



**ANNUAL
REPORT
2024**

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Mission & Vision

- To further the educational and interpretive opportunities available to park visitors
- To promote, preserve, and enhance the historical, natural, and recreational resources within the park
- To assist with park improvements and educational programs compatible with the nature of Silver Falls State Park

Through interpretation and collaboration between Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) and Friends of Silver Falls State Park (FOSF), we aim to promote a welcoming space for all, showcasing and safeguarding cultural and natural resources of Silver Falls State Park for future generations to value and preserve.

2024 Board of Directors & Staff

Mike Niemeyer, Board President
Ann Kitchel, Vice President
Judi DeSantis, Secretary
Jossi Davidson, Treasurer
Allison Barrows, Board Member
Earl McCollum, Board Member

Patti Lindquist, Board Member
Phyllis Bond, Board Member
Susan Ransom, Board Member
Chelsea Sims, Administrator
Kim Maley, Park Interpreter
Alice Sjolander, Asst. Store Manager

Celebrating History & Parks for ALL

Now more than ever, it is essential for people to be able to connect with nature in a safe and comfortable way. Friends of Silver Falls is dedicated to strengthening that connection the moment you step on this treasured public land. We strive to foster welcoming and accessible spaces for all visitors through free educational programs, events, services, and field trips. The projects funded by Friends of Silver Falls not only focus on educating visitors and preserving historic structures, but also aim to increase accessibility to interpretive facilities and information.



This year, we accomplished something truly special. The repairs to the Stone Kitchen Shelter have been a long-awaited and challenging project for years, and it now represents the Friends' largest infrastructure project to date. Friends have invested over \$67,500 in this historic building, largely due to the efforts of late board member Tom Dill. Our work will continue into next year as we focus on creating interactive displays so visitors can discover the building's historical significance.

We were especially proud to partner with [Outside Safe Space](#) this year. These little colorful trees are an acknowledgment of the past inequities faced in outdoor recreational areas. More than a sticker, pin, or patch; this initiative is a movement designed to empower visitors, volunteers, and staff to express their pride and allyship for those who have traditionally been underrepresented in outdoor spaces. Change happens when we come together to create it, and we invite everyone to join us in this journey to become part of a growing community that values and celebrates parks for all.



Looking ahead, we are ready to roll up our sleeves and get to work! Recreational spaces like Silver Falls will be vital in the coming years, providing individuals a peaceful environment to explore history and find joy and healing in nature. Together, we can ensure that Silver Falls remains a welcoming haven for every visitor, today and for generations to come.

Chelsea Sims

Administrator, Friends of Silver Falls

First & Second Quarter



- 2024 kicked off with the traditional First Day Hikes led by the interpretive team.
- The board welcomed new leadership in January: Mike Niemeyer, President and Ann Kitchel, Vice President.
- Friends of Silver Falls travelled to San Francisco for the annual Public Lands Alliance Convention and Trade Show. This event unites nonprofits, land management agencies, and businesses to network, gain access to educational and fundraising tools, and discover custom products made for public lands visitors.
- The Nature Store got some much-needed updates and displays. This created a more open space that better showcases the historic log cabin.
- Earth Day volunteers were instrumental in getting the native plant garden ready for spring.



- The annual Mother's Day Birding and Wildflower Festival celebrated spring with a native plant sale, bird crafts, guided walks, raptor presentations, and discovery tables.
- In May, the board designated \$98k to fund the Stone Kitchen Shelter repairs and the park entrance monuments.
- The Friends of Silver Falls App launched with searchable flora/fauna species lists, hiking and camping info, history, geology, where to take dogs and pets, and how to get involved by donating, volunteering, and becoming a member. All interpretive brochures and park maps are downloadable in the app, which we hope will reduce printing and increase visitors' access to information about the park.
- Discovery Tables, guided hikes, Stone Kitchen Shelter tours, & campground/Jr. Ranger programs gave visitors the opportunity to participate in free educational activities nearly every day of the week throughout the summer!

Third & Fourth Quarter



- Repairs to the Stone Kitchen Shelter were completed in the summer. These repairs are now the Friends' largest infrastructure project to date.
- Friends of Silver Falls works with park staff to offer free field trips in the spring and fall. Numerous students of all ages visit and learn about the flora, fauna, geology, and history of the park.
- This year, we had a casino-themed party to appreciate our volunteers with games like coin flip, plinko, roulette of fortune, war, and rock paper scissors. Chips were exchanged for prizes, and awards were given out to those who contributed 100+ and 200+ hours. Throughout the year, our volunteers contributed an equivalent of \$96,061 in service time.
- Every year, Silver Falls State Park keeps one section of the park open to allow visitors to view meteor showers and experience the night sky from a Silver Falls vantage point. Visitors learned about light pollution and had hours of telescope viewing time with local astronomers from Night Sky 45.



- Staff and volunteers gathered in November to spruce up the South Falls Lodge in preparation for the Winter Festival. This potluck was nothing short of delightful as everyone shared stories, made crafts, and ate some great food!
- Winter Festival attracted 3,400 happy attendees who took part in activities such as discovery tables, guided hikes, birdhouse construction, wreath-making, maple tapping and tasting, plant propagation, and much more!
- For the second consecutive year, Friends of Silver Falls surpassed \$1 million in revenue, these funds will support educational programs, projects, events, and visitor services.

Impact in Numbers

25 Campground Programs

- 1,162 campers participated in FOSF programs
- 60% of Silver Falls campground programs were FOSF led

27 Field Trips

- Over 1,864 participants attended field trips led by FOSF
- 100% of Silver Falls field trips involved FOSF staff and volunteers

108 Interpretive Day-Use Activities

- 3,681 visitors engaged with FOSF staff or volunteers at Discovery Tables
- 1,343 visitors participated in guided hikes, Stone Kitchen Shelter, and workshops led by FOSF

21 JR. Ranger Programs

- 446 participants in JR Ranger programs
- 48% of the Junior Ranger programs were led by FOSF

39 Volunteers Regularly Donated Time

- 500 volunteer hours dedicated to free educational activities
- 2,709 hours worked in the Nature Store
- 76 volunteers donated their time to Silver Falls events

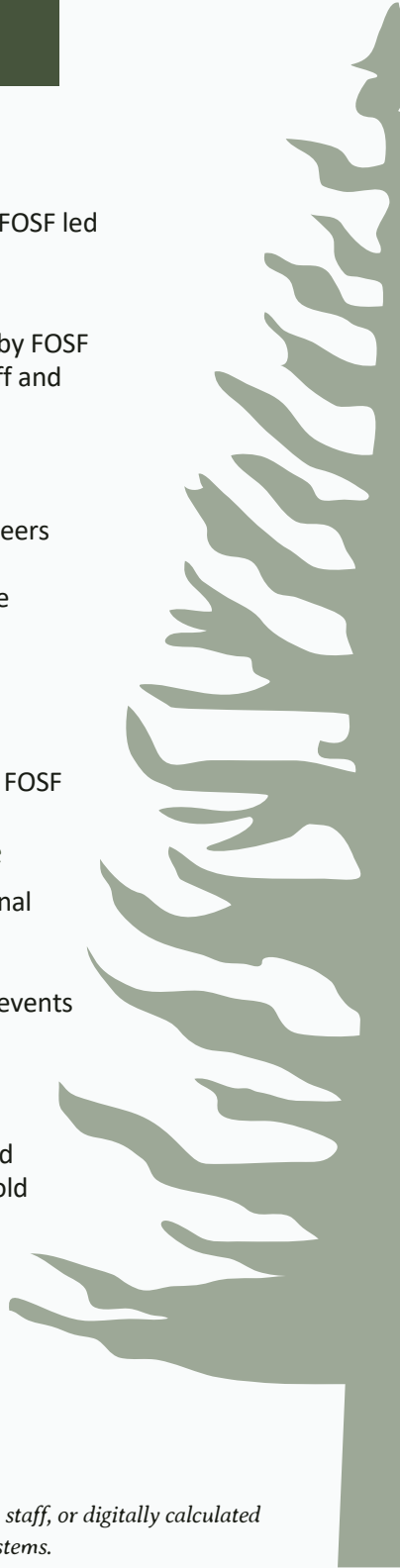
116 Average Daily Store Transactions

- 41,087 total transactions at the Nature Store
- 54,224 historical/recreational themed items sold
- 54,176 items related to our natural resources sold
- 1,369 Oregon State Park Passes sold

183K Website Visits

- 5,976 visits to maps and info page
- 2,133 visits to events calendar page
- Website visits up 58% from 2023
- 500 App downloads

The above numbers are estimates taken by volunteers, staff, or digitally calculated through POS and/or website systems.



Expenses

Administrative & Fundraising Expenses
12%

12%

Program Expenses
88%



Revenue Sources

2023: \$1,001,131

2024: \$1,141,464

Nature Store

\$969,400

\$1,089,101

Donation

\$17,085

\$20,251

Investments

\$2,123

\$18,322

Membership

\$7,587

\$8,965

Events

\$4,936

\$4,825

COOPERATING ASSOCIATION ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Friends of

Silver Falls State Park

Year Ending

2024

SECURITIES & INVESTMENTS

BALANCE OF SECURITIES AND INVESTMENT ACCOUNTS (CD) \$568,322.00

INCOME

DONATIONS	\$20,251.29
MEMBERSHIP DUES	\$8,965.21
SPECIAL EVENTS	\$4,825.27
RETAIL SALES (Gross receipts)	\$1,036,485.85
OPRD PASS SALES (Gross receipts)	\$52,615.00
GRANTS (All Funds)	\$0.00
FEES (Facility Rentals, Service Fees, etc.)	\$0.00
INTERPRETIVE AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS	\$0.00
INTEREST & DIVIDENDS	\$18,321.78
OTHER/MISC. INCOME	\$0.00
TOTAL CASH INCOME	\$1,141,464.40

EXPENDITURES

DONATION SOLICITATION	\$493.00
MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT	\$828.94
SPECIAL EVENTS	\$6,201.69
RETAIL SALES (cost of goods, operations)	\$516,410.91
OPRD PASS FEES TO OPRD	\$42,315.00
GRANTS (monies to OPRD)	\$88,002.46
INTEPRETIVE & EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS	\$3,681.63
VOLUNTEER SERVICES & SUPPLIES	\$8,381.04
STAFF WAGES & BENEFITS	\$202,100.12
ADMINISTRATIVE	\$17,966.25
OTHER EXPENSES - conferences	\$14,293.54
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$900,674.58

ANNUAL WORK PLAN SUMMARY

Friends of Silver Falls State Park

BEGINNING BALANCE	\$768,995.00
TOTAL PREVIOUS YEAR INCOME	\$1,141,464.40
LESS CURRENT YEAR EXPENDITURES	\$900,674.58
EQUALS A BALANCE OF (liabilities and depreciation excluded)	1,009,784.82
CURRENT YEAR AMOUNT CONTRIBUTED TO PARK (cash)	\$88,002.46
CURRENT YEAR IN-KIND* CONTRIBUTION TO PARK (services/supplies)	\$213,079.00

Describe In-Kind Contributions

The park interpreter supports OPRD's interpretive programs. Responsibilities include leading campground and Jr. Ranger programs, guided hikes, field trips, discovery tables, and historic tours. Interpretive festivals are supported by FOSF's volunteers and funding for supplies and guest presenters. The Nature Store serves as a central hub for visitors where they can access information and educational material about the park. Other contributions include public WiFi for visitors and music in the South Falls Lodge. Grants to the park for special projects included botanical drawings, Stone Kitchen Shelter masonry work, entrance monuments, and Camp Silver Creek repairs.

VOLUNTEERS STATISTICS YEAR ENDING 2024

	Number of Volunteers	Number of Hours
BOARD & COMMITTEE MEETINGS	9	424
INTERPRETIVE & EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS	15	319
SPECIAL EVENTS	76	182
RETAIL OPERATIONS	17	2,708
MISC./ADMINISTRATIVE/OFFICE	0	0
TOTALS	117	3,633

Volunteer Outcomes: In 2024, how have volunteers impacted the association's activities, programs and events? What was the volunteer program's effect on the visitor's experience during this past year? What have volunteer efforts changed or improved?

Volunteers contributed the equivalent of \$96,061 in time over 2024. They engaged directly with visitors at various locations, including the Nature Store, Discovery Tables, Stone Kitchen Shelter, guided hikes, and special projects. A total of 3,681 visitors connected with volunteers at the Discovery Tables, while the Nature Store saw 41,087 completed transactions. Silver Falls continues to experience increased visitation, and Friends of Silver Falls volunteers have been actively present to ensure that these visitors have a positive and educational experience in the park.

This report prepared by
Original Signature Required



Financial Report and Volunteer Summary due by March 1, 2024.

Title: FOSF Administrator



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