided to find the CreatureQuest boxes throughout the park. Inside the boxes, are pictures and interesting facts about each creature that lives nearby and attached stamps to mark a passport. Before leaving, participants are asked to sign the guest book and share their thoughts about the experience.



STEWARDSHIP ACTIVITIES

RESTORATION & STEWARDSHIP AT NORTH MOUNTAIN PARK & OTHER PARK SITES

North Mountain Park staff continue to coordinate restoration and stewardship activities working directly with Ashland Parks & Recreation staff, community volunteers and other organizations to increase habitat diversity and restore wetlands and riparian functions at North Mountain Park. Given the constraints of the new department-wide herbicide policy, control of invasive species at North Mountain Park and other sites has been the primary focus of stewardship efforts this year.

City of Ashland Volunteer Storm Drain Marking Program

For the past several years, North Mountain Park has coordinated volunteer efforts to mark storm drains throughout the city. In the past, North Mountain Park staff have equipped and coordinated volunteer efforts to spray paint storm drains with a warning stating “No Dumping, Drains to Stream.” In 2010, the City of Ashland revamped the storm drain marking program in order to comply with their NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) permits, and Nature Center Staff collaborated on this development process. The new incarnation of the Storm Drain Marking Program is intended to mobilize community volunteers to install placards on every storm drain in the City of Ashland.



Volunteer team with storm drain marking equipment.

The Nature Center Service Learning Coordinator created a volunteer manual and protocols for drain marking events, detailing everything from registration to standardized reporting practices. Marking kits were compiled containing personal protective equipment and all necessary materials, maps and reporting forms. The Nature Center also designed a door hanger which explained the storm drain marking program, and provided pollution prevention tips. Publicity for the program was accomplished at North Mountain Park’s Earth Day booth, at which multiple volunteers were se-

cured. Nature Center Staff also created an educational presentation about watershed protection and participated in a television presentation on John Stromberg’s *Living with Nature* program. Finally, our staff provided training and equipment to five self-propelled volunteer teams and marked 192 storm drains. Having been successfully piloted, the Volunteer Storm Drain Marking Program will continue as a collaboration between the Street Department and Rogue River Keepers. Having lost the Service Learning Coordinator position due to closure of the statewide *AmeriCorps* program, North Mountain Park staff will only provide committee staffing.



STEWARDSHIP ACTIVITIES CONTINUED...

RESTORATION & STEWARDSHIP AT NORTH MOUNTAIN PARK & OTHER PARK SITES CONTINUED...

Ashland Middle School

North Mountain Park staff have again offered a lesson titled, “Water of the Rogue Valley” to four Ashland Middle School sixth grade classes. Last autumn, the lesson plan included a service project to maintain a rain garden built by students and volunteers during the previous year’s program on the campus, and to remove invasive species from a wetland area on the school grounds.

A student helps to set rocks in the Ashland Middle School Rain Garden.



Ashland Pond

Due in part to the loss of the *AmeriCorps* volunteer, North Mountain Park staff was less involved this year in coordinating programs at Ashland Pond, below Quiet Village. Within walking distance of Helman Elementary School, the site is often used for educational exploration. Helman teachers and students have adopted the site as an ongoing restoration project with assistance from Ashland Parks & Recreation staff and Lomokatsi Restoration Project.

Clay Street Park

North Mountain Park staff helped to coordinate efforts to help maintain the native plantings along Cemetery Creek during 2010, which included mulching the planting site and removing a dense stand of annual weeds. Volunteers were recruited from the neighborhood Siskiyou school and the adjacent community garden.

Work Parties

North Mountain Park staff coordinated two publicized work parties at locations beyond North Mountain Park in 2010. A puncturevine pull took place during a busy Grower’s Market morning on an easement at the new Ashland Armory, educating and recruiting shoppers from the market. Following the Bear Creek Festival, using proceeds from the silent auction, a successful Bear Creek Park work party was coordinated collaboratively with staff from North Mountain Park, Rogue Valley Council of Government and Bear Creek Watershed Council.



STEWARDSHIP ACTIVITIES CONTINUED...

MONITORING

Natural resource professionals, volunteers, students, and Ashland Parks & Recreation staff participate in monitoring efforts which help to guide adaptive management of the North Mountain Park natural area. The North Mountain Park monitoring efforts contribute valuable scientific data to regional and global monitoring programs, teach about monitoring methods and strategies, and engage participants in exciting, authentic environmental stewardship.

Evidence of beaver activity near Bear Creek.



Weather Station

An indoor interpretive display is being developed in the lab room near the monitor where data is received from the weather station, located on the roof of the Nature Center. The weather station display is currently being reformatted for more user-friendly viewing online — a popular service for gardeners and recreation enthusiasts. The new formatting will include educational information about the weather station's instruments and sustainable living suggestions.

North Mountain Park Weather Station.



STEWARDSHIP ACTIVITIES CONTINUED...

MONITORING CONTINUED...

Birds

Due to Ashland Parks & Recreation budget constraints Klamath Bird Observatory (KBO) did not contract with Ashland Parks & Recreation to operate the mist-netting and banding station at North Mountain Park for the breeding season in 2010. KBO still ran the banding station for Rogue Valley Bird Day. Volunteers, biologists and staff are still engaged in several established bird monitoring programs at the Nature Center including Project FeederWatch, which takes place from November to March, and monthly area search surveys conducted by expert-level volunteers throughout the year. Nest box monitoring utilizes volunteers to maintain and monitor use of numbered nest boxes during the spring and summer breeding season at North Mountain Park. Due to a rat infestation, the nest boxes will be removed in 2011. Park visitors are still 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.



Project FeederWatch participants enjoy a sunny day for monitoring birds.

Mammals

Two student groups continued with the Park Department's ongoing mammal monitoring, using a series of track plates and a trip camera. The monitoring was also incorporated into the 3-5 grade Animal programs during the spring of 2010.



Sarah Finstad helps students identify mammal tracks.

SUSTAINABILITY

In keeping with the Nature Center and Ashland Parks & Recreation goals, all staff members continue to strive toward operating and educating with sustainability as a priority.

GREEN BUSINESS PROGRAM

As a Green Business and community sustainability model, Ashland Parks & Recreation staff have continued to follow recommendations made in the 2008 “Low Hanging Fruit” report.

- A blower door test was conducted in 2010, and no sealing measures were indicated.
- A Green Team for Ashland Parks & Recreation has been established, including Rachel Dials, Brenda Hammers and Linda Chesney. The team meets periodically to set goals and track progress.
- North Mountain Park/Ashland Parks & Recreation are now purchasing all paper products with the highest possible recycled content, duplex copying, using compostable or reusable eatware, and contracting with janitorial and cleaning services that use Earth-friendly products.
- All recycling systems at the Nature Center have been clearly labeled.
- North Mountain Park participated in the 2010 Plastics Roundup.
- Non-latex paint has been removed from the North Mountain Park bathroom.
- Three Ashland Parks & Recreation staff members attended a DEQ (Department of Environmental Quality) training session and are now implementing recommended practices.
- More Green topics have been added to educational program offerings, the Web page and interpretive displays.
- Brenda Hammers collected hazardous waste products for the annual spring disposal event.
- Almost all irrigation schedules are adjusted according to seasonally monitored weather changes.

In the future, transportation options can be explored for employees, volunteers and patrons. It would also be beneficial to begin tracking resource use by site.

GREEN LIVING PROJECT

The outdoor interpretive signs were installed in 2010, and the map of the Green Living tour map was installed on site and prominently published in the Fall Guide. Information about these sustainable living practices is also available at the North Mountain Park Web site, including a downloadable brochure. The staff has received positive feed-back from community members and visitors. The project’s indoor interpretive signs and displays are currently in development and will be completed in 2011.

GREEN EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

The Nature Center again expanded its offerings of educational programs that focus on sustainability topics. Resource conservation programs were very popular this year and more programs were offered to accommodate the strong interest in growing food at home such as a half-day winter workshop on planning and growing a vegetable garden. Also added were offerings in preparing food using produce from the home garden.

Sustainability practices were also incorporated into the school programs, for example, modeling the green lunch buckets as part of the K-5 school field programs.



COMMUNITY GARDENS

The Ashland Community Gardens provide recreational garden space for non-commercial organic gardening. Located on the Ashland Creek Park property on Hersey Street, the first community garden site operated through Ashland Parks has 43 plots of various sizes that are leased by annual subscriptions at the start of each calendar year. Scenic Park Community garden (10 plots) is in its second year and a new garden opened at Clay Street Park consisting of 12 plots. Volunteer garden managers and a Nature Center staff coordinator collaborate to manage garden registration, volunteer involvement, and other activities. Several public classes and tours took place at the Hersey Community Garden in 2010. All garden members volunteer a required minimum of four hours effort to help maintain common areas and contribute to planning and coordination of other garden endeavors. As of January, 2011 all gardens are full with wait lists.



Ashland
Community
Garden.



COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

SEASON	2010 PROGRAM	DATE/S	INSTRUCTORS/S	LOCATION
WINTER / SPRING	Project FeederWatch	Jan 2, 16, 30 Feb 13, 27 Mar 13, 27	Audubon Volunteers	North Mountain Park
	Hawks, Masters of Flight	Jan 6	Dick Ashford	North Mountain Park
	Preschool Puppet Theatre	Jan 8, Feb 12 Mar 12 Apr 9, May 14	North Mountain Park Puppeteers	North Mountain Park
	Winter Bird Walk	Jan 9	Vince Zauskey	North Mountain Park
	Family Greeting Cards Workshops	Jan 10, 17, 24	Rebecca Slosberg	The Grove, Otte/ Peterson Rm
	Reclaim the Rain	Jan 13	Pam Lott	North Mountain Park
	Crafting with Gourds	Jan 16	North Mountain Park Staff	Pioneer Hall
	Natural Cleaning Products	Jan 21	North Mountain Park Staff	Pioneer Hall
	Garden Planning for Vegetables	Jan 23	Louisa Lenz-Porter	Pioneer Hall
	Herbal Living	Jan 23	Karen Tassinari	North Mountain Park
	Seed Swap	Jan 27	North Mountain Park Staff	North Mountain Park
	Willow & Rattan Basket Workshop	Jan 30	Louisa Lenz-Porter	The Grove Gym
	Sustainable Landscape Practices	Feb 2, 9, 16, 23 Mar 2	Bonnie Bayard	North Mountain Park
	The Bionic Energy Project	Feb 3	Robert Coffan & Austin Riba	North Mountain Park
	All about Owls	Feb 4	Vince Zauskey	North Mountain Park



COMMUNITY PROGRAMS CONTINUED...

SEASON	2010 PROGRAM	DATE/S	INSTRUCTORS/S	LOCATION
WINTER / SPRING	Winter Twig Identification	Feb 13	Kristi Mergenthlter	North Mountain Park
	Introduction to Permaculture	Mar 3	Cynthia Care	North Mountain Park
	Pine Needle Basketry An Introduction	Mar 6	Sue Yamins	North Mountain Park
	Rainstorming—Integrating Rainfall into Your Landscape	Mar 8, 15, 22, 29	Kerry KenCairn	North Mountain Park
	Permaculture Tactics & Techniques	Mar 10	Cynthia Care	North Mountain Park
	Shade Tree Pruning	Mar 13	Casey Roland	North Mountain Park
	Spring Garden Work Party	Mar 17	North Mountain Park Staff	North Mountain Park
	Starting a Kitchen Garden Using Raised Beds	Mar 28	Jennifer Ewing	North Mountain Park
	Wildflower Walk in Strawberry Hald Park	Apr 7	Dr Frank Lang	Strawberry Hald Park
	‘Birdify’ Your Garden! Habitat Landscaping for Birds	Apr 15	Klamath Bird Observatory	North Mountain Park
	Biking the Greenway to Taste Wild Edibles	Apr 21	North Mountain Park Staff	Ashland Greenway
	Rogue Valley Earth Day & Bird Day	Apr 24	North Mountain Park Staff & Others	ScienceWorks & North Mountain Park
	Spring Wildflower Walk	Apr 25	Jim Duncan	Oredson-Todd Woods
	Gardening, the Common Sense of It All	May 1	Jennifer Ewing	North Mountain Park
	Leave No Trace	May 15	Karin Burroughs	North Mountain Park



COMMUNITY PROGRAMS CONTINUED...

SEASON	2010 PROGRAM	DATE/S	INSTRUCTORS/S	LOCATION
SUMMER	Walking Tours of Ashland	Thu, May—Oct	Suzanne Marshall	Main St & Railroad District
	Landscape Maintenance: A Question & Answer Session with Carol's Colors	May 22	Carol Corbridge & Staff	North Mountain Park
	Introduction to Rain Gardens	May 25	Vicki Simpson	North Mountain Park
	Rogue Valley Geology in the Earth's History	Jun 2	Len Eisenberg	Briscoe Geology Park
	Medicinal Plant Walk	Jun 5	Karen Tassinari	North Mountain Park
	Tree Walk	Jun 5	Bobby Townsend & Anne Rich	North Mountain Park
	Demonstration Garden Tours	Jun 9, 26 Jul 14, 24 Aug 11, 28	Susan Lander & Gary Foll	North Mountain Park
	Preschool Puppet Theatre	2nd & 4th Fri, Jun—Aug	North Mountain Park Puppeteers	North Mountain Park
	Summer Saturday Morning Bird Walks	2nd Sat, Jun—Aug	Local Volunteer Birders	North Mountain Park
	Edible & Medicinal Plant Walk	Jun 12	Jon Carlson	North Mountain Park
	Herbal Tincture Making Workshop	Jun 12	Jon Carlson	School of Herbology, Ashland
	Bark Basket & Pole Peeling Workshop	Jun 13	Myron Cretney	North Mountain Park
	Earth Kamp for Kids	Jun 14—17	North Mountain Park Staff	North Mountain Park
	Urban Composting Class	Jun 19, Jul 17 Aug 21, Sep 18	Denny Morelli	Recycle Center
	Basic Cattail Basketry	Jun 19	Myron Cretney	North Mountain Park



COMMUNITY PROGRAMS CONTINUED...

SEASON	2010 PROGRAM	DATE/S	INSTRUCTORS/S	LOCATION
SUMMER	Weed Day— "Let's Pull Together!"	Jun 19	Jackson Cooperative Weed Management Area Group	North Mountain Park & other area locations
	Introduction to Dairy Goats	Jun 26	Young Family	North Mountain Park
	Ecology & Management of the Mt Ashland Watershed	Jun 26	Ashland Forest Resource Specialist Chris Chambers & local forest ecologists & resource managers	Mt Ashland
	Family Art Afternoon	Jun 27	Rebecca Slosberg	The Grove
	Sustainable Building	Jun 30	Shelley Lotz	North Mountain Park
	Evening Nature Walk	Jul 6	North Mountain Park Staff	North Mountain Park
	The Nature of Writing	Jul 6—9	Debi Blair & Max Schmeling	North Mountain Park
	Natural Tie Dye for Beginners	Jul 7	North Mountain Park Staff	North Mountain Park
	Herbal First Aid	Jul 10	Karin Tassinari	North Mountain Park
	Tree Climbing Workshop	Jul 13	Tim Kovar	North Mountain Park



Zixie, an American Alpine dairy goat, is a new addition to the domestic animals program.



COMMUNITY PROGRAMS CONTINUED...

SEASON	2010 PROGRAM	DATE/S	INSTRUCTORS/S	LOCATION
SUMMER	From Garden to Table	Jul 17	Bryan Holley	Ashland Creek Community Garden
	Summer Floral Arrangements 1-2-3	Jul 21	Gena Goddard & Darlene Fenwick	North Mountain Park
	Rain Barrel Workshop	Jul 27	Vicki Simpson	North Mountain Park
	Proper Veggie-Harvesting Techniques & Preparing for a Winter Garden	Jul 28	Jennifer Ewing	Ashland Creek Community Garden
	A Daily Dose of Herbs	Aug 7	Karen Tassinari	North Mountain Park
	Blackberry Wine Making	Aug 12	Carla David	North Mountain Park
	Collecting Native Seeds for Your Garden	Aug 14	Jim Duncan	North Mountain Park
	Making a Rainwater Harvest Plan	Aug 24	Vicki Simpson	North Mountain Park
FALL	Demonstration Garden Tours	Sep 8, 25	Susan Lander & Gary Foll	North Mountain Park
	Viewing the Night Sky: Lecture & Star Party	Sep 11	Colin White	North Mountain Park
	The Ancient Art of Camouflage	Sep 18	Joe Letsche	North Mountain Park
	Urban Composting Class	Sep 18	Denny Morelli	Recycle Center
	Edible & Medicinal Plant Walk	Sep 19	Jon Carlson	North Mountain Park
	Introduction to the Sustainable Garden or Landscape	Sep 22	Gary Krause	North Mountain Park
	Bear Creek Festival	Oct 2	North Mountain Park Staff	North Mountain Park



COMMUNITY PROGRAMS CONTINUED...

SEASON	2010 PROGRAM	DATE/S	INSTRUCTORS/S	LOCATION
FALL	Preschool Puppet Theatre	Oct 8, Nov 12 Dec 10	North Mountain Park Puppeteers	North Mountain Park
	Green & Solar Tour	Oct 9	Larry Giardina	Various
	Autumn Harvest Soups & Greens	Oct 13	Marilyn Moore	North Mountain Park
	The Ancient Art of Animal Tracking	Oct 16	Joe Letsche	North Mountain Park
	Mt View Cemetery Tour	Oct 17	Jan Wright	Mt View Cemetery
	Let Worms Eat Your Garbage & Your Improve Your Soil	Oct 18	Rhianna Simes	North Mountain Park
	Reclaim the Rain	Oct 20	Pam Lott	North Mountain Park
	Herbal Infused Oil & Salve Making	Oct 24	Jon Carlson	Vitalist School of Applied Herbology
	The Self-Sustaining Garden	Oct 25	Cynthia Care	North Mountain Park
	Bear Creek Work Party	Nov 6	North Mountain Park Staff & part- ners	North Mountain Park
	Project FeederWatch	Nov 13, 27 Dec 11, 26	Rogue Valley Audubon Society Volunteers	North Mountain Park
	Soap Making Workshop	Nov 16	North Mountain Park Staff	North Mountain Park
	Natural Cleaning Products	Nov 18	North Mountain Park Staff	Pioneer Hall
	Natural Holiday Wreaths	Dec 3, 4	North Mountain Park Staff	North Mountain Park
	Holiday Handmade Crafts	Dec 5	Rebecca Slosberg	The Grove, Otte/ Peterson Rm



SCHOOL PROGRAMS

SCHOOL	TEACHER	GRADE LEVEL	PROGRAM/S
BELLVIEW	Craig Martin	1—2	Animals (spring)
	Pam Eddington	2	Animals (spring); Native Americans (fall)
	Renee Gardener	1—2	Animals (spring)
	Joyce Schlecht	K	Animals (spring)
	Cathie Murphy	5	Native Americans (fall)
	Max Schmeling	5	Native Americans (fall)
	Robin Davis	2	Native Americans (fall)
HELMAN	Mark Sherbow	3	Animals (spring); Native Americans (fall)
	Mia Driscoll	K	Animals (spring); Native Americans (fall)
	Joe Dunbrasky	5	Animals (spring)
	Gail Buettner	1	Animals (spring); Native Americans (fall)
	Tia Mclean	K	Animals (spring); Native Americans (fall)
	Trish Dorr	1—2	Native Americans (fall)
	Valerie McCoy	K	Native Americans (fall)
	Kari Smith	1—2	Native Americans (fall)
	Toni Knox	4	Native Americans (fall)



Torin Eggers teaching the Native American school program.

SCHOOL PROGRAMS CONTINUED...

SCHOOL	TEACHER	GRADE LEVEL	PROGRAM/S
WALKER	Toni Knox	K	Animals (spring)
	Inge Kendrick	2	Animals (spring)
	Chris Abbott-Stokes	K	Animals (spring); Native Americans (fall)
	Lyn Fain	5	Animals (spring); Native Americans (fall)
	Shannon Wolff	1	Animals (spring); Native Americans (fall)
	Elisa Tacconi	1	Animals (spring)
	Susan Hunt	K	Animals (spring); Native Americans (fall)
	Debi Blair	3	Animals (spring); Native Americans (fall)
	Nancy Keim	4	Native Americans (fall)
	Kathleen Mateas	2	Native Americans (fall)

SCHOOL	AGES	TOPIC	DATE
HOME SCHOOL	9—12	Animals of the Rogue Valley	Jun 8
	5—8	Animals of the Rogue Valley	Jun 9
	9—12	Native Americans of the Rogue Valley	Oct 26
	5—8	Native Americans of the Rogue Valley	Oct 27

OTHER SCHOOLS	TEACHER	GRADE LEVEL	PROGRAM
WILLOW WIND	Sheryl Cochran	1	Animals (spring)
CHILDREN'S WORLD MONTESSORI	Wendy Hale	K	Animals (spring)
SISKIYOU SCHOOL	Christine Crawley	4	Native Americans (fall)



SCHOOL PROGRAMS CONTINUED...

SCHOOL	TEACHER	GRADE LEVEL	TOPIC	DATE
ASHLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL	Bonnie McCracken	6	Compass and Survival	May 3
	Andy Burt	6	Compass and Survival	May 5
	Grace Gonzales	6	Compass and Survival	May 17
	Terry Karlin	6	Compass and Survival	May 19
	Bonnie McCracken	6	Water of Ashland Middle School	Nov 4
	Beth Oehler	6	Water of Ashland Middle School	Nov 5
	Bonnie McCracken	6	Water of Ashland Middle School	Nov 8
	Beth Oehler	6	Water of Ashland Middle School	Nov 9
ASHLAND HIGH SCHOOL	Jim Hartman	10	Rain Barrel Construction	Feb 1
	Jim Hartman	10	Rain Barrel Construction	Feb 3



6th graders at work in the Compass & Survival program.

SCHOOL PROGRAMS CONTINUED...

PROGRAM	SCHOOL	GRADE	PRESENTATION	FIELD TRIP	DATE
BRISCOE GEOLOGY PARK	White Mt Middle School	8	5		May 3
	Ashland Middle School	6	2		Jun 1
	Ashland Middle School	6		2	Jun 3
	Willow Wind School	4	1		Sep 29
	Willow Wind School	4		1	Oct 1
	Lone Pine Elementary	6	1		Oct 12
	Lone Pine Elementary	6		1	Oct 15
	Willow Wind School	4	1		Oct 22
	Willow Wind School	4		1	Oct 25
	Wilson Elementary	6	2		Nov 29
	Helman Elementary	4	1		Nov 30
	Total Presentations			13	
Total Field Trips				5	

Briscoe Geology Park.



STUDENT PROJECTS

STUDENT	SCHOOL	PROJECT
Sam Boehnke Sadie Shelton	Ashland High School Senior Project	Lithia Reservoir Survey and Brochure
Danielle Geschwind	Ashland High School Senior Project	Native American Plant Gathering Map Game
Sabra Comet	Southern Oregon University Environmental Studies	Domestic Animals—Research
Emily Jablonski	Southern Oregon University Environmental Studies	Ashland Parks & Recreation Depart- ment Program Analysis/Survey
Dereck Estrade Alex Waroff	Southern Oregon University	Mammal Monitoring
Jenna Kesgen	Southern Oregon University Environmental Education Masters Program	Exhibit Room Mural
Sarah Finstad	Southern Oregon University Environmental Education Masters Program	Restoration Plant Walk
Sara Poggi	Southern Oregon University Environmental Education Masters Program	Teaching/Interpretation



Jinge Sun helped update the umma, part of the Native American curriculum.

SERVICE LEARNING

GROUP	LEADER/ TEACHER	DATE	NO. OF PEOPLE	HOURS (of entire activity)	SERVICE HOURS (total man-hrs of service)	WORK COMPLETED/ LOCATION
Job Council	Molly McLaughlin	Jan 28 Feb 4	20	1.25	10	Birding. Cut and dug blackberries along Bear Creek, near native plantings.
Our Lady of Guadalupe Academy	Lisa Bock	Mar 11	17	2	17	Birding. Cut and dug blackberries and hemlock near living willow structure.
Helman School 3rd Grade class	Mark Sherbow	Mar 16	25	1.5	18.75	Birding. Mulched trees and shrubs at Ashland Pond.
Riverdale High School	Laurie LePore	Mar 17	37	2	37	Water Quality. Continued cutting blackberry and hemlock and mulching around willow structure.
Medford Job Council	Christie Lawson	Mar 25	9	3	13.5	Water Quality. Cut down willows near Ashland Creek to use in willow fence.
Ashland High School Class	Allison French, Deirdre Young	Apr 23	22	2	22	Water Quality. Dug out poison hemlock by creek and animal homes.
Ashland High School Class	Jennifer Wapepah	May 6	10	2	10	Birding. Removed invasive grasses from around black-capped raspberries.
The Siskiyou School	Ghigs Razi	May 25	19	2	19	Invasive Weeds. Pulled vetch from around native plantings.



SERVICE LEARNING CONTINUED...

GROUP	LEADER/ TEACHER	DATE	NO. OF PEOPLE	HOURS (of entire activity)	SERVICE HOURS (total man-hrs of service)	WORK COMPLETED/ LOCATION
Howard Elementary	Cheryl Lashley	May 27	27	2	27	Birding. Removed annual grasses from the Native Plant Garden.
Howard Elementary	Lisa North	Jun 2	28	2	28	Birding. Removed annual grasses from the Native Plant Garden.
Howard Elementary	Jessica Silva	Jun 3	27	2	27	Birding. Removed poison hemlock from behind the Ethnobotanical garden.
Roosevelt Elementary	Karey Dixon	Jun 4	30	2	30	Macro invertebrates. Removed poison hemlock from behind the Ethnobotanical Trail.
Orchard Hill Elementary	Bonnie Swanberg	Jun 9	25	2	25	Macro invertebrates. Removed poison hemlock from behind the Ethnobotanical Trail.
Orchard Hill Elementary	Julie MacKinnon	Jun 9	25	2	25	Macro invertebrates. Removed poison hemlock from behind the Ethnobotanical Trail.
Orchard Hill Elementary	Lora Liden	Jun 10	26	2	26	Macro invertebrates. Removed poison hemlock from behind the Ethnobotanical Trail.
Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District	Vicki Simpson	Jun 25	18	1.5	13.5	Invasive species. Removed yellow star thistle from bike trail.
Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District	Vicki Simpson	Jun 25	18	1.5	13.3	Invasive species. Removed yellow star thistle from bike trail.



SERVICE LEARNING CONTINUED...

GROUP	LEADER/ TEACHER	DATE	NO. OF PEOPLE	HOURS (of entire activity)	SERVICE HOURS (total man-hrs of service)	WORK COMPLETED/ LOCATION
Cotulla High School, TX	Elio Ramirez	Jul 16	19	1.5	14.25	Water quality. Weeding and mulching native shrubs. Watered the willow structure.
Konaway Niki Tillicum	Brent Florendo	Jul 20	35	2	17.5	Water quality. Mulched black cap raspberries in riparian area.
Camp Gesher, Havurah	Andrea Shupack	Aug 3	10	2	5	Environmental Art for the mandala.
Medford YMCA, Japanese Students	Brad Russell & Kara Gandesbery	Aug 13	5	2	5	What's in the Creek. Native Seeds.
RVUUF (Rogue Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship) Religious Explorations	Louise M Pare	Sep 26	15	1.25	9.375	What's in the Creek. Removed hemlock and blackberries.
John Muir School	Lori Fleuter	Sep 30	28	2	28	Invasive Species. Removed hemlock and blackberries.
Central Medford High School	Jennifer Brinson & Brian Corbett	Oct 8	15	3	30	Birding. Remove Bird Buffet plants.
Rogue River Elementary	John Buckley	Oct 28	25	3	50	Environmental Art for the mandala.
John Muir School	Lori Fleuter	Nov 19	28	28	28	Water Quality. Chipped park trails.



OUTDOOR SERVICE

GROUP	LEADER/ TEACHER	DATE	NO. OF PEOPLE	SERVICE HOURS	TOTAL HOURS	WORK COMPLETED/ LOCATION
Lithia Girls	Bayley Putman	May 1	8	3	24	Making compost with straw and grass clippings.
Lithia Girls	Bayley Putman	May 15	10	3	30	Weeding around the out- side of the gardens and the bioswale. Installed sheet mulch.
Lithia Girls	Bayley Putman	Jun 5	9	3	27	Removing blackberries at Riverwalk beyond the Mandala.
Various Community Members & Lithia Girls	North Mountain Park	Jun 19	20	2	40	Weed Pull day. Removing star thistle along the bike path.
Lithia Girls	Bayley Putman	Jul 11	7	3	21	Removing gravel from En- vironmental Art Mandala
Lithia Girls	Bayley Putman	Jul 18	8	3	24	Carving the paths for Mandala
Various Community Members	North Mountain Park	Aug 3	4	1	4	Puncture Vine Pull at Farmers market.
Lithia Girls	Bayley Putman	Aug 7	10	3	30	Making native seed balls for the Mandala, and re- moving yellow star thistle.



Volunteers helped control invasive
weeds at North Mountain Park.

Welcome to North Mountain Park

620 N Mountain Ave
Ashland, OR 97520

541.488.6606
www.northmountainpark.org



North Mountain Avenue



★ YOU ARE HERE

-  Bioswales
-  Restrooms & Drinking Fountains
-  Children's Play Areas
-  Restricted Wildlife Areas

North Mountain Park is open daily,
sunrise to sunset

