Volunteer Orientation
Welcome

Welcome and thank you for becoming a volunteer at Peninsula Park Rose Garden!

This orientation is meant to help you learn a little more about the park, the rose garden, and about the Friends group. You’ll also find a bit of guidance on rose deadheading and where to find more information, should you need it.
First off, we’re your neighbors. Most of our volunteers live in North and Northeast neighborhoods, including Piedmont, Kenton, Arbor Lodge, Alberta, Overlook, Boise, Irvington, Woodlawn, Columbia Park, Laurelhurst, and other neighborhoods. But, we also draw volunteers from the Westside, Southeast, and farther afield.

Our Friends group, which handles the management tasks for volunteers, including working with Portland Parks & Recreation staff, fundraising, event planning, and outreach to other community groups, is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. The Friends board meets monthly, and helps plan and implement our strategic plan, as well as events throughout the year. Board members also work on a variety of tasks with the aim to make your volunteering experience a pleasant one.
Our Mission

To preserve, protect and enhance Peninsula Park Rose Garden as a heritage resource for all generations.
What are those trees?

The trees at the “crossroads” in the garden are Catalpa trees (probably \textit{Catalpa speciosa}). Their stature and shape are maintained by a pruning process known as “pollarding” by which the upper branches are removed annually, once a tree reaches a desired height. This technique restricts the height of the tree and forces a dense growth of branches and leaves. The Catalpas were an original feature of the garden when it opened in 1913.

\textbf{Note:} We pollard the catalpas to keep the historical look of the garden, but pollarding is hard on trees, so please don’t try this on your own own trees.
The Strategic Plan

If you’re interested in finding out more about our strategic plan, you can contact one of the board members to obtain a copy.
When we do it

<table>
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<th>Spring</th>
<th>Summer</th>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Winter</th>
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<td>In early Spring, we have a handful of one-time, but important events: Spring pruning and replanting. Climber pruning. And some ongoing tasks later in the Spring, closer to Summer, for the truly dedicated, such as weeding.</td>
<td>Summer is our busiest season, of course. Deadheading roses is a constant need. It’s also during this season that we host some of our popular community events, like our evening Ice Cream Social. Volunteers are at the garden on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9 to noon.</td>
<td>In the Fall, we have a handful of volunteer dates, mainly in November for wind pruning, when we cut the rose bushes down to about waist high to keep them safe from our early winter winds.</td>
<td>You might think we’d all be hibernating in the Winter, but we like to keep in touch. While we don’t spend a lot of time in the garden, we do host one or more Winter Speaker Series lectures. We also have a holiday volunteer appreciation meeting at the Community Center at the Rosa Parks end of the Park.</td>
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What you need to know

All volunteers are required by the city to complete and submit some necessary forms. You can find these forms on our website at:

https://penrosefriends.org/volunteer

Download, complete, and either send to Steve Pixley at the address below, or bring the completed forms to the garden and give them to Hillary Maurer.
Tracking our hours

We are also required to report our hours to the PP&R Volunteer Coordinator. To make it easier for all of us, we have adopted an online time tracking tool called **Track It Forward**. You can create your Track It Forward profile at:

[https://penrosefriends.org/volunteer/](https://penrosefriends.org/volunteer/).

If you want to use Track It Forward on your phone or tablet, you can download the Track It Forward app from either the Apple iTunes app store (for iPhone or iPad) or the Google Play Store (for Android).

The application is very easy to use. If you need help getting started, just ask Hillary or Mark next time you are in the garden.

**NOTE**: Once you sign up on Track It Forward, you will receive all email notifications about volunteer events.
How to deadhead roses

- What is deadheading?
  - Deadheading involves pruning off dead or fading blooms
  - Promotes new blooming
  - Improves aesthetics
  - Helps fight disease

- Quick how-to
  - Scan down branch of spent bloom until you find the first 5-node leaflet
  - Clip just above (as close as you can) that leaflet
  - If a bloom or group of blooms won’t last for another one or two days, cut it
Quick video about deadheading

This YouTube video does a great, and brief, job of describing deadheading techniques. Thanks to Oklahoma Gardening host Kim Toscano.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JIvVCB6WBeo&t=17s
Learning more

- To learn more, just get into the garden and work with more experienced volunteers
- During bloom season, we meet in the garden Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9:00 a.m. until noon. You can work as little or as much as you like. There is always a host on site on those days, who you can meet near the gardening cart.
- Ask our horticulturist for help
- Review other videos on our website

https://penrosefriends.org