



eugene

Outdoors

Spring 2010

A publication of the City of Eugene Parks and Open Space Division

**EUGENE
Parks and
Open Space**

Inside

- Spray Play 2
- Delta Ponds Improvements 3
- City Center Skatepark 4
- Adopt-A-Park 5
- External Grant Fundings 6
- Summer in the City 7
- Events Calendar 8



www.eugene-or.gov/parks



Washington Spray Play Park concept design



Momentum has grown steadily and a spirit of collective giving is becoming a lasting legacy.

Local Nonprofit Spearheads Wading Pool Conversions Throughout Eugene

By Carrie Peterson, Park Development Coordinator

Even during tough economic times, community members continue to find creative ways to fund renovations in their local parks. This summer construction is expected to begin on Eugene's first large-scale water spray play park. Leading this effort is the Eugene Parks Foundation (EPF), which has partnered with the City of Eugene and involved the community in helping transform all six recently closed wading pools into spray play parks – the first taking place at Washington Park.

At the end of 2009, all Eugene wading pools were closed permanently as a result of new changes in state health regulations related to public pools. The new rules required that wading pools be chemically treated and retrofitted with filtered recirculating water systems or be closed. The wading pool closures are the result of the required filtering systems being prohibitively expensive to build and maintain. To maintain these new spray play features, existing maintenance funding from the decommissioned wading pools will be used and community volunteers will be sought to help provide ongoing care.

To date, EPF has raised \$100,000 toward their goal of \$125,000, and the City of Eugene is supporting this effort with \$75,000 in seed money. In order for construction to begin this summer, EPF is working hard to raise the last \$25,000. In partnership with the City, EPF's success so far has been through actively engaging park advocates, neighbors, and local businesses in a variety of approaches.

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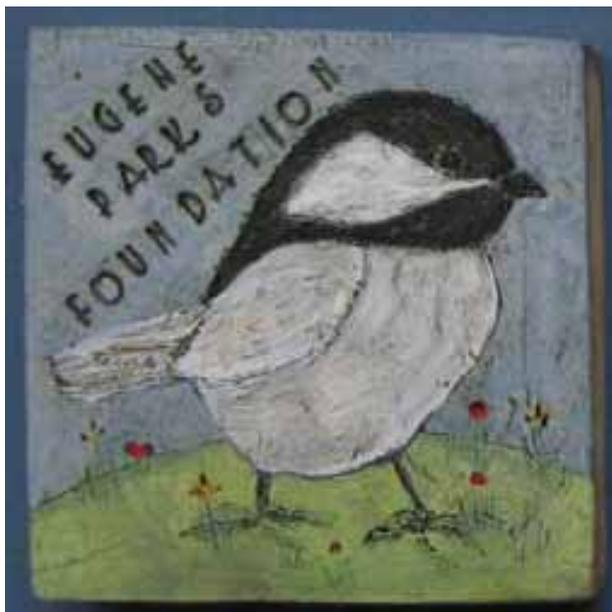
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For example, over a four-week period this spring 13 local businesses donated a percentage of sales on select dates. The collaboration raised funds, valuable project awareness, and jointly benefitted both the project and the businesses. Another creative strategy has been to capitalize on materials and supplies donated by local businesses as in-kind pledges to the project construction.

Around Washington Park, neighbors have been hosting house parties to share project details and sponsorship opportunities, and have implemented a door-to-door campaign to share their enthusiasm with friends and neighbors. Momentum has grown steadily by people talking to one another and a spirit of collective giving is becoming a lasting legacy. You can be part of this effort and help ensure construction begins this summer by sponsoring one of many elements within the park. Visit the Eugene Parks Foundation at www.eugeneparksfoundation.org to order your own custom pathway art tile today.



- ☀ *fun*
- ☀ *accessible*
- ☀ *interactive*
- ☀ *eco-friendly*
- ☀ *expanded hours*



Sample 4"x4" art tile, nine designs to choose from

Eugene's Largest Spray Play Water Park Coming Soon!

The Eugene Parks Foundation is selling customized art tiles by local artist Betsy Wolfson in order to raise the last \$25,000 needed to ensure construction of the Washington Spray Play Park can begin this summer.

Go online and customize your own \$100 pathway art tile today.

www.eugeneparksfoundation.org



Washington Spray Play Park concept design



Managing Eugene's Parks and Natural Areas - Meeting the Challenge

Over the past decade, Eugene's park and natural area system has benefited from a tremendous amount of community support. This support has brought lasting changes to Eugene's landscape, including new parks in 17 neighborhoods, expanded and increased connectivity among Eugene's natural areas, and future park sites ready for a growing community. Although the breadth of the park system has increased significantly, the operations and maintenance resources needed to maintain these assets have not been able to keep pace with this growth. To meet this challenge in the short term, the City of Eugene Parks and Open Space (POS) Division has been building on a number of strategies aimed at finding new ways to conduct maintenance practices, increasing public-private partnerships, seeking external funding sources, and focusing volunteer efforts on core services.

For more information about how POS is meeting its budget challenge as well as detailed information about anticipated City of Eugene budget reduction impacts to POS for fiscal year 2011 go to www.eugene-or.gov/parksbudget

Federal Stimulus Dollars and New Bridge Connection Improve Delta Ponds Natural Area

By Lauri Holts, Natural Resource Enhancement Coordinator, and Patrick Cox, Bridge Project Manager

As part of a \$1.64 million grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) the first round of invasive species removal has taken place on 16 acres of land at Delta Ponds, east of Delta Highway. Two more rounds of invasive control will take place this summer, followed by planting of 28,000 native trees and shrubs next winter. Where there was once an impenetrable wall of blackberries along the neighborhood path that meanders through the eastern portion of Delta Ponds, there is now an open and accessible area.

The NOAA grant, which is being funded by the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and \$2.33 million of stimulus funding received by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, will result in a flurry of additional activities at Delta Ponds this summer. A large culvert will be constructed under Goodpasture Island Road, completing the connection between the Willamette River, the interior Delta Ponds, and the slough system that reconnects to the river to the north. Over 5,000 linear feet of steep banks, remnant from the gravel mining era, will be converted to gradually sloping banks that will support a diversity of native wetland and riparian species.

In addition, the new Delta Ponds Bridge is under construction over Delta Highway. The new bicycle and pedestrian bridge will connect the Cal Young neighborhood with the Ruth Bascom Riverbank Trail system. The bridge is expected to be complete by September 2010. Unique elements of the project include innovative LED lighting, a commissioned art piece called "Bountiful" by local artist Lee Imonen, and a high-visibility pedestrian and bicycle crossing on Goodpasture Island Road. For more information about the Delta Ponds project, contact Lauri Holts at lauri.j.holts@ci.eugene.or.us. For more information about the Delta Ponds Bridge project, contact Patrick Cox at patrick.n.cox@ci.eugene.or.us. 



Restored banks around Delta Ponds burst with life, providing a glimpse of what this summer's work will bring



Delta Ponds Bridge rendering



Skate Park concept design

City Center Skatepark: Years of Collaboration Taking Shape

By Emily Proudfoot, Landscape Architect

The City of Eugene, in partnership with the non-profit group Skaters for Eugene Skateparks (SES) and the Eugene Rotary, is finalizing design and poised to begin construction on a world-class destination skatepark in the heart of Eugene at Washington Jefferson Park. The beginnings of this effort reach several years back to the Parks and Open Space Parks Master Planning process when 400 community members signed a letter requesting the development of a large, centrally located skatepark under the Washington Jefferson Street Bridge in downtown Eugene.

The project was elevated in status when it received a priority 1 project ranking by the Eugene City Council in adoption of the Eugene Parks Project and Priority Plan in 2006. At that time Council received eloquent testimony from many members of the skateboarding community and a 1,700-signature petition advocating for development of this important skating venue. This ranking allowed the city to allocate \$292,000 towards



development and construction of the project.

With the help of SES, the city selected and hired DreamLand Skateparks to work with the community to develop a design for the skatepark. The resulting design offers wheeled enthusiasts of all ages and abilities a unique and challenging place to ride throughout the year. The design was also created with an eye toward not expanding maintenance needs in a time of tightening budgets. Although there will be an increase in activity at the park, the current level of maintenance services provided at the park will adequately meet this increase.

SES and Eugene Rotary's fundraising efforts are ongoing with approximately \$35,000 of their \$250,000 fundraising goal achieved. Once funds are identified for all or selected project phases, construction will begin and the dream of a covered, lit place to skate will become a reality for Eugene area skaters. For more information, go to www.skateeugene.org or www.eugene-or.gov/ccskatepark.

Eugene's New Ribbon Trail

By Eric Wold, Natural Resources Manager

Come take a walk along Eugene's newest addition to the Ridgeline Trail System. The new 0.75 mile Ribbon Trail offers a slice of natural area in the city and connects the southern end of Hendricks Park to the intersection of Spring Boulevard and 30th Avenue.

The trail had been planned for many years because it creates a vital connection between well-used parts of Eugene's parks and open space system, but funding had never been available for construction. The 2009 federal stimulus bill, however, created a funding opportunity that was a terrific fit for this project. The Parks and Open Space Division was awarded a stimulus grant from the Oregon Youth Conservation Corps' (OYCC) Oregon Youth Employment Initiative. The initiative was designed to provide employment opportunities for youth between the ages of 18 and 24 in the fields of natural resources and conservation education. A

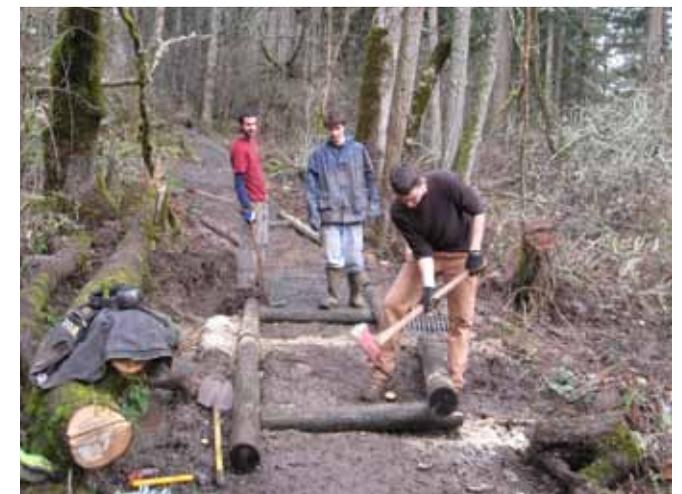
crew of six youth worked on the trail this past winter and they even put Governor Ted Kulongoski to work during his visit to the project.

We encourage you to explore this wonderful new addition to Eugene's much-loved 12-mile Ridgeline Trail. To see a map of the trail go to www.eugene-or.gov/parks and click on Eugene's recreational trails link. 



photo by Amanda Reed

Governor Ted Kulongoski helping out during his visit



Oregon Youth Conservation Corps working on the Ribbon Trail



Brandi Ferguson and Gary Haliski started what would become a model for neighbors adopting their local park when they began inviting people to pitch in at Awbrey Park

Awbrey Park volunteers

Adopt-A-Park Program Kicks Off in Awbrey Park

By Lorna Baldwin, Volunteers in Parks Coordinator

Just a few years ago the banks of Spring Creek, where it flows through Awbrey Park, were overrun by tall blackberries and choked with English ivy. In January of 2009, Brandi Ferguson and another neighbor, Gary Haliski, started what would become a model for neighbors adopting their park.

Brandi and Gary invited neighborhood volunteers to join them at the park the first Saturday morning of each month from October through May. A core group of regulars work alongside other individuals and groups recruited by the city's Volunteers in Parks program. Boy and girl scouts, students from Awbrey Elementary and Lane Community College, and fraternity members at the University of Oregon have all come out to lend a hand. Now the banks of Spring Creek are nearly clear of blackberries, new native plants are blooming this spring, and neighbors are meeting and establishing new friendships.

If you are interested in an active, outdoor, family-friendly way to meet your neighbors and contribute to your community, consider adopting your local park. Help the City of Eugene's Parks and Open Space Division maintain Eugene's treasured parks in these tight economic times by joining your neighbors and working with the city to learn more about what you can do. At Awbrey, new, positive memories are being created at each work party. If you would like to find out more about the city's **Adopt-A-Park program**, please contact the Volunteers in Parks Coordinator Lorna Baldwin at 541-682-4845 or lorna.j.baldwin@ci.eugene.or.us. *✍*

Public-Private Partnerships - A Growing Trend In Park Improvements

By Neil Bjorklund, Parks Planning Manager

Widespread recognition of economic conditions has inspired individuals and community groups to support public causes that are now underfunded, such as park development. The Parks and Open Space (POS) Division helps to direct these community efforts towards projects that reduce or minimize future operations and maintenance costs, and provides support and education to help make these projects successful. Some park development projects are completely funded with privately raised funds (e.g., the new spray play area at Fairmount Park). Other park development projects combine public capital funds with privately fundraised dollars. Prominent current examples include the City Center Skatepark project and the Washington Park spray play project. In both cases, private fundraising will provide half or more of the development budgets.

The recent surge in community-initiated projects has led POS to develop a new process to support, review, track, and manage this class of privately funded projects. It's called the Community-Initiated Park Development Process or CIPDP. The new process provides a much clearer structure and path for community groups to work with the city on park projects, and provides significant education for community groups about what makes projects successful. Some of the projects that have been recently proposed by community groups through the CIPDP process include new stone steps on Skinner Butte, a learning trail for young children, and new dog park facilities for small dogs.

In the lean budget years that are expected ahead, these models for public-private partnerships are expected to be increasingly important, and POS is improving its systems and tools for managing them. *✍*



The new spray play area at Fairmount Park is a recent example of a park project funded entirely by private donations

Ecological Burns Restore Native Habitat

By Trevor Taylor, Natural Areas Restoration Supervisor, and Emily Steel, Restoration Ecologist

The Willamette Valley was once dominated by prairies and oak savannas rich with a diversity of grass, wildflower, and wildlife species. Today less than 2 percent of the original prairie and oak savanna in the Willamette Valley remains, and some of the best remaining habitat is right here in Eugene.

To conserve biological diversity in remnant and restored prairie and oak ecosystems, the City of Eugene and its partners rely on ecological burns as a restoration and management tool. Historically, native people set regular, intentional fires in our area to maintain prairie structure and benefit important plants such as camas and Oregon white oak trees. Ecological burns accomplish several biological goals, including improved seed germination, removal of built-up thatch that suppresses delicate wildflowers, and short-term soil fertilization. In turn, these factors help increase wildflower diversity and healthy oak trees and improve habitat for the pollinators, butterflies, birds, mammals, and amphibians that depend on them.

Balancing the preservation of native plant communities by using fire near the urban areas of Eugene requires careful planning, thought, and consideration of our human population. The Parks and Open Space Division, Eugene Fire & EMS Department, The Nature Conservancy, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers work hard to implement ecological burns that are safe, minimize smoke in the atmosphere, and achieve our conservation goals. While safety is the highest priority, another critical goal is to minimize any temporary smoke impacts from ecological burns. Small areas are burned versus large ones, and ecological burns are conducted only during very specific times when prevailing winds will blow smoke away from residential areas as permitted by the Lane Regional Air Protection Agency. These increasingly rare prairies and oak savannas represent this area's ecological heritage. The goal of this work is to ensure important native ecosystems are preserved for future generations to experience, explore, and enjoy. *E*



Ecological burns accomplish several biological goals, including improved seed germination, removal of built-up thatch that suppresses delicate wildflowers, and short-term fertilization.

Eugene Fire Department leading an ecological burn



photo by Cary Kerst

Seeking External Grant Funding for Eugene's Parks and Natural Areas

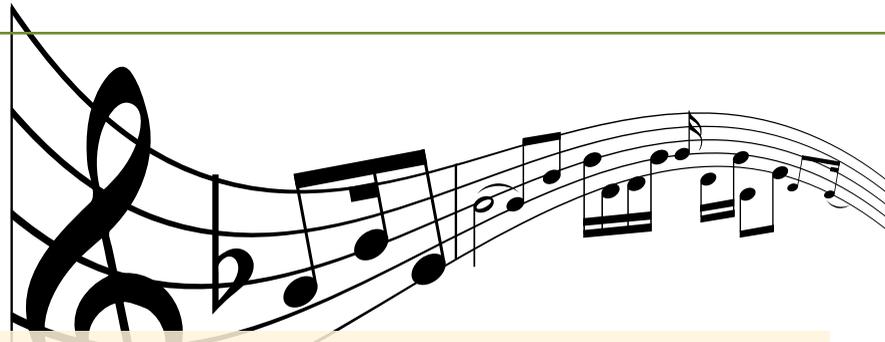
By Eric Wold, Natural Resources Manager

Over the past two years, as the economy entered the recession and the availability of city funds became increasingly scarce, the Parks and Open Space (POS) Division focused its efforts even more than in prior years on obtaining state and federal funds for key projects. During the past decade, POS has been very successful in garnering state and federal funds for an array of activities, including habitat restoration, natural area land acquisition, and trail construction.

Over the past two years, the Delta Ponds habitat enhancement project has received \$4.27 million in state and federal funding from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. With these funds in hand, the city will be able to complete the majority of capital construction for this project by 2011. In order to support the continued maintenance and the construction of new trail segments in the Ridgeline Trail System, POS secured funding from the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department for trailhead kiosks and way-finding signage, and more recently, funding from the Oregon Youth Conservation Corps to construct the Ribbon Trail and maintain multiple segments of the Ridgeline Trail. By seeking external funding, POS is working to meet the challenge of managing or restoring Eugene's park and natural area system in a time of declining local resources. *E*

By seeking external funding, the Parks and Open Space Division is rising to the challenge of managing Eugene's parks and open space system in a time of declining local resources.

Summer in the City

Eugene sizzles! Broadway Plaza downtown, our parks and bike bridges dazzle with live music, movies, dancing, hands-on activities, fun events, including a fashion show and circus night, skate competitions, bike safety checks and so much more! Here is a sampling of just the events happening in parks. To find out more about the rest of this summer's lineup across Eugene visit www.eugene-or.gov/SummerintheCity.



Music

Saturday, June 5, 2:30 to 4 p.m. Marv Ellis and The Platform at the We Are Bethel Celebration, Petersen Barn Center, 870 Berntzen Road

Sunday, June 27, 6:30 p.m. New Horizons Band, Washburne Park, Agate & 20th

Sunday, July 4, 6:30 p.m. Eugene Symphonic Band, Washburne Park, Agate & 20th

Sunday, July 11, 6:30 p.m. Calamity Jazz, Washburne Park, Agate & 20th

Thursday, July 15, 6:30 p.m. Hookah Stew, Monroe Park, 10th & Monroe

Saturday, July 17, 8 p.m. Eugene Symphony in the Park, Cuthbert Amphitheater, Alton Baker Park

Sunday, July 18, 6:30 p.m. Eugene Highlanders Pipe Band, Washburne Park, Agate & 20th

Thursday, July 22, 6:30 p.m. Ty Curtis Band, Amazon Park, next to Amazon Center

Sunday, July 25, 6:30 p.m. TBD, Washburne Park, Agate & 20th

Sunday, August 1, 6:30 p.m. Springfield Concert Band, Washburne Park, Agate & 20th

Sunday, August 8, 6:30 p.m. Oregon Tuba Ensemble, Washburne Park, Agate & 20th

Thursday, August 12, 6:30 p.m. Taste, Maurie Jacobs Park, park at Valley River Center or bike.

Sunday, August 15, 6:30 p.m. Oregon Brass Society, Washburne Park, Agate & 20th

Sunday, August 22, 6:30 p.m. Eugene Symphonic Band, Washburne Park, Agate & 20th

Sunday, August 29, 6:30 p.m. Junction City Polka Band, Washburne Park, Agate & 20th

Sunday, September 5, 6:30 p.m. One More Time Marching Band, Washburne Park, Agate & 20th

Movies

Friday, July 9, 9-ish p.m. Son of Rambow, Petersen Barn Center, 870 Berntzen Road

Saturday, July 10, 9-ish p.m. Legend, Amazon Park, along Amazon Parkway

Friday, July 16, 9-ish p.m. The Sandlot, Washington Park, 19th to 21st along Washington St.

Friday, July 23, 9-ish p.m. Spiderwick Chronicles, Sladden Park, N. Adams & Cheshire

Friday, July 30, 9-ish p.m. Fantastic Mr. Fox, Churchill Youth Sports Park, Bailey Hill & W. 18th

Friday, August 6, 9-ish p.m. Mirrormask, Monroe Park, W. 10th & Monroe

Saturday, August 7, 9-ish p.m. Shark Tale, Bethel Community Park, along Legacy Street

Friday, August 13, 9-ish p.m. Back to the Future, Trainsong Park, Bell Ave, off of Bethel Dr.

Fri, August 20, 9:00-ish p.m. Secret Garden, State Street Park, Burnett & Dakota

Sat, August 21, 9:00-ish p.m. The Goonies, University Park, 24th & University

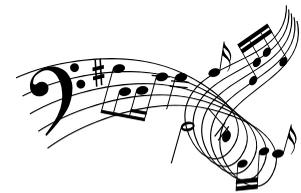
Friday, August 27, 9-ish p.m. Una Pelicula de Huevos, Petersen Barn Center, 870 Berntzen Road

Skating

Saturday, June 19, 5 p.m. School's Out Summer Skate Competition, Cal Young Skatepark, Gilham & Crescent

Saturday, July 24, 5 p.m. Midsummer Skate Competition, Meadowview Skatepark

Saturday, August 28, 5 p.m. End of Summer Skate Competition, Willamalane Skatepark, Springfield





events



4, Sunday, 8 to 10:30 a.m. **Butte to Butte 10k Race**, Skinner Butte Park, William Wyckoff 541-484-9883 william@eclecticedgeracing.com

11, Sunday, 9 a.m. to noon **Adaptive Bike Day**, Alton Baker Park, Patty Prather, 541-682-6365 patty.l.prather@ci.eugene.or.us

31, Saturday, 5 to 9 p.m. **Obon and Taiko Festival**, Alton Baker Park, Mike Takahasi 541-689-7122 mtakahashi@kiocompany.com

SEPTEMBER

5, Sunday, 8 to 11:30 a.m. **Eugene Women's Half Marathon 2010**, Alton Baker Park Trails, Richard Maher, 541-342-2230 Richard@eugenemarathon.com

19, Sunday, noon to 3 p.m. **Sole Support for Parkinson's**, Alton Baker Park, Erin Cozart 503-496-3175 erin@parkinsonsresources.org



The Plein Air Painters of Lane County paint outside three times a week. For more information contact awake.art11@gmail.com

photo by Vern Rogers

An inspiring view from Skinner Butte

Butte to Butte—July 4

JUNE

5, Saturday, 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. **ODFW Youth Angling Enhancement Program Event**, Alton Baker Park, Kelly Reis 541-726-3515 x29 Kelly.e.reis@state.or.us

19, Saturday, 9 a.m. to noon **Forest Work Party**, Hendricks Park F.M. Wilkins Shelter, Jason Blazar 541-682-5324

19, Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. **Safety Fest**, Alton Baker Park, Dave Hall 541-913-2338 dave.w.hall@ci.eugene.or.us

20, Sunday, 1 to 3 p.m. **Evelyn Hess Book Reading**, Hendricks Park F M Wilkins Shelter, Friends of Hendricks Park 541-607-4068

JULY

2 through 4, Friday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. **Art and the Vineyard**, Alton Baker Park, Karen M Pavelec 541-345-1571 karen@mkartcenter.org www.artandthevineyard.org

Eugene Outdoors is published annually by the City of Eugene Parks and Open Space Division to share information about Eugene's parks and open space network, and encourage the community to enjoy our recreational facilities, parks, and natural areas.

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Kelly Darnell, Editor
Becky Lubas, Graphic Designer



Before



After

Creating Maintenance-Friendly Landscapes

With shrinking resources, the Parks and Open Space Division is finding new ways to provide park maintenance services. This spring, the landscape team was asked to take on the challenge of transforming an area in the park system into a maintenance-friendly design while improving the aesthetics of the site. The team chose a site adjacent to the Campbell Center in Skinner Butte Park where weddings are often held. The end result is a beautiful landscape fit for a wedding that incorporates rock formations and native plants, and requires a whole lot less pruning, weeding and watering.