



## Hikers That Volunteer: Caring For What You Love

“Why is the greater dream to walk 2,000 miles and not to maintain the perfect 5-mile section?” pondered John Schoen at the 1981 New York–New Jersey Trail Conference. The Obsidians are inspired to action by this very idea. As regular, frequent

and (some might even say) compulsive users of the Ridgeline Trail System, these explorers are compelled to help maintain the trails they love so much. Over 13 years have passed since their first recorded maintenance outing on trails in Eugene.

“I grew up making and maintaining trails simply so that I could play. Now as an adult, the Ridgeline Trail System provides me with a connection to nature and to my childhood.”

— Matt Bell, Obsidians Trail Maintenance Chair

This dedicated group does it all. Each month club members hike the Ridgeline trails, scope potential projects, amass community volunteers and do great work. With just a little support from Eugene Outdoors, they do all this independently. They also share their passion for the outdoors by working with Parks and Open Space to resurface, brush, rebuild, steward and lead hikes. Though they have officially adopted Spencer

Butte Park, they work wherever they are needed most. This year, they built new trail alongside youth crews in Wild Iris Ridge, planted recently burned areas, and helped clear debris following winter storms. Thanks to the Obsidians for their incredible dedication to stewarding Eugene’s emerald necklace over all these years. We can’t do it without you. 🌿

“When I walk on spots of the trail that were once muddy sinkholes, I remember with satisfaction how we hauled and spread all that gravel. With continued increase in use, it will take all of us to care for the trails.”

— Janet Jacobsen, Obsidians Trail Maintenance Volunteer

### 2017 by the Numbers

★ 16  
events

🕒 426  
hours

👤 148  
volunteers

🌿 39,010  
feet of trails maintained

🌱 506  
forbs planted

## Obsidians Through The Years

**March 25, 1928**

Hiking enthusiast, Miss Kent, leads the first Spencer Butte hike.



**1970's**

Hiking Hendricks to Spencer Butte is an annual trek on a route marked by Obsidian Marriner Orum, this will eventually become the Ribbon Trail in 1983.

**1982**

Obsidians Board establishes the first Trail Maintenance and Construction Committee, with 26 work parties; 1,250 hours; and 62 miles of trail maintained in that first year.

**1987**

Obsidians begin working on the Eugene to Pacific Coast Trail, later dedicated in 1995.

**2005**

Obsidians begin to collaborate closely with City of Eugene to help maintain the Ridgeline and Spencer Butte trails.

**2007**

Obsidians help remove an old worn out wooden trail bridge that is later replaced with a unique dry stacked stone bridge.

**2012**

Obsidians officially adopt Spencer Butte Park and proceed with monthly work parties each year since.

**2017**

Obsidians clear large amounts of debris to help reopen trails after devastating ice storm.