

Volunteers to restore Spencer Butte trails

The event is planned in conjunction with National Trails Day

By Sara Jarrett
Oregon Daily Emerald

Erosion is invading. REI to the rescue.

Volunteers will celebrate National Trails Day on Saturday by renovating the paths of Spencer Butte, a popular hiking area 2.5 miles south of Eugene off Willamette Street.

"We're really proud to be a part of this project," said Lisa Snell, store manager for the Eugene branch of REI, a camping and outdoor store.

From 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., trained crew leaders will lead 30 improvement projects to reslope, raise and drain a projected two miles of the trail.

Spencer Butte was selected for REI's sixth annual community service project, which is also sponsored by the city of Eugene Public Works Volunteer Parks Department, KZEL and KNRQ, local radio stations.

Overuse, water erosion, the way the trail was initially designed and off-trail use have all contributed to the trail's damage, said Marcia Peeters, parks volunteer coordinator and manager of the Eugene Public Works Volunteer and Parks Project.

Failure to keep dogs on leads has heavily contributed to the

trail's demise. As the dogs stray, they cause wear patterns adjacent to the established trails, she said. These become more pronounced as people begin following the new paths.

"Dogs need to be kept on a lead," Peeters said.

The impact loose dogs have on wild animals is also devastating, she said. The animals simply "aren't visible anymore" because they are frightened, Peeters said.

Erosion is also caused by the year-round popularity of the trails.

"Hundreds of people use it every week, especially in the summer," Peeters said. It's even worse in the winter, though, she explained. Hikers tear up the wet, fragile ground.

All volunteers will receive breakfast, water, a National Trails Day T-shirt from REI and a free lunch from Pizza Hut and Pepsi, Snell said.

Anyone interested in volunteering for the event can sign up at REI, located at Third Avenue and Washington Street in Eugene, call REI at 465-1800 or just show up at the Spencer Butte parking lot equipped with work clothes, strong shoes and a vision of a new and improved butte.

The Lane Transit District will also provide a free shuttle to and from the butte, which departs at 8 a.m. from Ida Patterson Elementary School located on 15th Avenue between Chambers and Polk.

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News Briefs

University architect receives design award

Chris Ramey, University architect and director of the University Planning Office, has received a case study award for excellence in campus design from the Association of University Architects for the EMU Amphitheater.

Ramey will present the case study and receive the award at the association's annual meeting, June 20-24, in Pittsburgh.

The case study, entitled "Spaces for Communities to Exchange Ideas: A 50-Year History of a Space Returned to its Community," traces the history of the gathering space in front of the EMU. It started as a grassy knoll, turned into an unwelcoming underpass and finally ended up as an amphitheater with a free-speech platform where students and others can listen to speakers and meet for activities.

The award is one of four national awards in the Case Study Award Program, which was established to promote the exchange of ideas in the 100-member association. Each award competes with anywhere from 30 to 40 entries nationwide.

The amphitheater, which opened to students in spring of 1998, was built to commemorate a century of student involvement and to re-create opportunities for free speech. Its construction marked the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the ASUO in 1997.

Ramey previously received a Case Study Award from the Association of University Architects in 1997 for a case study on the Knight Library renovation and expansion project.

AAA school to give award to filmmaker

Award-winning filmmaker James Ivory will receive the 1999 Ellis F. Lawrence Medal from the School of Architecture and Allied Arts.

Robert Melnick, AAA dean and fellow of the American Society of Landscape Architects, will present the medal to Ivory at the school's commencement ceremony at 3 p.m. on June 12. The ceremony will take place on the EMU East Lawn.

Ivory's films have won awards from critics, film festivals and the movie industries in the United States, England and France.

His partnership with producer Ismail Merchant and novelist-screenwriter Ruth Prawer Jhabvala earned 30 Academy Award nominations. "A Room with a View" (1987) and "Howard's End" (1992) each won three Academy Awards.

Ivory earned his bachelor of arts degree from the University in 1951 and a master's degree in cinema from the University of Southern California in 1957. In 1993, he received the University's prestigious Pioneer Award.

The Lawrence Medal is awarded by the School of Architecture and Allied Arts to an alumnus or alumna whose professional and personal achievements embody the integrity, educational philosophy and commitment to his or her chosen field as exemplified by Ellis F. Lawrence.

Lawrence was founder of the school, a Portland architect and an educator. Lawrence served as dean of the school from 1914 until his death in 1946.

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