

PROJECT: Friends of Laurelhurst Park
3250 SE Ankeny
Portland, OR 97214

CONTACT: Lori Delman (503) 239-5373

BUDGET: Metro grant \$520
Approximate Volunteer Hours: 110
Total Project \$1043

QUESTION: How can community members improve the parks in their area?

GOAL: Install botanical interpretative signs to educate park users about the multiple plant species within the park.

COMMUNITY:

Nearly one-hundred students and adults from the lower Southeast Portland, Laurelhurst-area participated in the project. The interpretive signs will provide education and stewardship for the one-hundred to five-hundred daily park users.

DESCRIPTION:

The staff of Portland Parks identified fifty trees and shrubs from the 106 tree types and 220 types of shrubs Laurelhurst Park supports. Identifying signs were created and adults constructed vandal-resistant cement bases for the signs and metal labels were ordered to display the information. Students and adults from the Laurelhurst community participated in the one-day sign installation event.

ACTION:

January 1994

- Meeting with community partners to pick a date for the Installation Event
- Friends of Laurelhurst Park meeting to form committees and delegate duties
- Identify 50 plants and shrubs to be labeled
- Order 50 metal botanical identification signs from Hoyt Arboretum

February 1994

- Meet with Science Club/Class leaders from the participating grade schools, assign tasks for developing botany specific lesson plans
- Publicity in neighborhood newsletters, volunteer recruitment

March 1994

- Contact Southeast Uplift, Reach, and Portland Nursery about loaning equipment needed to make and install cement bases
- Meeting for adult volunteers, project assignments

April 1994

- Meet with teachers to finalize lesson plans and schedule dates for the lesson plans
- Purchase supplies for cement bases

Late April/May 1994

- Over a series of four to five days, construct fifty cement bases

May 1994

- Deliver the botanical identification lessons at the three participating grade schools
- Meet with adult volunteers to finalize installation of the bases
- Mark locations for the identification signs
- Contact local merchants about food donations for the Installation Event

June 1994

- Installation Event

PARTNERSHIPS:

Portland Parks and Recreation

Laurelhurst Grade School

Sunnyside Grade School

Glencoe Grade School

RESULTS:

Identifying markers were created for 50 trees and shrubs. By pairing Science Club members with adults to do the installation, an opportunity for increased ownership of the park was created, leading to increased stewardship which encourages responsible park use. The signs serve as a beginning to the development of an educational source for botanical lessons.

BARRIERS:

The Metro grant and volunteer labor were the only sources of moneys for the project.