

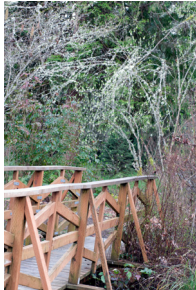
Visit



Explore



Discover



Learn

at the

Arboretum

Delbert Hunter Arboretum and Botanic Garden of Oregon Native Plants



DALLAS • OREGON

Welcome to the Hunter Arboretum and Botanic Garden of Oregon Native Plants

This beautiful park offers visitors a chance to admire native Northwest plants and trees. On the south and east borders, the arboretum nestles against the gently flowing Rickreall Creek creating a rich riparian biosphere that complements the many species of plants and trees. Benches are located throughout the arboretum to offer the visitor a chance to relax and appreciate the many aspects of the park's natural setting.

Friends of the Delbert Hunter Arboretum and Botanic Garden was founded in 1983 as a non-profit organization dedicated to the planning and development of a recreational and educational resource contiguous with Dallas City Park.

Here is a unique opportunity to see a living museum of native plants. The arboretum provides ecological niches for some of Oregon's flora and fauna ranging from wetlands and riparian eco-systems to rock gardens and rare shrubs and flowers.

Enjoy the special features of the park such as the Lewisia Garden and the High Desert plants. La Creole Creek (now known as Rickreall Creek) is an ever changing feature of the park ranging from fast-moving winter flood waters to the peaceful, quiet stream of summer.



Mission

The mission of the organization is first to grow, display, and maintain native plants of Oregon in the Arboretum in the Dallas City Park. Second, to provide educational opportunities to any



There are 224 interpretive signs.

person who wishes to participate in the recognition, appreciation, preservation, scientific study, or landscape use of native plants. Finally, to promote public interest in and to raise funds for the accomplishment of these objectives.



Lacreole Middle School volunteers take a mid-morning break after spreading cedar tow and planting Oregon Grape.

DHA Center

The Arboretum Center provides a meeting room for use by nonprofit groups. Phone 503 623-7359 to schedule use of the building.

Volunteer Opportunities

Anyone wishing to volunteer at the Delbert Hunter Arboretum is encouraged to contact the volunteer coordinator at 503 623-7359. The Arboretum is completely maintained by volunteer work and new members are both needed and appreciated. No prior experience is necessary. Volunteers meet every Tuesday from 9 a.m. to noon and arrangements can be made for community service organizations to volunteer on weekends.



Delbert Hunter Arboretum & Botanic Garden
P.O. Box 604
Dallas, Oregon 97338-0604

The Trails

Seven well-marked paths guide the visitor through the diverse aspects of this varied park. There are many additional short trails taking the visitor through interesting park features.

Creek Trail is the longest and it winds along Rick-reall Creek (formerly known as La Creole Creek) for a little over a quarter of a mile. Along the way, there are many opportunities to wander down to the creekside or sit on one of the many benches located along the trail.

Wetlands Trail leads past the pond and marshy areas of the large southwest portion of the park.

Meadow Trail winds through native wild flowers and young conifers including Douglas Fir, Noble Fir, Grand Fir, Sitka Spruce, Western Hemlock, Incense Cedar and Ponderosa Pine.

Dogwood Loop is not to be missed in the spring with grand examples of Pacific Dogwood.

Grape Loop takes the visitor through several areas of Oregon grape. The plant resembles holly and is the state flower of Oregon. The three species native to Oregon are growing in the arboretum.

Kalapuya Trail is named after the Native American tribe inhabiting this area prior to the arrival of white settlers. The Kalapuya are members of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon.

Flume Trail follows the historic log flume that was used between 1890 and 1910.

Historic Log Flume 1890-1910

In the early years of Dallas, before the coming of logging trucks, the Arboretum site provided a vital service for Dallas industry.

This was when timber cut in the high country came crashing down La Creole Creek to an early sawmill in Dallas. A series of three dams along this small creek held water to boost logs along when sufficient rainfall flooded the upper creek.

At a curve in the La Creole, a diversion dam propelled the logs into a flume, which carried them into a Mill Pond, now occupied by Dallas City Park. The sawmill was located at the West entrance to the park.



Remaining in the Arboretum is the last visible trace of this hazardous early logging, the old Flume. The channel has been a verdant fern and flower path for years, but now it has been reidentified as the Historic Log Flume.

Today, when rains fill La Creole Creek, the flood waters still rush into the arboretum through the old flume.

Viola Sobolik Rock Garden

Along the meadow loop, a rock garden of native Lewisia plants honors Viola Sobolik, horticulturist, landscape designer, and garden writer, who as the first curator laid out the Arboretum's initial design and plantings with founder Delbert Hunter. She also established the publication of the Arboretum Newsletter and was both writer and designer of the original newsletter.



Rhododendron, False Solomon's Seal and Larkspur

Self-Guided Tours

The Arboretum offers 224 identification and interpretive signs to enhance the visitor's experience in the park and enable them to appreciate the variety of Oregon trees, shrubs and flowers. Many of these specimens are seldom found in such an accessible setting.

Facts about the Arboretum

Latitude: 44°55'26" North

Longitude: 123°19'31" West

Altitude: 318 feet

City: Dallas

County: Polk

Size: 7 acres

Annual Precipitation: 49.1 inches

Specimens: Over 1,000 native plants and trees, ever increasing.

Plant and Tree Labels: 224

Conifers: 36 species

Deciduous trees: 39 species

Shrubs: 44 species

Perennials & ferns: 62 species

Hours and Admission

The Delbert Hunter Arboretum is open to the public from dawn to dusk every day of the year. Admission is free. The park is pet friendly (leash required) and wheelchair accessible.

Donations and Contact Information

Donations are gratefully accepted and memberships are encouraged. As this park is completely volunteer operated, one hundred percent of your donation goes toward the plants and maintenance of the grounds and the printing and mailing of the newsletter. Please see the attached membership application form for further information. Your donation is tax deductible and the arboretum is a registered 501(c)(3) organization.

Delbert Hunter Arboretum & Botanic Gardens

631 Park Street

PO Box 504

Dallas, Oregon 97338



Pacific Dogwood

Directions

The main entrance to the Arboretum can be reached from the east by driving into the City Park off Levens Street. Parking may be accessed from Westwood Drive or from Levens Street. Pedestrians may enter the Arboretum from River Drive or from the Dallas City Park.

