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PARENTS' WEEKEND 1997

Local parks make for pleasant visit

By Kyle Yamada
Freelance Reporter

Eugene's city parks offer scenery, community heritage, activities and wide open areas, making them popular sites for spending free time.

Skinner Butte — According to the May 1997 issue of *Journeys* magazine, Skinner Butte is the most popular park in town. It is named after pioneer and city founder Eugene Skinner, who arrived in the area in 1846.

According to *Journeys*, the indigenous Kalapuya Indians advised Skinner to build on high ground. This flood-avoiding strategy explains the butte's excellent view of downtown.

"[Skinner Butte] is the place where you'd most frequently take out-of-town visitors to get a quick view of the city," city council member Ken Tollenaar said. Tollenaar also cited the

park's great historic importance as one of its assets.

According to *Journeys*, the architectural styles of the area date back to the 1850s, which helped earn Skinner Butte a spot on the National Register of Historic Places in 1982.

Skinner Butte Park also has softball fields, playgrounds and paved biking and walking trails for the physically active. Park patrons can take advantage of the picnic tables after working up an appetite.

Alton Baker Park — Many students frequently make their way through Alton Baker Park, as it lies directly between the University and Autzen Stadium. Sophomore Thomas Rommel cited holes in the playing fields as a disadvantage of Alton Baker Park, but included the riverfront bicycle trails among its assets.

"You can see the water,"

Rommel said of the view from the trails.

Ducks complete Alton Baker Park's river atmosphere, not to mention their contribution to school spirit.

The park offers shelters that accommodate 110 to 150 people for large events. Organizers can rent the shelters for \$100 to \$120 every six hours with a \$100 deposit. Renters must reserve the facilities at least 10 working days in advance. Details are available from Lane County Public Works at 687-5220.

Park visitors should also be aware that "wading, swimming or bathing in any pools, ponds, canals, or other water features of Alton Baker Park" is prohibited under Eugene's park rules.

Hendricks Park — Flower lovers will find themselves most at home in Hendricks Park.

Turn to PARKS, Page 7B

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