



**FRIENDS OF
TRYON CREEK**
A COOPERATIVE GROUP
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
OREGON STATE PARKS

NEW STRATEGIC PATHWAY 2021-2026



DEAR FRIENDS,

Friends of Tryon Creek board and staff are humbled to welcome a new mission, vision and strategic plan for 2021-26 to ground the organization and how we interact with the community and Tryon Creek State Natural Area.

Strengthened by 50 years of experience, this new direction represents our intention to create programming, space and pathways for all communities and people to feel comfortable in the forest. We recognize that this is not and has not been possible across many public lands of the U.S. due to the legacy of colonialism and white supremacy.

We envision a connected human and forest community that sustains the forest, so that our descendants will have similar opportunities to utilize the area. We hold this hope and intention for the future, and know it will take hard work to heal wounds and build trust. This is the work of our generation.

Partners, board members, staff, and community collaboratively built our strategic plan based on the mission, vision, and four values -- Relationships, Investment, Reciprocity, and Authentic Narratives. These values provide the foundational understanding of how we operate and will guide us toward a sustainable community and a resilient urban forest.

As we move forward, Friends of Tryon Creek needs your continued support, investment and shared inspiration. With our collective care and energy, Tryon Creek State Natural Area can remain a resilient, educational and cultural community that will one day establish itself as an old growth forest.

Thank you for your time, your support, and continued engagement in our shared efforts to build a sustainable world.

Sincerely,

Gabe Sheoships
Executive Director

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Friends of Tryon Creek ground ourselves and **acknowledge the people whose land we are utilizing;** the **Clackamas Chinook**, the **Wasco-Wishram**, the **Willamette Tumwater**, the **Multnomah**, and other **Chinookan** peoples, as well as the **Tualatin Kalapuya**, the **Cayuse**, the **Molalla** and other tribes and bands of the Columbia and Willamette Rivers.

We acknowledge **the original inhabitants of the land now known as Tryon Creek State Natural Area**, and recognize that we are here because of the sacrifices that were forced upon them.

We also remember **we are guests of this land** and must do our best to honor the original peoples through authentic cultural narratives and continued stewardship of the water, the land, and plants that make up this forest community.

To follow our acknowledgment with action, we use our resources to prioritize partnerships with Indigenous tribes, tribal governments and inter-tribal organizations.

NEW VISION

Friends of Tryon Creek envisions an inclusive community connected to this cherished urban forest now and for future generations.

NEW MISSION

Friends of Tryon Creek's mission, in partnership with Oregon State Parks, is to inspire every community to identify, cultivate or reclaim their relationship with nature in this cherished urban forest.

EQUITY STATEMENT

Commitment to acknowledging social justice, identity, and power structures in past and present settings through diverse perspectives. For us, this means all programs employ an equity framework, incorporating diversity trainings and workshops throughout our extended community, including board, staff and volunteer base. We seek to support our whole community in their effort to reclaim, reconnect and build relationships with the natural world. Our commitment is built and sustained through authentic partnerships with communities of color, culturally specific organizations, and other historically under-represented groups.

WE VALUE RELATIONSHIPS

GOAL: BUILD AND SUSTAIN RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE NATURAL WORLD, OREGON STATE PARKS, PARTNERS, MEMBERS AND DONORS, EDUCATORS, STEWARDS, VOLUNTEERS AND YOUTH.

STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVES

Recruit board, staff, and volunteers who reflect the racial and ethnic diversity of the community.

Forge partnerships with people and organizations that withstand turnover of board, staff, and programming.

Establish and maintain a Board of Directors structure, recruitment, relevant roles and professional development for fulfillment and retention.

Enhance collaboration and communication with Oregon State Parks that maintain trust, relationships and support of initiatives within Tryon Creek State Natural Area.

Use clear and transparent communication to engage new and returning members and donors, stewards and volunteers in understanding the partnership between Friends of Tryon Creek and Oregon State Parks.



WE VALUE AUTHENTIC NARRATIVES

GOAL: TELL AUTHENTIC STORIES OF PEOPLE, PLACE AND LANDSCAPE, OF THE LAND NOW KNOWN AS TRYON CREEK STATE NATURAL AREA.

STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVES

Develop and deliver educational programming, in collaboration with Oregon State Parks, that engages youth, families, and adults from all communities in building lasting relationships with natural spaces.

Engage users to understand the roles of Oregon State Parks and Friends mission, vision and values, through cultivation of an open and a welcoming atmosphere for the whole community, respectful of the exploration and learning methods of all individuals.

Co-create programming and exhibits that facilitate developing connections to the natural world for the whole community: communities of color, culturally specific organizations, park neighbors and other visitors.

Develop tools to evaluate and update education and outreach language and programming to reflect authentic narratives.



WE VALUE INVESTMENT

GOAL: CURATE INDIVIDUAL AND COMMUNITY INVESTMENTS IN FINANCE, TIME, AND ENERGY TO PROVIDE LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY.

STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVES

Maintain professional positions with robust compensation and benefits for Friends staff, to ensure optimal health, quality of life and retention.

Create sustainable fundraising structure that maintains financial reserves to support organizational resilience and overall fiscal health, individual gifts, grants, memberships, monthly giving, endowments, planned giving, and program fees.

Support a volunteer program, grounded in developing a diverse community, where all volunteers are appreciated for their contributions and provided opportunities to learn and expand their relationship to Tryon Creek State Natural Area, Oregon State Parks and Friends of Tryon Creek .



WE VALUE RECIPROCITY

GOAL: MAINTAIN COMMUNITY AND ECOLOGICAL BALANCE THROUGH SUSTAINABLE MEASURES THAT PROMOTE LONG-TERM ACCESS, ENGAGEMENT, AND A RESILIENT ECOSYSTEM.

STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVES

Establish a culture of fiscal gratitude where park users, volunteers, leaders, staff and members value the relationship between the financial health of the non-profit organization, Friends of Tryon Creek, the health of Tryon Creek State Natural Area and that of the community.

Establish equitable physical and financial access to Tryon Creek State Natural Area, transportation, fee and membership structure.

Recognize multiple knowledge bases and systems of interacting with the natural world, including Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Indigenous Ways of Knowing.

Cultivate a community of respect for nature and people, embracing the differences in how we each choose to engage.



COMMUNITY IMPACT

CONNECTING 39,000+ FAMILIES, YOUTH, AND ADULTS TO NATURE AT TRYON CREEK STATE NATURAL AREA EACH YEAR.

EDUCATING YOUTH AND ADULTS

36,000 people deepen their knowledge of the natural world through education and volunteer programs, community partnerships and Nature Center outreach.

CELEBRATING, ENGAGING, INSPIRING

2,400 people gathered for events such as the Trillium Festival, Indigenous Culture Day and Community Ecology Talks.

STEWARDS OF THE CREEK AND FOREST

1,200 people volunteered as park stewards, ambassadors and educators.



HOW DO WE DO IT ALL?

50+ Years of Experience

6 Year-round staff

15 Board Members

750 Members and Donors

1200 Volunteers

25+ Foundations and Partners like Oregon State Parks, Native American Youth and Family Center, Tryon Creek Watershed Council, Parrott Creek Child and Family Services, and more.

WITH YOUR HELP.

Your investment -- of funds, time, knowledge, enthusiasm, curiosity -- help Tryon Creek State Natural Area grow and evolve into an old-growth forest, and help our intertwined human community grow into one that inclusively values the natural world and all its inhabitants.

YOU BELONG AT TRYON CREEK.

Become a member, volunteer, explore the trails, attend an event, learn from the creek, the forest, and the wildlife.

With this strategic plan, Friends of Tryon Creek is committing to the health of the creek, the forest, and a symbiotic and inclusive human community, now and for future generations.

We can't do it without you.