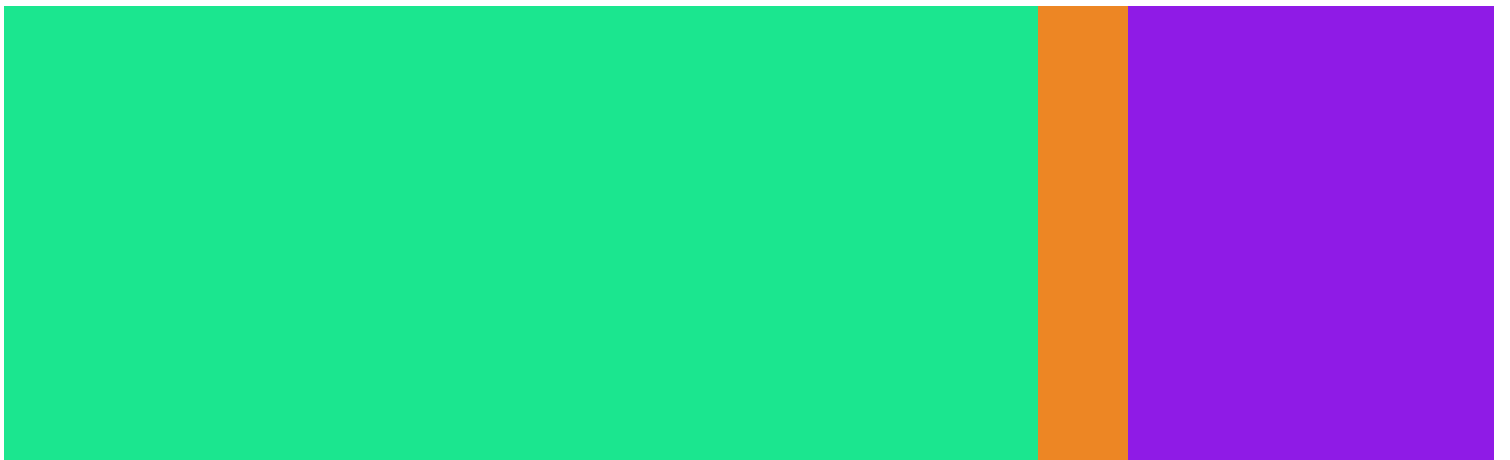


PORTLAND PARKS FOUNDATION  
2022 U. S. BANK PARKS CHAMPIONS



Portland Parks Foundation

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

**We help people help parks.**

We accomplish this mission through delivering leadership, partnership and funding that advances a commitment to excellence, accessibility and good stewardship of our parks. Our primary partner is Portland Parks & Recreation.

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Our annual U.S. Bank Parks Champion Awards **recognize individuals who provide outstanding volunteer service to a park, community center, natural area, or community garden.**

PPF will make a grant of \$1,500 on the recommendation of the honorees to a community organization that aligns with **PPF's vision to help Portland communities create more equitable access to nature, play, health, and places of connection.**

Nominations were made through an online form open to everyone and promoted through PPF's email newsletter and social media accounts and direct outreach. They were accepted between February 15, 2022 through March 31, 2022.

**Thank you to our sponsor U.S. Bank and partner Portland Parks & Recreation.**



## 27 nominations were submitted this year, 2 received the Parks Champion Award.

To those who submitted nominations, thank you. To those who were nominated, we recognize the thousands of hours you put in to support your communities and parks and recreation areas. We also recognize there are thousands more amazing volunteers that aren't listed in this book. Thank you to all of you for your commitment to creating more equitable access to nature, play, health, and places of connection.



**U.S. BANK  
PARKS  
CHAMPIONS**

Winners



# Christie Quinn



Christie founded the Bookmobile Babe in 2018, a volunteer-run nonprofit that distributes free books and a free literacy camp for ten weeks in the summer at both Lents Park and Columbia Park. Christie got the idea of starting Bookmobile Babe after volunteering with the Multnomah County Libraries and realizing they didn't have a mobile way to bring books to the community. Bookmobile Babe distributes free books and offers book exchanges to children ages 1-18 from historically excluded communities. Christie partners with Portland Parks & Recreation, Reading is Resistance, The Children's Book Bank and local authors to provide diverse literature and reading guides for youth. The Bookmobile Babe also leads discussions about the books on themes such as BLM, indigenous history, environmentalism and offers art activities too.

# Laura Campos



Laura has been volunteering and serving SW Portland for decades, bringing the view and voice of Native Americans to parks and park activities throughout her civic engagement. A recent example of her volunteer efforts include the Eena (Beaver) Festival held at Multnomah Arts Center in 2021. She brought together SW Neighborhoods Equity & Inclusion Committee, Grand Ronde Tribal members, Westside Watersheds, Neighborhood House, and Multnomah Arts Center to support the event. Through this event the community was introduced to the concept and substance of imparting traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) to the humans occupying their territory. Over the decades she has continued to bring organizations together to better serve the community.

## This year we received nominations for volunteers contributing the following activities to our communities:

- Service spanning decades to places like Leach Botanical Gardens, Forest Park, Mt. Tabor Park, Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden, Lan Su Chinese Garden and Terwilliger Parkway.
- Placemaking projects in the Brentwood Darlington neighborhood.
- Organizing work parties to maintain parks and public spaces in places like Green Thumb Community Orchard, Leach Botanical Garden, Concordia Neighborhood Parks, Marquam Nature Park, and Whilshire Park.
- Maintaining garden plots, providing food to the community and building plots for people with mobility issues in gardens like Green Thumb Community Orchard, Johns Garden and Fulton Park Community Gardens.
- Advocating for recreation and programming and creating a sense of belonging through soccer and biking.
- Providing safe and inclusive educational opportunities in nature for BIPOC community members.
- Cleaning up trash and graffiti and increasing safety in Laurelhurst Park.
- Managing countless volunteer groups and inspiring others to join new groups at places like Rose City Bluff and Elizabeth Caruthers Park.
- Providing workshops and resources on bees and native plants.



**U.S. BANK  
PARKS  
CHAMPIONS**

Nominees

## 01. Alicia Craft | Green Thumb Community Orchard



### WHAT THEY DO

Alicia coordinates with PP&R and dozens of volunteers to maintain the Green Thumb Community Orchard. She recruits and trains volunteers in tree pruning, mulching, harvesting, and more. Alicia organizes and leads work parties at the orchard, and distributes harvested fruit to local food pantries and other distribution centers.

FOR MORE INFO <https://www.portland.gov/parks/brentwood-community-garden>

## 02. Alison Hardinh | Lincoln Youth Soccer



### WHAT THEY DO

Alison has been a volunteer board member for Lincoln Youth Soccer (LYS) for the past 4 years as their Fields Coordinator. LYS is a youth-centric program that values long-term player development over short-term wins and strives to have community youth play with their classmates, in their neighborhoods, in an unconditionally positive environment. Alison has helped allocate field time for games and practices for nearly 1000 youth soccer players.

FOR MORE INFO <https://lincolnyouthsoccer.org/>

## 03. Anton Vetterlein | Historic Terwilliger Parkway



### WHAT THEY DO

Anton is the President of Friends of Terwilliger (FOT), and has dedicated the last 10 years to championing the mission of FOT to preserve and protect Terwilliger Parkway. For over 2 years, Anton worked to complete and submit the application for Terwilliger Parkway's Historic designation. Anton's efforts helped lead the National Parks Service's decision to list Terwilliger Parkway on the National Historic Register, helping to raise awareness and increase protection of Terwilliger Parkway's environmental and cultural resources.

FOR MORE INFO <http://terwilligerfriends.org/>

## 04. Bill Bannister | Forest Park Conservancy

### WHAT THEY DO

Bill started volunteering with Forest Park Conservancy as a Rapid Responder, walking the trails to report downed trees, invasive species and storm damage. During the pandemic the need for volunteers increased. Bill stepped in and became an Independent volunteer, going around Forest Park every day to help with crucial maintenance, safety work and trail health. When weather caused storm or drainage damage Bill developed tools to support better drainage and accessibility throughout the park.

FOR MORE INFO <https://forestparkconservancy.org/>



## 05. Bob Dolphin | Whitaker Ponds

### WHAT THEY DO

Bob is committed to ensuring Whitaker Ponds and the entire Columbia Slough is clean and safe and given the highest level of stewardship. Over the past year, Bob has led the charge in re-sealing and repairing the damaged roof of the environmental education office. Bob's efforts in the repair allowed for a safe and healthy space to once again be used for youth environmental education.

FOR MORE INFO <https://www.portland.gov/parks/whitaker-ponds-natural-area>

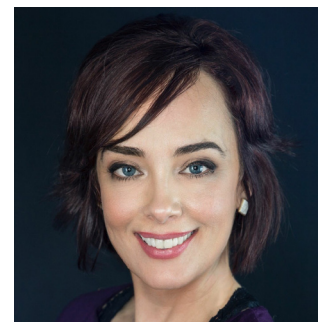


## 06. Christie Quinn | Lents Park and more

### WHAT THEY DO

Christie Quinn is the President of The Bookmobile Babe, a non-profit organization that promotes the love of literacy by distributing free books to children in the Portland, OR metro area, primarily in Lents and Columbia Park. Christie partners with local authors, artists & educators to enhance the program during the summer months, providing books to youth ages 1-18 on topics ranging from BLM, indigenous people, environmentalism, and more.

FOR MORE INFO <https://bookmobilebabe.com/>



## 07. Volunteer | Marx Pedestrian Pathway along SW Broadway Avenue

### WHAT THEY DO

This volunteer blazes trails of access for folks who are often unseen. They spearheaded a survey of needs and listened closely to residents and property owners, ensuring data collection efforts included renters, students, and immigrants. The new improvements for pedestrian access along Broadway Avenue are due to their dedication and diligent work on building a relationship with key stakeholders. Along with this work, they have coordinated neighborhood efforts with Portland Parks and Recreation to remove invasive trees and weeds at Governor's Park.

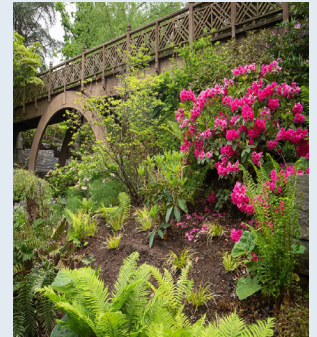


## 08. Dottie Alberg | Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden

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### WHAT THEY DO

Dottie Alberg has been a volunteer at Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden with the Portland Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society since 2008. Dottie began volunteering as a gardener. In 2016, Dottie took over as the coordinator for horticulture volunteers, planning park improvement projects and beautifying the landscapes for all who visit Crystal Springs. Dottie recruits, leads, and collaborates with over 30 volunteers at the garden annually.



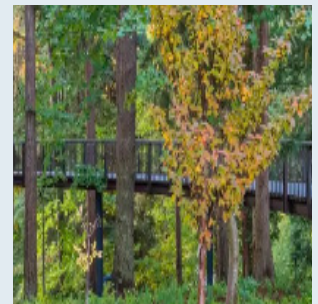
FOR MORE INFO <https://www.crystalspringsgardenpdx.org>

## 09. Gloria & Tom Wiemann | Leach Botanical Garden

### WHAT THEY DO

Since 2017 Gloria & Tom have volunteered at Leach Botanical Gardens, helping with habitat restoration, garden maintenance, planting, removal of weeds, and making key improvements to support the health of the garden.

FOR MORE INFO <https://leachgarden.org>



## 10. James Tunley | Laurelhurst Park

### WHAT THEY DO



James started the “Beautification Team,” a monthly rotating group around the neighborhood and park that removed litter, trash and graffiti. When James began his volunteer “Beautification Team” he funded the effort himself, buying buckets, litter pick-up sticks, garbage bags and spray paint. The Beautification Team brought together neighbors and different organizations to tackle problems big and small, picking up the tiniest pieces of paper from park grounds to painting murals with the help of the girl scouts.

## 11. Janet Parenteau | Lan Su Chinese Garden

### WHAT THEY DO



For the past 7 years, Janet has volunteered with the Lan Su Horticulture department, maintaining over 100 species of plants in the garden. Janet was also a major support in growing and cultivating Chrysanthemums for Lan Su. Janet helped lead classes on how Chrysanthemums are cultivated and how to develop different styles.

FOR MORE INFO <https://lansugarden.org/>

## 12. Javier Puga-Phillips | Concordia Neighborhood Association

### WHAT THEY DO



Javier is the chair of the Concordia Neighborhood Association’s Social Committee. He has implemented Neighborhood clean ups, to ensure the parks undergo a clean-up every two months and brought back social events to the neighborhood.

FOR MORE INFO <https://concordiapdx.org/>

### 13. Laura Campos | Multnomah Art Center & SW Portland



#### WHAT THEY DO

Laura has spent over 45 years volunteering in SW Portland. In 2021 Laura organized the Eena (Beaver) Festival held at Multnomah Arts Center. She brought together SW Neighborhoods Equity & Inclusion Committee, Grand Ronde Tribal members, Westside Watersheds, Neighborhood House, and Multnomah Arts Center to support the event. Through this event the community was introduced to the concept and substance of Imparting traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) to the humans occupying their territory.

FOR MORE INFO <https://www.multnomahartscenter.org/>

### 14. Leigh Nunez | Sellwood Community House



#### WHAT THEY DO

Leigh is the lead community volunteer for the Sellwood Community House's volunteer program. She's organized neighborhood rummages sales, holiday markets, community events, developed a reading tutoring program for volunteers. This small nonprofit community house is loved by and needed by the community. Even during Covid times, Sellwood Community House was able to be a safe harbor by providing emergency childcare, senior support and connection and joy for all including the local business community and organizations that were impacted negatively by the pandemic.

FOR MORE INFO <https://www.sellwoodcommunityhouse.org/>

### 15. Leslie Smith | Johns Garden



#### WHAT THEY DO

Leslie is the Garden Manager at Johns Garden, covering approximately 70 plots. Leslie worked with the City to make the sidewalk more leveled, increasing accessibility. Leslie works hard to make the garden a community space, putting on events to bring the diverse St. Johns neighborhood together.

FOR MORE INFO <https://www.portland.gov/parks/johns-community-garden>

## 16. Marianne Dickinson | Fulton Park Community Gardens

### WHAT THEY DO

Marianne has been the Volunteer Garden manager at Fulton Park Community Gardens for over 5 years. Marianne takes on a variety of jobs to keep the garden running from coordinating over 130 gardeners and supporting new gardeners, to managing the native area and the garden shed. She is constantly helping others resolve their gardening challenges. She has also helped create elevated boxes for people in wheelchairs and brought in free speakers to talk about bees and other garden classes.

FOR MORE INFO <https://www.portland.gov/parks/fulton-community-garden-and-display-garden>

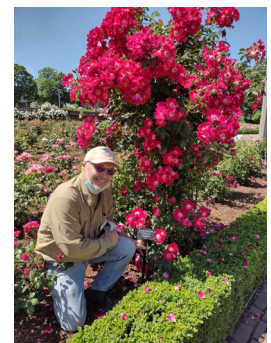


## 17. Mark Smallwood | Peninsula Park Rose Garden

### WHAT THEY DO

Mark is the President of the Friends of the Peninsula Park Rose Garden, the non-profit that preserves, protects and enhances the public rose garden in the Piedmont neighborhood in North Portland. Mark runs board meetings, leads the volunteers in the Rose Garden, manages the website, keeps track of Garden maintenance tasks, keeps the volunteers informed about things that need to be done and who has done what, as well as about get-togethers with speakers and educational programs.

FOR MORE INFO FOR MORE INFO <https://www.portland.gov/parks/fulton-community-garden-and-display-garden>



## 18. Marti Yoder | Elizabeth Caruthers Park

### WHAT THEY DO

Marti leads the volunteers at Elizabeth Caruthers Park. Marti's work was crucial in providing no contact volunteering during the Pandemic. Marti has helped grow the park's contacts and support, bringing in new volunteers and providing guidance along the way. Marti also supports the park by collecting trash that blows in from the streets and mulch and weed the park to keep it healthy.

FOR MORE INFO <https://www.portland.gov/parks/elizabeth-caruthers-park>

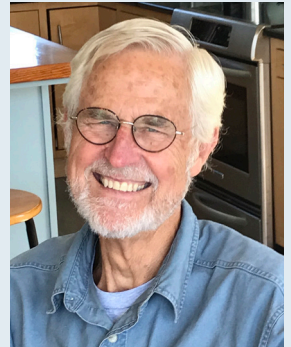


## 19. Nancy and Peter Mogelnicki | Wilshire Park

### WHAT THEY DO

Nancy and Peter founded Friends of Wilshire Park. They fundraised to diversify the native plants in the park and organized work parties over the last several years to plant and care for the area. Since the creation of Friends of Wilshire Park, the group has added new structures to the play area and improved the dog run zone.

FOR MORE INFO <https://www.friendsofwilshirepark.org/>

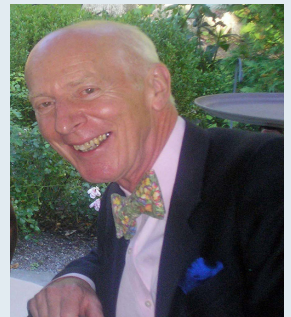


## 20. Paddy Tillett | Portland Parks Board

### WHAT THEY DO

Paddy has served on the Portland Parks Board for the past 7 years. Paddy serves as the Chair of the Land Use and Infrastructure Working group. With a placemaking background, Paddy responds and advises on parks issues ranging from design and integration of facilities into urban environments to density's impact on services.

FOR MORE INFO <https://www.portland.gov/parks/portland-parks-board>



## 21. Rachel Burdon | Columbia Park

### WHAT THEY DO

Rachel has served as the Board President of Friends of Columbia Park for the past 4 years. Under her leadership, Friends of Columbia Park has blossomed, growing from zero members to nearly 400 strong. For the past 3 years, Columbia Park and Pool users have rallied to voice their desire to maintain aquatics access on the Peninsula. As the "Save Columbia Pool" coalition formed, Rachel became an active participant and facilitator for the community in navigating the complex challenges surrounding the pool closure. Rachel also works to ensure Columbia Park is welcoming and accessible for people to recreate, play and relax.

FOR MORE INFO <https://www.focp.org/>





## 22. Robin Jensen | Marquam Nature Park



### WHAT THEY DO

Robin is the head of Friends of Marquam Nature Park. She provides leadership vision, collaborates with partners and stakeholders, and manages the many projects and activities for the Friends. Robin has helped organize various work parties, where volunteers help remove ivy, maintain trails and plant natural plants. She is instrumental in bringing partners such as Columbia Land Trust and West Willamette Restoration Partnership to develop and execute restoration plans, to improve trails, and to advocate for the park's natural areas.

FOR MORE INFO <https://www.fmnp.org/>

## 23. Scott Goodman | Brentwood Darlington Neighborhood



### WHAT THEY DO

Scott has spent several years working on placemaking initiatives throughout the Brentwood Darlington neighborhood. He created unique pockets of greenery in the neighborhood. Scott saw the potential to add greenery to a gas station, creating large raised beds full of native and edible plants, converting otherwise unused areas to more pollinator habitats and beautification.

## 24. Stephen Anderson | Colonel Summers Community Garden and other gardens



### WHAT THEY DO

Stephen has supported gardens by helping Friends of Portland Community Gardens in their mason bee program. Stephen has donated most of the bee cocoons, getting the program started. For the past three years, he has given two seminars a year on bee care and provides ongoing assistance throughout the year on all bee questions. Stephen's work increasing pollinators in the gardens has improved the gardens sustainability.

FOR MORE INFO <https://portlandcommunitygardens.org/events/>

## 25. Suzanne Briggs | Rose City Bluff north of the Rose City Golf Course



### WHAT THEY DO

Suzanne has worked on the Rose City Bluff area to clear invasive species and replace them with native plants. She finds funding for plants and tools and helps recruit other volunteers. Over the last few years, a group of volunteers have come together to maintain the health of this area. Suzanne is there every week. Last year they planted the first 400 plus native plants. This coming November, their goal is to add another 1,000 plus native plants to the area.

FOR MORE INFO <https://rosecitybluff.org/>

## 26. Tim Copeman | Gateway Green



### WHAT THEY DO

Tim is one of the Northwest Trail Alliance (NWTa) trail Stewards in Gateway Green. Tim's support of the park in trail maintenance tasks keeps the park inviting and safe for the riders. Tim brought in a crew to help make the Gateway Green jump line safer and accessible to a wider variety of bike types and skill levels.

FOR MORE INFO <https://nw-trail.org/>

## 27. Tom Hernandez | Hoyt Arboretum Friends



### WHAT THEY DO

Tom has been volunteering as a Trail Rover at Hoyt Arboretum since 2018. During Tom's near daily "roves" along the Arboretum's trails, he regularly greets and provides information to park visitors about Hoyt's trails and tree collection. Over the years, that has added up to more than 20,000 visitor interactions. His regular visits mean that he is also in tuned to any maintenance issues happening around the park that need to be addressed by staff. Along the trails and at the Visitor Center, he interacts with the Arboretum's regular walkers, first-time visitors, fellow volunteers, and Hoyt staff, helping to bring the community together and share park information more broadly. With covid restrictions lifting, he hopes to become a Hike leader.

FOR MORE INFO <https://www.hoytarboretum.org/about/hoyt-arboretum-friends/>

**Congratulations to all of the 2022 Parks Champion Nominees**

