

A Brief History of the White Oak Savanna

The White Oak Savanna in West Linn, which overlooks the Willamette River and is perched on hills on the west side of the Willamette Falls, was once used by three of the five Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde. The acorns and blue camas found in the Savanna were a plentiful food source to the Tribes.

The preservation and restoration of this forest will help to maintain a physical link to our shared history. The local non-profit organization, Neighbors for a Livable West Linn (NLWL), worked in partnership with the Trust for Public Land to raise \$1,000,000 in matching fund grants from the State of Oregon Parks and Recreation, Metro, and the City of West Linn in order to purchase 14 acres of the upper acres of the White Oak Savanna as a natural park in 2009. Local citizens have recently donated or pledged over \$357,000 to the Savanna for the lower approximately 6 acres remaining to be purchased. Metro has recently approved a second grant of \$500,000 for the acquisition of these remaining acres of the rare and beautiful White Oak Savanna. Metro requires a 2:1 matching fund ratio. There are 30 different fundraisers planned for this year. White Oak Savanna custom jewelry is being sold through the website www.nlwl.org as one of the ways to raise money.

Community support and partnerships for the Savanna come from many different groups including, but not limited to: local nonprofit organization NLWL, Trust for Public Land, The West Linn Parks and Recreation Department, Northwest Youth Corps Outdoor Oregon Program, local Boy Scout troops, local Girl Scout troops, local churches, PSU, the OSU Alum., North Clackamas School District Forestry Class, West Linn High School classes, Willamette Primary School classes, Dr.

Richard Mishaga (PhD Biologist), naturalist Wendell Wood, and SOLVE. Local volunteers have donated over 7,000 hours of restoration work at the Savanna. Support for the Savanna also comes from nine West Linn Neighborhood Associations, two Chamber of Commerce Presidents, and local businesses. Spirit Mountain Community Fund approved a grant to fund the restoration work done by the Northwest Youth Corps OutDoor Oregon crew in the summer of 2011. The Oregon Community Fund approved a grant for \$5,000 recently.

The community has donated money at various fundraisers including but not limited to: 1) The Run/Walk for the White Oak Savanna, 2) Several BBQ benefits done at local markets including New Seasons, Whole Foods, Albertsons, and Market of Choice, 3) Several Concerts for the White Oak Savanna 4) Sales of White Oak Savanna jewelry, t-shirts, hats, books of photography, and reusable cloth tote bags at two annual craft fairs we organize.

Please call us at NLWL at 503 723 5015 if you would like to volunteer your time or donate your money.

Thank you,

Ed and Roberta Schwarz

Co-founders, NLWL