



Current Funding Opportunities

Investing in the Next 120 Years of Portland's Historic Playground

Oaks Park has been a free, open, and affordable gathering place for Portland families since 1905. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, every gift is tax-deductible and directly towards preserving our history and building what's next. Below are the current ways to make an impact.

Oaks Park Master Plan — *Transforming Portland's Historic Playground for Generations to Come*

A 20-year vision to preserve, modernize, and expand Oaks Park — strengthening the park's identity, enhancing the tree canopy, restoring historic structures, and adding five new rides. Phase 1a, approved by the Board in 2025, expands the entertainment zone with a signature drop tower, historic-replica lighting, and 1,500+ feet of restored riverbank, and is scheduled for completion ahead of the 2027 season.

Why It Matters: Support Phase 1a construction, now underway.

Historic Preservation — *Protecting the Places That Define Oaks Park*

For over 120 years, Oaks Park has been home to irreplaceable landmarks — including the carousel, the roller rink, original 1905 structures, and vintage rides. Protecting these places means safeguarding structures, craftsmanship, and character that cannot be replaced once lost, keeping them safe, accessible, and vibrant for the next generation.

Why It Matters: Protect irreplaceable historic structures across the park.

Restoring the Historic Oaks Park Carousel — *Preserving Portland's Cherished Carousel*

Our 1912 Herschell–Spillman Noah's Ark Menagerie Carousel — the only free-to-ride carousel in the U.S. and a National Register landmark — celebrates its 100th year at Oaks Park in 2026. A two-phase plan will enclose and stabilize the historic pavilion, then restore all 46 carousel animals, rounding boards, and brass poles, while adding accessibility and interpretive features.

Why It Matters: Shelter the carousel from weather damage and restore it for its next century

Oaks Park Roller Skating Endowed Fund — *Sustaining Roller Skating at America's Oldest Roller Rink*

Opened in 1906, the Oaks Park Roller Rink is the oldest roller rink still operating in the U.S. In 2025, the OPA Board established an endowed fund — seeded with \$45,000 from the dissolved Northwest Roller Skating Foundation — to sustain competitive skating programs, skater scholarships, and rink accessibility for generations to come.

Why It Matters: Grow the Fund into a lasting resource for skaters of all ages.

Roller Skating STEM Education — *Learning in Motion at America's Oldest Roller Rink*

Oaks Park's STEM Program brings hands-on science and engineering learning to the rink floor, including dedicated STEM field trips for local schools and youth groups — pairing physical activity with education in a historic, community-anchored setting.

Why It Matters: Expand hands-on STEM learning and physical activity for local students at the rink

Maintaining the Roller Rink Organ — *Keeping the Music Playing at a Century-Old Landmark*

The 1926 Wurlitzer pipe organ has long been part of the atmosphere and character of the Oaks Park Roller Rink, dating back to 1955. As the last roller rink in the world to feature a live pipe organist, we are committed to maintaining this unique feature

Why It Matters: Preserve the last live pipe organ tradition in roller skating

Fun(d) for All — *Ensuring that Every Family Can Experience Oaks Park*

Fun(d) for All is how Oaks Park makes access possible — keeping the historic carousel and train free to ride for every guest on every regular operating day and partnering with 800+ local nonprofits each year to provide free and discounted rides, mini golf, and roller skating. Together, this represents a \$430,000 annual investment in ensuring that cost is never a barrier to experiencing Oaks Park.

Why It Matters: Remove cost as a barrier to the Oaks Park experience.