

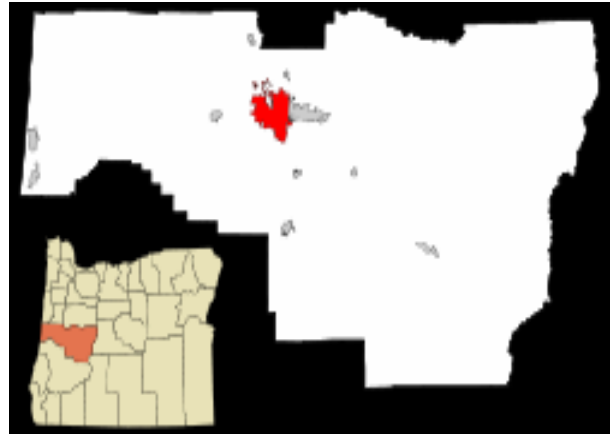
Eugene, Oregon



"The World's Greatest City of the Arts and Outdoors."

In 2005 *The Green Guide* recognized 10 green cities. A year later in 2006, in response to widespread interest, they pursued a more comprehensive evaluation, ranking each city on its performance over several criteria. The evaluated more than 251 metropolitan areas with populations of 100,000 or more. They examined them in 11 categories, which were the following. 1) air quality, 2) electricity use and production, 3) environmental perspective 4) environmental policy, 5) green design, 6) green spaces, 7) public health, 8) recycling, 9) transportation, 10) water quality, and 11) socioeconomic factors.

Each of these factors was equally weighted, with a maximum score of 1 point per criterion, to create an overall maximum possible score of 11 points, though only one city they looked at, Eugene, Oregon, scored over 9. which can give us a pretty good idea about, how important it is to it's people to keep it Green! As you can see Eugene is really diverse in terms of enviromental concerns so in the following lets focus the programs and efforts wich are about green spaces and urban forestry.



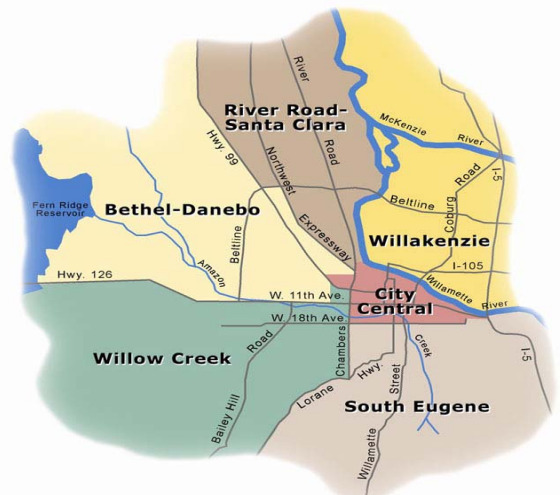
In general...

The city of Eugene is the county seat of Lane County, Oregon, United States. It is located at the south end of the Willamette Valley, at the confluence of the McKenzie and Willamette rivers, about 60 miles (100 km) east of the Oregon Coast. Eugene is the second largest city in the state of Oregon, with an estimated population of 153,690.

Eugene is home to the University of Oregon. The city is also noted for its natural beauty, alternative lifestyles, recreation opportunities (especially bicycling, rafting, and kayaking), and arts focus. Eugene's motto is "The World's Greatest City of the Arts and Outdoors."

Eugene, well known as a powerhouse of green industry, clustering sustainable businesses like an environmentally minded Silicon Valley. Hydroelectric and wind power contribute over 85 percent of Eugene's power, reducing greenhouse gas emissions considerably. A little over 16 percent of Eugene is green space, including athletic fields, city parks, public gardens, trails and waterfront. The city has over 2,500 acres of publicly owned wetlands, and its West Eugene Wetlands Program includes a mitigation bank, a native plant nursery, protected wetlands and educational features.

For a big city with quite big population there is a lot of parks and public green spaces. We can split the city into 6 main areas and each of these areas include several parks. The parks are categorized by the areas (which are the following: Bethel/Danebo, City Central , River Rd/Santa Clara, South Eugene, Willakenzie, Willow Creek) and included in the article in Appendix "A".



Eugene outdoors

Throughout the year, the work of Parks and Open Space is featured in local, regional and national news stories, as well as the Eugene Outdoors Newsletter. Eugene Outdoors! is a semiannual publication of the City of Eugene Parks and Open Space Division. The purpose of the publication is to share information about Eugene's parks and open space and to encourage the community to enjoy, learn about, and participate in these natural and recreational areas. The leading topics of the latest issues were:

- Spring 2006 - 100th anniversary of Eugene parks
- Summer/fall 2005 - what it takes to maintain Eugene's parks and open space
- February 2005 - planning for future parks, recreation and open space in Eugene
- Summer/fall 2004 - Eugene Parks and Open Space volunteers and benefactors
- Spring 2004 - Eugene's natural areas
- Summer/fall 2003 - active recreation in Eugene's parks
- Spring 2003 - features Ridgeline Park

Community gardens

Since 1978, Eugene's community gardens have been growing friendships, community involvement, and an appreciation of the land. Participants can rent a garden plot, and have the opportunity to cultivate their own gardens. The Community Gardens Program helps people experience a special connection to the earth and their community. Community gardeners can provide food for family and friends, participants can enjoy the beauty of a garden in bloom and learn about gardening. They can share information with other gardening enthusiasts, work the land and harvest the fruits of their labor



The rental comes with access to a plot, water, and tools. Each gardener then decides what to plant in his or her plot and how to cultivate it.

There are six community gardens throughout Eugene with a total of 260 plots

Participants have to plan on four to five hours a week during the peak gardening season to maintain a plot. During the winter, plots may be mulched or planted with annuals, perennials or cover crops. If a plot appears abandoned, attempts will be made to contact the gardener. If the plot remains untended, the rental fee, deposit, and use of the plot are forfeited. Everybody has to keep common areas or roadways clear. The organic gardening methods are strongly encouraged, chemical fertilizers may be used, but chemical pesticides or herbicides are prohibited.



Rental of individual plots cost \$60.00 (average size 600 square feet), raised beds cost \$20.00 available (average size 50 square feet) and organizational plots cost \$120.00 (average size 1,400 square feet) for a year. This fee includes access to water (each plot has shared access to a water faucet) and garden tools, street leaves that are made available for ground covering in late fall or early winter, composted leaf mulch for soil conditioning when and if available and access to the organic waste bin (used for disposal of organic waste, woody material, and sod)

Each garden site has a manager who can help answer questions, share expertise, and assist with problems or concerns that arise.

Volunteer Programs

Throughout the year, volunteers of all ages play a vital role in improving our parks and open space system and reaching out to community members. The



Volunteers In Parks program supports citizen involvement in activities such as park beautification, litter control, trail development and maintenance, weeding, and other special projects in Eugene's parks. Through partnerships with individuals, neighbors, businesses, service organizations, clubs, youth groups, and schools, the program is able to help maintain and improve the park system and keep the parks beautiful and safe for the enjoyment of all park users.

Type of volunteer work available:

Install or repair park amenities, boardwalks, benches, fences, tables, playground equipment, fitness equipment, or other park structures. Plant trees, shrubs. Prune trees, pick-up litter, resurface trails, prune trail corridors, construct retainer walls, construct elevated paths.



Habitat restoration, remove invasive species, plant native plants, photograph volunteer events

Tree Stewards

The Tree Stewards Program trains community members to be able to assist the city in pruning and caring for young trees throughout the city. Projects usually take place on Saturdays once or twice a month.



Stream Team

Offers volunteers the opportunity to restore, care for and learn more about the city's waterways and natural areas. They welcome every volunteer to plant trees, participate in a river clean up, or monitor fish and birds. Participants can help propagating and caring for native plants the City's own native plant nursery. In addition anyone can adopt ponds, streams, or wetlands. There is no experience necessary to join the Stream Team. All ages, skills, and interests are welcome. When volunteering with the Stream Team, all necessary instruction, as well as gloves, tools, and equipment are provided.

Hendricks Park

Throughout most of the year, Hendricks Park utilizes volunteers to help remove non-native, invasive plants, restore habitat, and maintain trails and gardens in the park. Hendricks Park is Eugene's oldest city park. Its 78 acres include a mature forest, a world-renowned rhododendron garden, and now a new native plant garden. Without leaving the city, visitors can walk among Douglas fir trees two hundred years old, ferns, and wildflowers, such as trilliums and irises, and over six thousand varieties of rhododendrons and other ornamental plants. With the implementation of the Hendricks Park Forest Management Plan in 2000, park staff have worked in partnership with the Friends of Hendricks Park and other community volunteers to help achieve a healthy, resilient, and sustainable forest. The forest management plan will ensure that Hendricks Park's pristine natural setting will be preserved for generations to come. For the park two volunteer programs are available, and running at the moment.

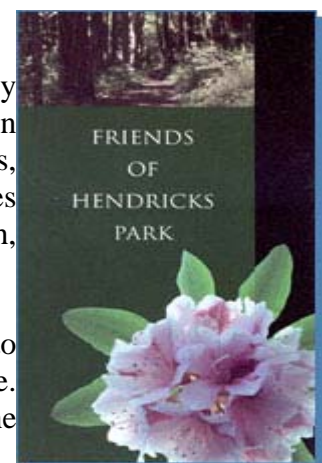


Forest Work Parties in Hendricks Park

In this programs volunteers needed to help with seed collection, ivy removal, trailside weeding, trail maintenance, planting & propagation activities in the Forest at Hendricks Park. Tools will be provided, pastries, coffee & juice is offered by the Friends of Hendricks Park. Work parties take place on Saturdays from 9 AM to 1 PM about once a month, throughout the year.

Rhododendron Garden Volunteer Opportunity in Hendricks Park

A dedicated group of volunteer gardeners who meet every Tuesday, to prune, weed, mulch, rake, plant and happily share gardening knowledge. Gardeners of all levels of experience welcomed to participate in the



program and have fun and help preserve Eugene 's oldest garden.

Within the Volunteers in Parks there are different ways to get involved:

Anyone can adopt a park and this way make a long-term commitment to a favorite neighborhood park. The park provides the tools, materials, and support; and those who



adopt can decide how they want to help out. Eugene parks need ongoing volunteer labor to help pick up litter, paint park benches and tables, prune trees, and clean playground sand. This is a great option for individuals, small groups, or organizations looking for long-term volunteer opportunities.

Adopting only a path in a park is also available, if someone has a place close to their hearts.

Donations

Beginning with the Hendricks family's donation of Eugene's very first park in 1906, a century of generous giving from proud community members has made Eugene's parks and open space system the gem that it is today. Recognizing the need for continued community support, the Parks and Open Space Division gratefully accepts donations through the Legacy Program.



Legacy Program

The Legacy Program was established to encourage individuals, businesses, and community organizations to participate in enhancing Eugene's vibrant parks and natural areas. A wide variety of items are available for sponsorship, ranging from benches and trail renovation, to natural area restoration, playground equipment, and beyond.

The projects are tax-deductible and the best way of a gift to the entire Eugene community. The gift list has been organized in two different ways. Anyone who wants to donate for a specific park can browse the list of items available for donation in each park. For those who know what type of item they would like to sponsor, can browse the list by the twelve categories of donation opportunities. Anyone make a donation to help improve any of the following features in our park system:

Benches, Playgrounds, Athletics, Restoration , Signage Amenities, Connectivity and Access, Landscaping, Unique Additions, Infrastructure, Art



Hays Memorial Tree Garden

Located in Alton Baker Park, this garden showcases trees donated in honor of loved ones as a living legacy and noted for their brilliant spring bloom or fall foliage. Besides providing a unique opportunity to honor a loved one, mark a special event or simply improve the natural environment, the two-acre garden allows visitors a tranquil respite in the heart of the city. Phase I for tree adoption is complete. Current donation opportunities include inscribed pathway tiles and two styles of benches – metal benches at the entry plaza and stone benches along the pathways.

Owen Rose Garden

The vision for a rose garden in the center of the city became a reality in 1951, when George E. Owen donated his two acres of riverfront land to the City and the Eugene Rose Society donated 750 rose bushes. Many years later in 1999, the Eugene Delta Rotarians adopted Owen Rose Garden as a community service project, and over the next five years, donated more than 2,500 hours building trellises and rose bed borders, a paver pathway, a large pergola to adorn the walkway with climbing roses, and a gazebo in the heart of the garden. Other citizens can help further beautify the garden by purchasing a personalized piece of the garden. Items currently available include the wrought-iron climbing rose trellis (\$1,500) and the rose-emblem slate tiles installed in the pergola planters (\$500).

Herbicide program

Eugene is declaring about 2 percent of its park land an herbicide-free zone effective today as a pilot project to test whether city crews can manage without the chemicals. For the next two years, the crews will pull weeds by hand - or use other nonchemical means - at five smallish neighborhood parks scattered across the city. They make up 10 1/2 acres of the city's 537-acre parkland estate. The city is teaming up with the nonprofit Northwest Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides for this pesticides-free parks program, which was unveiled in October 2005. When officials introduced the concept, they were surprised at the lack of heated opposition. They expected to encounter aesthetic objections. Instead, members of the public urged them to consider big parks, such as Alton Baker or Amazon, for the no-pesticide designation.

Urban Forestry

What makes Eugene's urban forest unique?

“All the people, young and old, who plant trees, water trees, protect trees and speak out for the forests here. All those who practice conservation, who celebrate their enjoyment of trees and who proclaim the myriad life-giving benefits that trees in the city bestow upon us. People in Eugene, to their credit, are more vitally connected to their community's urban forest than anywhere else I've been.”

(Mark Snyder, City of Eugene Urban Forester)

Eugene's urban forestry program is responsible for the planting, care and removal of city street trees.

The city of Eugene has more trees than people! Urban forestry's tree professionals care deeply and personally about Eugene's urban forest. The health of the community's trees and the impact of the urban forest on Eugene's residents are the primary concerns



of everyone on the urban forestry team.

Trees temper climate and air quality. They take carbon dioxide and other pollutants from the air and give oxygen in return. Their roots stabilize the soil and impede erosion. Within an urban environment, trees give life by softening the geometric rigidity and hard surfaces of streets and buildings. With their infinite variety of form, texture, color, and mood, trees can be used to create diverse spatial configurations.



Planting New Trees

Planting new trees in the street right-of-way is a major focus for the city's urban forestry staff. New trees are an investment in the future of the urban forest. Whenever the city reconstructs streets, we look for opportunities to plant new trees. Trees are a major component of our parks and are always considered in the development of plans for new parks.

The city has a very active volunteer tree planting program called NeighborWoods where the city provides free trees and planting materials to anyone wishing to plant street trees. Planting priority is given for replacement trees where public trees have been removed due to hazardous condition or where trees were lost due to storms or vehicle accidents.

NeighborWoods Program

The NeighborWoods program was created in 1992 as a partnership between the City and neighbors and local businesses and community organizations to plant and care for street trees in the public rights-of-way. The program is administered by the City's Urban Forestry staff in the Public Works Parks & Open Space Division. Almost 5,000 street trees have been planted since the program was established.



Each winter planting season, NeighborWoods volunteers plant approximately 425 trees. Residents can participate in the program different ways.

They can plant trees in front of their homes. If there is a plantable space there, a tree that will thrive in the location will be selected. As NeighborWoods volunteers, they agree to plant and help care for the tree or trees, watering and weeding them as necessary. Pruning is performed by City staff. For those with physical limitations, assistance is available.

Trees for Concrete

The Trees for Concrete is a program organized by the NeighborWoods program in partnership with Eugene Tree Foundation. The purpose of the program is to create more livable and green downtown environments by replacing concrete with trees along sidewalks in Eugene's urban core. Several work parties are organized each season, and concrete has been replaced by trees in several locations downtown.

Tree Stewards

The NeighborWoods Tree Stewards Program was created to better care for Eugene's urban forest. A team of neighborhood-based, well-trained volunteer Tree Stewards will help the City prune young street trees and contribute to the ongoing health of our community's trees. The program hopes to improve the quality of life in our neighborhoods, strengthen neighborhood identity, and build neighborhood pride by pruning and caring for neighborhood trees. Residents can connect the NeighborWoods coordinators if they want to participate in this program and sign up for the next Tree Steward training, because the work is done by strictly adept people.



Tree Watering & Care

Trees planted by residents through the NeighborWoods program are watered by the residents. Newly planted trees typically require supplemental watering during dry periods from April through September. Trees should be watered for the first three years after planting.

Trees planted by the city are watered every ten days during extended periods of no rain. Typically, the watering season is from April 15th to September 30th. Trees are given 15 to 25 gallons of water at each watering, enough to get water to the rooting zone of the tree.

Tree Pruning

Pruning is the most common tree maintenance procedure. City crews prune public trees located in parks and along city streets. Trees are pruned for safety, tree health, street and sidewalk clearance, and traffic sign, signal and light clearance. In order to maximize crew efficiency, pruning is scheduled by neighborhood block areas, which are prioritized each year based on need.

Citizens who wish to prune public trees must obtain the permission of the urban forestry office, and comply with the requirements of Eugene's administrative rule that defines how public trees must be pruned.



Street Tree Planting Program for New Development

The adoption of the Local Street Plan by the City Council in 1997 requires street trees in all land development projects which involve the creation of new streets. Administrative Rule R-7.280 establishes the implementation rules and standards for this street tree program.

The developer has two options:

The city can provide and plant the street trees. The developer provides a legal description of the property and pays a fee based on the standards within the administrative rule, and the city then assumes all responsibilities for providing, planting and insuring establishment of the trees. This way the developer has no further obligation in regard to street trees in this option. The city will consult with the new home owners regarding their desires for species of tree to be planted and then plant them once the development is occupied.

The other option is when the developer provides and plants the street trees. The developer is required to plant the trees, provide summer watering for three years, and replace any trees which fail within this time. Fees for inspection of the tree planting and monitoring establishment by city staff are paid by the developer.



Natural Resources

In Eugene, we are graced with several thousand acres of publicly-owned natural area. There are over 2,500 acres of wetlands, over 30 miles of creeks and waterways, and hundreds of acres of upland forests, prairies, and savannas. These areas support a wide diversity of plants and wildlife, including many endangered and rare species. The Natural Resources Section is responsible for the stewardship—maintenance, care, and protection—of these important natural areas.

The Natural Resources Section is one of four sections in the Parks and Open Space Division. It is composed of three work groups and associated programs, including, Wetlands Program, Open Waterways Program, Eugene Stream Team, Natural Resources Maintenance Program, Vegetation Management Program

In an effort to ensure that the diversity of life with which we share our city continues to thrive, these groups work together closely to restore, protect, and manage Eugene's natural areas.

Appendix "A"

Bethel/Danebo Parks (16)

Bethel Community Park, Candlelight Park, Dragonfly Bend , Echo Hollow Pool . Gilbert Park, Golden Gardens, Grasshopper Meadow, Irwin Park, Lark Park, Mangan Park, Meadowlark Prairie , Petersen Park, Shasta Ballfields, State Street Park, Trainsong Park, Willamette Daisy Meadow

City Central Parks (19)

Campbell Center, Charnel Mulligan Park, Fairmount Park, Jefferson Park, Lincoln School Park, Maurie Jacobs Park, Monroe Park, Owen Rose Garden, Park Blocks, River House, Scobert Gardens, Shelton McMurphey Johnson House, Skinner Butte Park , Sladden Park, Trude Kaufman Senior Center, Washington/Jefferson Park, West University Park

River Rd/Santa Clara Parks (10)

Arrowhead Park, Awbrey Park, Bramblewood Park, Ferndale Park, Filbert Meadows Park, Lone Oak Park, Razor Park, Rosetta Place Park, Terra Linda Park, Walnut Grove Park, Wendover Park

South Eugene Parks (24)

Amazon Park, Bloomberg, Crest Heights Park, Edgewood Park, Frank Kinney Park, Friendly Park, Glen Oak, Hendricks Park, Kincaid Park, Lafferty Park, Laurel Hill Park, Laurelwood Golf Course, Milton Park, Mission Park, Prefontaine Memorial, Ridgeline Park, Shadow Wood Park, Tugman Park, University Park, Washburne Park, Washington Park, Wayne Morse Ranch Park, Westmoreland Park, Willis Park

Willakenzie Parks (18)

Alton Baker Park, Ascot Park, Bond Lane Park, Brewer Park, Cal Young Sports Park, Chase Commons Park, Country Lane Park, Creekside Park, Crescent Park, Delta Ponds, Gilham Park, Gillespie Butte, Marche Chase Park, Oakmont Park, Sheldon Sports Park, Sorrel Pond, Striker Field, Tandy Turn Park, Willakenzie Park

Willow Creek Parks (12)

Acorn Park, Berkeley Park, Churchill Sports Park, Garfield Park, Gudukut, Hawkins Heights Park, Martin Luther King Jr. Park, Melvin Miller Park, Murray Hill, Skyview Park, Videra Park, Willow Corner