

HUMANS IN THE FOREST



Welcome to Mary McDonald's Forest



Welcome to the McDonald Forest! This forest is named after Mary McDonald. Mary provided the College of Forestry with the money to buy the majority of this forest. The McDonald Forest is a research forest, used by scientists, students, and foresters to learn more about forest ecosystems and how to best manage them.

Mary made her own fortune from cutting forests on lands she owned with her husband in Northern California and Southern Oregon. After making her fortune, she was inspired by the conservation work (the wise use of nature) of President Theodore Roosevelt and John Muir. She decided she wanted to use her wealth to improve conservation and education for future generations.

Mary had no children of her own and wanted to help the youth of the future learn more about protecting and managing natural resources. She had learned about OSU's College of Forestry and Dean George Peavy and Professor TJ Starker's dream of having a living forest laboratory. Her legacy is the McDonald Forest.

**This working research forest is here
for you to enjoy and learn from.**

- What do you think takes place in a forest living laboratory?
- What kind of research do you think takes place here?
- What would you do if you had a million dollars to donate to something?
- What would you like to learn about this forest?

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Let's Learn

Some of this forest has grown naturally and some has been planted by foresters, researchers, and students.

Why do you think forests are important to people?

- Forests provide wood for houses, buildings and structures, and paper products.
- Forests filter water. Half of the City of Corvallis' water is filtered by forests surrounding Mary's Peak.
- Forests store carbon and lessen the effects of climate change.
- Forests provide wildlife habitat.
- Many medicines were originally discovered from forest plants.
- Forests help keep our air clean. Trees are air filters, removing pollutants from the air.
- Forests provide recreation and wellness benefits. People love walking, biking, running, and exploring our forests.

What do you think foresters think about when they manage the forest?

- Providing society with wood and forest products
- Maintaining wildlife habitat and biodiversity
- Providing recreation opportunities for communities
- Leaving trees along streams to protect the water

Activity!

Can you tell that humans have been using this forest? As you continue walking through forest, see if you can notice some of the things people have done to manage, use, or learn more about this forest. There are hints on the map, on the trail, and on the trees themselves!

What to look for:

- Plastic netting wrapped around the bottom of the cedar trees by Arbor Creek (close to where you are standing now)
- Trails and roads to help people move through the forest
- Metal inventory tags on trees
- Brightly colored ribbons on trees
- Wildlife tree tags
- "Gaps" cut into the forest



**Follow the trail to the
next stopping point**



...FOREST BIRD HABITAT