



Gone but Not Forgotten

We say Goodbye to our former president See p. 6

Scanning Event

Your history matters! Photos are being collected for the upcoming Hello BEND! Book See p. 8



The Homesteader

Deschutes County Historical Society Newsletter—June 2021

DRAKE PARK TIMELINE

Late 1800s – Log cabin which served as schoolhouse constructed on east bank of the Deschutes River.

1900 – A.M. Drake hunting lodge built overlooking what would soon become Mirror Pond.

1903 – Log cabin becomes the home of the Bend Bulletin.

1905 – City of Bend incorporated.

1909 – Mirror Pond formed by completion of power dam on Deschutes River.

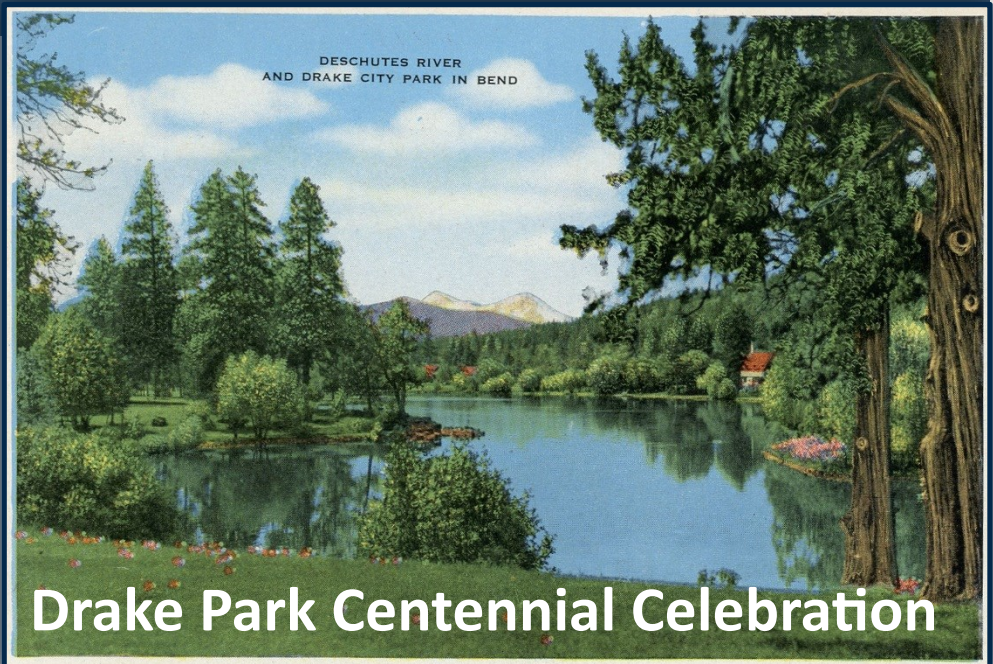
1910 – A.M. Drake lodge sold to Hunter Realty Co. The old school/Bulletin log cabin abandoned.

Early 1920s – Log cabin razed.

1920 – \$21,000 bond to finance the purchase of the riverfront property passed by 2 to 1 margin. A carousel-like bandstand erected in the park.

1921 - The Bend Company deeds the park land to the City of Bend.

- Continued on page 2



Drake Park Centennial Celebration

The Deschutes Historical Museum is pleased to announce that summer walking tours are returning to Saturdays, albeit looking a bit different due to COVID guidelines.

To celebrate the centennial anniversary of Drake Park, we are offering a new tour: **"Soul of the City: A History of Drake Park."** The tour weaves through this iconic park, exploring the history and happenings that has made Bend's first city park the soul of the city.

Each Saturday throughout the summer the museum will guide two (2) tours. The 10:30 a.m. tour will alternate between *An Architectural Tour* and *Early Days of Bend* tour. The 2:30 p.m. tour will be *Soul of the City: A History of Drake Park*.

With tour space limited to six (6) people plus your guide, registration is required and can be made online at www.deschuteshistory.org or by phone 541-389-1813. All tour attendees are required to wear a mask covering mouth and nose.

Walking tours cost \$5 per person and are **Free** to Deschutes County Historical Society & Museum Members. Visit the museum's website calendar for tour schedule and registration. **Tours and tour schedule subject to change due to COVID guidelines**

Have family coming to stay? Plan a private group walking tour.

Contact Vanessa Ivey for more information and scheduling availability.

1921-2021- The Origins of Drake Park

By Mike Berry

In 1920 the need to create a public park in the city of Bend seemed, to many, as pointless as carrying coal to Newcastle. Bend was a small, bustling town of 5,400 in the center of a beautiful, natural wonderland. Just outside the miniscule city limits was an untamed wilderness to explore. A July 1919 *Bend Bulletin* editorial noted that “people who own automobiles make their own parks – that is, it is possible for them to ride out anywhere into the country or the woods and enjoy much the same thing that is found in a park in the city limits”. It pointed out that in city parks “neatness and order are enforced” by signs and ordinances and that these “restraints are irksome. We want to walk on the grass and pick the flowers”.

Fortunately for today’s citizens of this city of over 100,000 people, a century ago there were some civic-minded residents with the farsightedness to lobby for the creation of a public park within the city in order to preserve some of the natural beauty and splendor that was taken for granted by those with a jalopy and a couple of gallons of gas in the tank. Without their leadership and gumption, today’s Drake Park would be a 100 year old upscale

- Continued on page 3



Sam Peoples sails his bike on the Drake Park tennis court. In the background is Sam’s house at the corner of Riverside and Idaho Avenues.

DRAKE PARK TIMELINE

Continued from P. 1

- 1923** – Hard-packed surface tennis courts added.
- 1927** – Stabilizing wall constructed along the river’s edge.
- 1928** – Park named “Drake Park” after the founder of Bend, A.M. Drake. Tragedy strikes when presidential candidate Frank T. Johns drowns in Deschutes River while attempting to save 10 year old Jack Rhodes, who also drowns.
- 1929** – Grass planted in park. Riverside Boulevard paved and street trees planted.
- 1935** – Footbridge connecting Drake Park to the west bank reconstructed.
- July 4, 1933** – Bend’s first Water Pageant held on Mirror Pond and in Drake Park.
- 1941** – Brooks-Scanlon donates a set of logging “High Wheels” to be displayed at Drake Park.
- July 4, 1944** – Introduction of the 48-foot illuminated arch at the Water Pageant.
- 1947** – Tennis courts removed.
- 1953** – Footbridge replaced.
- 1956** – Drake Lodge believed to

- Continued on page 3



Deschutes Historical Museum

129 NW Idaho Avenue
Bend, OR 97703
Open Tuesdays-Saturdays
10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
541.389.1813

Museum Staff:

Kelly Cannon-Miller, Executive Director
Vanessa Ivey, Museum Manager
Rebekah Averette, Collections Manager
Tracy Alexander, Membership Officer



2021 DCHS Board of Directors:

Sue Fountain, President
Adrian Bennett, Vice President
Jane Williamson, Secretary/Treasurer

Board Members:

Mike Berry, Mark Capell, Paul Claeysens,
Tony DeBone, Beau Eastes,
Dan Ellington, Terry Foley, Greg Fulton,
Karen Green, Loren Irving, Heidi Kennedy, and
Susie Penhollow

Complete minutes of the meetings of the Board of Directors are on file with the Museum office.

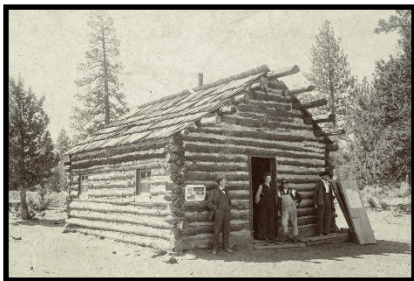


www.deschuteshistory.org
info@deschuteshistory.org

Continued from P. 2— A History of Drake Park

neighborhood with large houses and fenced yards stretching from Riverside Boulevard to the east bank of the Deschutes River, offering the public fleeting glimpses of Mirror Pond from the road.

Thanks to the efforts of the Women's Civic League in 1920, a half mile of riverfront property along Mirror Pond was deeded by the Bend Company to the City of Bend for a city park, today's Drake Park.



Old Log Cabin in Drake Park, first home of the Bend Bulletin



The Drakes' Lodge, built in 1900, later became the home of the Emblem Club and then was the meeting place of the Masons. It was demolished in 1956.

Early days before the park - The land that encompasses Drake Park was originally part of two tracts of land homesteaded by Stephen Staats and Court Allen. Allen mistakenly built a log cabin on Staats' property. This cabin was used as a school starting in 1883, for the children living in scattered homesteads and ranches along the river. According to census records, by 1900 twenty-one people lived in the Bend precinct.

In 1900 Alexander Drake (1859-1934) and his wife Florence (1861-1933) came rolling along the Deschutes River in the equivalent of a horse drawn RV and stopped to camp above the Deschutes River at what is now the Mirror Pond parking lot. They soon started buying up land in the surrounding area, including the future Drake Park lands. They built a grand two-story log lodge at this camping spot and laid out the

downtown Bend Townsite and surrounding neighborhoods. They also procured irrigation water rights on the Deschutes River and started an irrigation district which began supplying water to customers in 1904. The district was the precursor to the Central Oregon Irrigation District.

In 1903 the school was moved from the cabin to a one-room schoolhouse and the fledgling Bend Bulletin newspaper moved into the old cabin. In this cabin, in what would become Drake Park in another 18 years, editor Don P. Rea penned a prophetic editorial for the April 4, 1903 issue in which he urged the new citizens of the town to "select a park site now". He stated "it would be a fine thing to pick a suitable location RIGHT NOW for a permanent public park... Now is the time for the Benders to get in and pick the park site. We don't need it now, because the country is all park... but in our old age we will be thankful that we had foresight enough to plan a pleasant place in which to spend a Sunday afternoon with our grandchildren."

The population of Bend hit 536 in 1910, on the verge of unprecedented growth and prosperity. A year later, Drake disposed of his vast interests in Central Oregon for \$350,000 (the 2021 equivalent of \$9,800,000) and the Drakes retired to Pasadena, California. Over 11 years Drake had founded and platted the town of Bend, opened the outlying areas to homesteading through his irrigation project, built a saw mill, a water system and a hydroelectric power station by damming the Deschutes River, creating Mirror Pond in the process. He was a savvy, hardworking, honest businessman and visionary. However, in the course of making his fortune Drake had not heeded Don Rea's 1903 suggestion to reserve some of these lands for a public park.

After Drake's departure, the Bend Company owned the future Drake Park property, holding it in reserve for some later use, possibly as another sawmill or a pulp mill.

Tug o' War for the park - In 1919 local developers started floating the idea that the 10 acre "unappealing

DRAKE PARK TIMELINE

Continued from P. 2

have "no apparent utility" and is demolished.

1966 – Water Pageant discontinued due to financial problems and insufficient help.

1973 – Bandstand condemned and razed by the city. The Clyde McKay house at the east boundary of the park is moved to O.B. Riley Road. It is now the McKay Cottage restaurant.

1974 – The former McKay property is sold to the City of Bend for \$89,300, increasing the size of Drake Park.

1977 – Additional property between Mirror Pond Parking lot and Mirror Pond is gifted to the City by the Bend Foundation, increasing the size of the park to 13 acres.

1977 – Bend's first annual Pole Pedal Paddle is held with the finish line and post-race festivities held in the park.

1980 – Restrooms and outdoor stage built.

1991 – First season of Munch & Music concerts.

1997 – Footbridge replaced again.

2004 – Last Pole Pedal Paddle Race held at Drake Park. Event moves to Old Mill District in 2005.

2017 - A.M. Drake Homestead Ponderosa Pines recognized as Oregon Heritage Trees.

Volunteer Corner

Holle

***In memory of our dear friend and volunteer,
who died suddenly in April, 2021***

Young

By Bonnie Burns

It was said of Holle that, "She sure kept her light under a bushel". Even after knowing her for years, we had all heard bits and pieces of her life but hadn't a complete picture. Too often we wait and there's no time left to acknowledge a life well lived. Holle Young died suddenly April 22, 2021. We thank her daughter, Jessica, for filling in more than we ever knew.

Holle was born in Alaska. Her father was a mining engineer and subsequently, they were on the move a lot. They lived in Cobalt, Idaho (now a ghost town) and eventually settled in Salt Lake City. After high school, Holle backpacked through Europe on her own, and eventually attended university in Salzburg, Austria. She returned to the U.S. to finish her education attending schools in Connecticut and Colorado where she earned two Bachelors degrees and a Masters.

She then ventured to New Mexico to teach on a Navajo reservation. She met her husband, a geologist, and moved to Denver, where they had a daughter, Jessica, and a son, Chris. In 1984, Holle and her children moved to Southern California where she stayed until she retired from a successful career as a science teacher and gang, drug, and alcohol interventionist at George Washington Carver Middle School in South-Central Los Angeles.

In 2011 she moved to Bend where her many interests included being a volunteer at the Deschutes Historical Museum. Holle loved working the special events; the Haunt Walk, Chili Feed, and the Little Woody, to name a few. She was just as happy to assemble a Christmas tree as don a costume for the occasion. She often regaled us with some of her adventures that, as we were to find out, were many. Holle continued to travel the world with her friends and family: Mexico, Belize, Ireland, Germany, Austria, Czech Republic, England, Scotland and cruised the eastern coast of Canada. Always a wanderlust and adventurous spirit, Holle will be missed by her friends and fellow volunteers.

"Our mom lived a life that was rooted in strong convictions - from a fierce love and loyalty for her family to championing equality and human rights. As a scientist and humanist, Mom was a strong advocate of vaccination and being an organ donor. Mom's eyes will live on to provide sight to someone in need and her tissues for research to prevent and manage future diseases. She would be so pleased to have that legacy."
Jessica and Chris



Continued from P. 3— A History of Drake Park

and dusty stretch of riverfront” should be sold for home sites. It obviously had great potential for a snazzy neighborhood. However, others in town opined that the site’s most beneficial potential lay in a city park.

Concurrently with these new outlooks on the Bend Company property, the Women’s Civic League of Bend was formed in November of 1919 to cooperate with city officials “in all matters of health and morals” and to foster civic pride.

Right out of the blocks the Civic League began addressing various issues throughout the city. Two of their top projects were creating a “day nursery” (day care) for working mothers and acquiring the vacant Bend Company riverfront land for a city park.



May Arnold (1880-1964) was the Civic League member who spearheaded the city park issue. A more capable and energetic advocate for the public well-being would be hard to find. She and her husband, John F. Arnold, settled in Bend in 1909. In her 55 years in Bend, May’s civic service and accomplishments were extraordinary. She was the first chair of the local March of Dimes, serving in that capacity for 19 years. She was awarded a medal of patriotic service during World War II for selling over one million dollars’ worth of War Bonds. She was chair of the County’s Democratic Central Committee and had a private audience with Eleanor Roosevelt. She and John divvied up their home into small rooms to house war brides whose husbands were stationed at nearby Camp Abbott. Additionally, she was the de facto founder of Drake Park... although throughout her life she humbly insisted it was ALL of the members of the Civic League who accomplished this feat.

The Bend Company was approached about the river property by park advocates. The company’s asking price was \$21,000 for the 10 plus acres. Many citizens and some members of the City Council balked at having to raise taxes to pay for the land and the fact that this acreage would then be taken off of tax rolls if it became public land.

May Arnold and the Woman’s Civic League then ramped up their campaign. The naysayers never had a chance....

May argued with the council about the need for a city park and then presented them with a petition signed by 1,500 people in favor of placing a park bond on the May 1920 ballot to raise the money. It was stressed that each

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**Must Have 500 Men
Women & Husky Kids**
**At The New City Park
Grounds-Tonight 6:30**
Bring Hoes, Rakes, Pitchforks and a Determination to Clean Up.
Music by Shevlin-Hixon Band
The Brooks-Scanlon Lumber Co.

Park clean-up event ad, Bend Bulletin June 16, 1920

- Continued on page 7

Memorials

Denis Berrigan

Cathy Poetschat

George Poetschat

Elsa Ruth Douglass
Karen and Duke Duncan

Marsha Stout

Lorlee Ackerman
Bette Andrew
Bonnie Burns
Judith Corbett
Andrea Hunnell DuPree
Anita Elliott
Sue Fountain
Harper Houf Peterson Righellis Inc.
Bert Kronmiller
Linda Orcelletto
Susie Penhollow
David Pullin
Kristin Raven
Paula Simila
Georgia Springer
Roselyn and Paul Taylor

Holle Young

Bette Andrew
Bonnie Burns
Andrea Hunnell DuPree
Anita Elliott
Sue Fountain
Paula Simila
Georgia Springer

Tributes

Ralph C. Curtis

Jean Rotter

DCHS Officers and Volunteers

Gayle Lowe

Saying Goodbye to Marsha Stout

September 14, 1946– May 12, 2021

Marsha Lou Stevens was born on September 14, 1946 to Harold C. and Mary Gene (Marshall) Stevens in Ottawa, Kansas. She attended public schools in Ottawa and graduated with honors from Ottawa High School in 1964. She earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Kansas State University in 1968.

On June 8, 1968, she married Melvin (Mel) James Stout at the First Methodist Church in Ottawa and they embarked on a honeymoon/job intern position outside of Detroit, Michigan that summer. Mel graduated with a Bachelor of Landscape Architecture degree in 1969 and they moved to Washington, D.C. for Mel's service in the US Army Engineer Corps. While Mel served in Viet Nam, Marsha moved back to Kansas and worked at the Credit Union on Forbes Air Force base. When Mel returned in 1971, they moved to Ann Arbor, Michigan, where Mel received his Masters of Landscape Architecture.



In 1972, Mel and Marsha moved to Portland, Oregon, where Mel accepted a position with a new, young landscape architecture firm. Marsha began a 21-year career at the Blitz-Weinhard Brewing Company, in the advertising and community affairs departments. In 1996, Marsha became the Director of Membership/Partner Services for the Portland Oregon Visitors Association (later known as TravelPortland). That position lasted 14 years, and Marsha loved both careers and helping promote her adopted hometown of Portland.

In 2010, Mel and Marsha retired and moved to Bend, Oregon and the home they designed and built on acreage outside of Tumalo. Marsha became active in her new community and served on the boards of Newcomers Club of Bend, Arts Central, Deschutes County Historical Society, and the Arts & Culture Alliance of Central Oregon. She became a commissioner of the Bend Cultural Tourism Fund in 2014 and was a Central Oregon Ambassador for Oregon Public Broadcasting.

Marsha Stout came to the Deschutes Historical Museum in 2012 ready to become involved. She loved history, and her career at the historic Blitz-Weinhard's brewery and later with Travel Portland gave her a skill set in marketing and tourism that she wanted to bring to her work for DCHS. Elected to the board of directors in 2013, she never stopped being our advocate, not even during her battle with cancer. As president of the board (2018-19), she helped the staff broaden its outreach, making sure we were involved with the arts and culture community. She helped develop the great partnerships we have today with The Tower Theater and BendFilm. Her support was invaluable and her friendship treasured.



Marsha wearing her "Golden Headset," made as a "thank you" for making countless phone calls to members over the years.

Mel and Marsha became early supporters of the zero population growth movement and chose not to have children. She is survived by Mel, her sister Judith Corbett of Topeka, Kansas, two nephews and a niece. She is preceded in death by her parents and her sister Patricia Dempsey Calandrino.

Mel and Marsha were married for nearly 54 years. Marsha passed away May 12, 2021 from complications with cancer. She was loved by all who knew her. She will always be in all our hearts. Her wishes were for cremation and no service.

Donations in Marsha's memory may be made to Planned Parenthood and the Deschutes County Historical Society.

Deschutes Historical Museum

Heritage Walking Tours of Downtown Bend June 5-August 28, 2021

Put some history in your future...

Join us as we walk around beautiful downtown Bend this summer offering

two (2) historic tours each Saturday: 10:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

Tours are limited to six (6) people plus your guide. A face covering is required to be worn by all tour attendees.

Price: \$5.00, Deschutes Historical Museum Members FREE

ADVANCE RESERVATION IS REQUIRED SIGN UP MUST BE BY 4 p.m. THE DAY BEFORE TOUR.

Call 541-389-1813 or register online DESCHUTESHISTORY.ORG

Tours are subject to change and cancellation.

NEW Soul of the City: A History of Drake Park

Celebrate the park's centennial with a guided tour along the iconic Mirror Pond. The tour weaves through the park, exploring the history and happenings that have made Bend's first city park the soul of the city.

Tour begins at the Deschutes Historical Museum and ends in Drake Park.

Saturdays June 5– August 28 2:30 p.m., approximately 1 hour **Distance:** Less than a mile

Reflections of History: An Architectural Tour

Stroll through the Drake Park Neighborhood Historic District and take a step back in time when walking was "the thing to do" and neighborhoods were all about proximity. Participants will be introduced to the architectural styles represented in the neighborhood, and hear stories of a changing community.

Tour begins and ends at the Deschutes Historical Museum.

June 5 & 19, July 3, 17, & 31, August 14 & 28 10:30 a.m., approximately 1.5 hours

Distance: One (1) mile through historic neighborhood. The sidewalks can be uneven.

The Early Days of Bend

Travel back to when the Deschutes river ran wild, Ponderosa pines were plentiful and Bend the Beautiful was a town in the making. Learn about early Bend through the stories of six "Bendites" and how these residents helped transform a young Hamlet into a booming town. Tour begins at the Deschutes Historical Museum and ends at Lone Crow Bungalow on Wall St.

June 12 & 26, July 10 & 24, August 7 & 21 10:30 a.m., approximately 1 hour

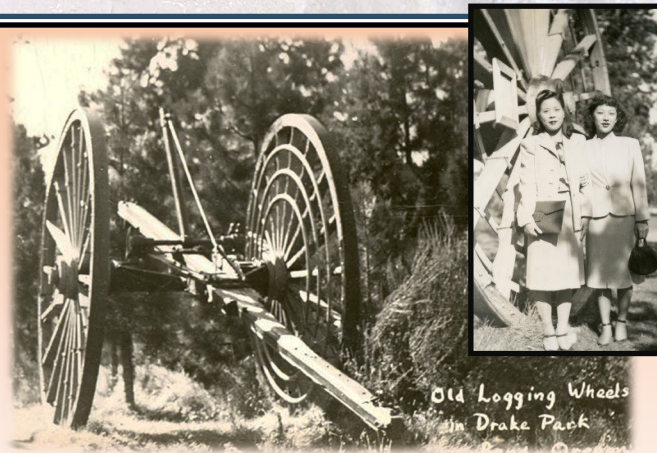
Distance: Less than a mile traveling through old neighborhoods and parkways. The ground can be uneven and is not recommended for wheelchairs.

Continued from P. 5— A History of Drake Park

signature represented a vote of protest against the council's objection to the park. With almost 30% of the 5,400 citizens of Bend signing the petition the city had no recourse but to place the vote on the ballot. Other civic organizations and the local press now voiced enthusiasm for the park. In the May 21, 1920 election the park bond passed in an overwhelming landslide, 806 votes for the park versus 296 against.

On March 1, 1921 The Bend Company deeded the park land to the City of Bend, making the park's existence official. The park was referred to as the City Park until 1928 when it was renamed "Drake Park" by a city council resolution to honor Alexander M. Drake.

Drake Park has been enjoyed by thousands upon thousands of people in the last 100 years. From concerts to races to pageants to car shows to circuses to revivals to holiday celebrations to senior high school photos to weddings to memorial services to family picnics and to quiet, contemplative walks, it has been a beautiful, welcoming oasis in the center of Bend for all the public to enjoy. As envisioned in a log cabin in the park in 1903, it is "a pleasant place in which to spend a Sunday afternoon".



*Logging High Wheels donated to the park in 1941,
Daisy Yee and friend standing by the High Wheels, circa 1960s*

We're all part of Central Oregon history.

SHARE YOUR PHOTOS

We are excited to invite you, our readers, to include your photos in this unique project, **"Hello Bend! Central Oregon Reinvented — 1950–2000: A Pictorial History"**

ATTEND ONE OF OUR SCANNING SESSIONS

Thursday, June 10 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Friday, June 11 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, June 12 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Saturday, June 12 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Bend Bulletin

320 SW Upper Terrace Dr.

Ste. #200, Bend

**CLICK HERE to
LEARN MORE**

The Bulletin
EMPOWERING OUR COMMUNITY



The Museum At Warm Springs is kicking off its Membership Drive in honor of ancestor and long-term Museum Board member Kenneth Smith. To find out about Membership levels and benefits, visit museumatwarmsprings.org or phone (541) 553-3331. The Museum is open Tuesday-Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., with COVID-19 safety and health protocols in place. Please join the community of supporters for this incredibly significant museum.

Mark Your Calendars

JUNE

- 5 HERITAGE WALKING TOUR: Reflections of History: An Architectural Tour**
10:30 a.m. Deschutes Historical Museum
- HERITAGE WALKING TOUR: Soul of the City: A History of Drake Park**
2:30 p.m. Deschutes Historical Museum
- 10 PHOTO SCANNING SESSION**
5:30-7:30 p.m. Bend Bulletin 320 SW Upper Terrace Dr. Ste #200
- 11 PHOTO SCANNING SESSION**
5:30-7:30 p.m. Bend Bulletin 320 SW Upper Terrace Dr. Ste #200
- 12 PHOTO SCANNING SESSION**
9:00-11:00 a.m. and 1:00-3:00 p.m. Bend Bulletin
320 SW Upper Terrace Dr. Ste #200
- HERITAGE WALKING TOUR: Early Days of Bend**
10:30 a.m. Deschutes Historical Museum
- HERITAGE WALKING TOUR: Soul of the City: A History of Drake Park**
2:30 p.m. Deschutes Historical Museum
- 19 HERITAGE WALKING TOUR: Reflections of History: An Architectural Tour**
10:30 a.m. Deschutes Historical Museum
- HERITAGE WALKING TOUR: Soul of the City: A History of Drake Park**
2:30 p.m. Deschutes Historical Museum
- 26 HERITAGE WALKING TOUR: Early Days of Bend**
10:30 a.m. Deschutes Historical Museum
- HERITAGE WALKING TOUR: Soul of the City: A History of Drake Park**
2:30 p.m. Deschutes Historical Museum



*"The Fairy Path" that leads from
Broadway to Congress Avenues*

ADVANCE RESERVATION IS REQUIRED.
SIGN UP MUST BE BY 4 p.m. THE DAY BEFORE TOUR.
Call 541-389-1813 or register online
[DESCHUTESHISTORY.ORG](https://deschuteshistory.org)
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