

2008 Report of Accomplishments

Forests Forever, Inc.

HOPKINS DEMONSTRATION FOREST



COMMUNITY FORESTRY



VOLUNTEERS



COMMUNITY EVENTS



YOUTH PROGRAMS

Images on front cover:

Woodland visitors use a clinometer to measure tree height during a private tour of Hopkins Demonstration Forest.

Key Bank employees made a difference one day in May when they left their desks to help construct the Red Alder Trail at Hopkins.

Cascade Wood Turners held their annual picnic in the forest at Hopkins, including a wood turning demonstration at our amphitheater.

Students from a local middle school used an increment borer to sample the growth rate of a young Douglas-fir stand at Hopkins Demonstration Forest.



...I see the future...

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INTRODUCTION

The Education Consortium is a group of funding partners that support education programs at Hopkins Demonstration Forest. 2008 completes the fifth year since Forests Forever established the Consortium partnership. Forests Forever is the not-for-profit corporation that owns and manages Hopkins Demonstration Forest. Our funders provide the necessary support we need to *engage the community in the complexities and benefits of managing small woodlands*.

This report describes program outcomes, activities and products funded by the Consortium, and delivered through a partnership with OSU Extension Service in Clackamas County. During this year, staff built upon existing relationships in the community to direct new customers and partners, volunteers and donors to Hopkins Demonstration Forest. As with the management of the forest resources at Hopkins, diversity is important for achieving sustainability in our programs *and* our financial support. The Consortium represents a broad base of support for programs and facilities at Hopkins that benefit a variety of audiences in the community.

GOALS

1 Volunteer Opportunities

- Organize monthly Community Forestry Days at the Hopkins Demonstration Forest that engages the community in “learning by doing” a variety of forest management activities.
- Recruit, train and support a volunteer network to participate in forest management activities and support community education programs at Hopkins Demonstration Forest.

2 Community Programs and Outreach

- Offer public tours, and host community events at Hopkins Demonstration Forest.
- Participate in community events and market Demonstration Forest opportunities at a variety of venues and media.

3 Youth Education

- Provide a variety of programming for schools; e.g., tours, field science and service-learning programs.
- Coordinate with Scouts, clubs, other education providers and youth development organizations in the region to use Hopkins Demonstration Forest as a field site.

OVERVIEW OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Hopkins Demonstration Forest is no longer the well-kept secret of six years ago; it's now recognized by many as a valuable community asset. For some, Hopkins is a favorite place to walk in the forest; others share their forestry knowledge and skills with the community; while many young people come to Hopkins for a field trip or club outing. In the past year, the community came to Hopkins by the thousands: volunteers, guests, students and youth groups. And many more heard about Hopkins Demonstration Forest through outreach efforts in the community.

- 700 volunteers gave more than 4,700 hours to help maintain facilities, provide education programs, and manage resources at Hopkins Demonstration Forest.
- 1,185 guests were introduced to forestry through tours and community events hosted at Hopkins.
- 1,200 youth—students, Scouts and club members participated in a variety of activities at Hopkins.
- 3,500 people were exposed to information about Hopkins Demonstration Forest at a variety of events in the community.

HOW WE MET OUR GOALS

Volunteer Opportunities

- Organize monthly Community Forestry Days that engage the community in “learning by doing” forest management activities at Hopkins Demonstration Forest.



Clackamas County Farm Forestry Association members brought their muscle and machines to Hopkins to lead Community Forestry Day on a recent autumn day. Roadside brush and weeds wound up either fed to a chipper or drenched with herbicide. “That was one of the most productive ‘workdays’ I’ve ever been involved with,” said Gilbert Shibley, a local woodland owner who helps at Hopkins several times a year sharing his skills and knowledge with our growing community of volunteers.

Community Forestry at Hopkins Demonstration Forest

Outcomes:

Monthly Community Forestry Days involved 215 volunteers in 1,000 hours of essential facility maintenance, and a variety of resource management activities. Community volunteers:

- Planted 2,000 seedlings in several small units: Douglas-fir, western redcedar, and noble fir.
- Constructed, improved or maintained 2 1/2 miles of trails, providing access to more of the Hopkins forest, and increasing hiking opportunities on the property.
- Stacked and burned slash, and sprayed weeds to prepare planting sites on 4 acres of recently cleared ground.
- Cleaned and applied weather treatment on Cedar Grove Picnic Shelter, four information kiosks, amphitheater benches and wood shed, and two restrooms.
- Prepared and served lunch to other volunteers as part of Community Forestry Days.

Community Forestry Days bring together many people who would otherwise likely not meet. Woodland owners often bring their skills and tools to share with other volunteers, and get things done at Hopkins Demonstration Forest. Community Forestry Days attract several neighbors and volunteers from across Clackamas County; frequent visitors, Scouts, students, and families.

Volunteer Opportunities

- Recruit, train and support a volunteer network to participate in forest management activities and support community education programs at Hopkins Demonstration Forest.



Making a Difference is an annual community service effort by KeyBank. In May, five local KeyBank offices closed for the afternoon: more than two-dozen employees came to Hopkins Demonstration Forest to complete construction of the Red Alder Trail. The trail was immediately popular with regular hikers who enjoy walking in the forest at Hopkins. The Red Alder Trail is one of five new trails built this year by individual volunteers and groups from the community.



Volunteerism at Hopkins Demonstration Forest

Outcomes:

- Dozens of volunteers from Wolftree, Portland State University, the Forest Service, and other natural resource agencies supported youth participants of *Science in the Forest* programs.
- Three Teachers on Summer Assignment, mentored by the Extension Forester, completed a boundary survey and stand mapping for an eight-acre parcel of mixed forest.
- Forests Forever Board of Directors accomplished a wide range of tasks in their volunteer roles: providing support on Community Forestry Days, writing newsletter articles, raising funds and seeking donations. In total, board members served more than 2,500 hours in the past year, to support activities at Hopkins Demonstration Forest.

2008 saw more organized groups engaged in volunteer activities at Hopkins than in previous years. One significant benefit from this trend is that recruiting is easier and more effective—more people show up to help; and, organized groups come with leadership which often means they can be self-directed once engaged in a project. Efforts to identify and recruit additional corporate and civic groups as volunteer sources will continue.

GOAL 2 Community Programs and Outreach

- Offer public tours, and host community events at Hopkins Demonstration Forest.



2008 was the year of bigger and more community events at Hopkins Demonstration Forest. For example, the 2nd Annual Hamlet Happening brought together our rural neighbors from the Hamlets of Mulino and Beaver Creek to enjoy food, company and music in the forest. Some attendees had not previously been to Hopkins, confessing: "I've driven past your sign for years and never came in here...this is a really neat place!" The 3rd Annual Hamlet Happening is already scheduled for Hopkins Demonstration Forest in September 2009.

On-site programming at Hopkins Demonstration Forest

Outcomes:

- 562 people took a closer look at forest management through one of 30 tours given at Hopkins this past year.
- 625 people attended one or more of the 22 events held at Hopkins during 2008, hosted by Forests Forever, or various community groups.



In addition to scheduled tours and events, Hopkins Demonstration Forest is open for self-guided use. Many visitors think of the forest as a “park” with trails, trees, and nature. It’s a place to walk dogs, watch birds, and practice backpacking. Exhibits and trail guides developed in previous years provide information for these guests. Currently there is no mechanism to accurately account for this casual, self-directed use. Staff observes that rarely does a day go by when someone is not walking the trails on their own time. Future effort will engage these visitors to understand more about this casual use, and recruit additional volunteers and donors.

GOAL 2 Community Programs and Outreach

- Participate in a variety of community events, and make use of various media to promote education and community engagement opportunities that occur at Hopkins Demonstration Forest.

Outreach Promotes Hopkins Demonstration Forest

Outcomes:

- 3 issues of Grouse Hollow News were published during 2008. The distribution list now includes 275 hardcopy, and another 250 electronic subscribers. Additional copies are distributed in person at community events.
- 3,300 people learned about Hopkins Demonstration Forest at dozens of community events, including, Chamber of Commerce, civic clubs, and Clackamas County Tree School.
- Hopkins Demonstration Forest is fortunate to be included in regional marketing materials developed and promoted by Clackamas County Tourism Development Council, and the North Clackamas County and Oregon City Chambers of Commerce.
- www.demonstrationforest.org provides information and images that show: Who we are; What we do; (how to) Get Involved, and more about Hopkins Demonstration Forest.
- A set of four note cards featuring images from education activities at Hopkins were developed and distributed to thank donors and volunteers for their support.

GOAL 3 Youth Education

- Provide a variety of programming for youth: e.g., tours, field science and service-learning.



Resource management, service-learning, science programs and club activities are the primary youth education opportunities provided at Hopkins Demonstration Forest. Some youth programs are conducted by Hopkins staff and volunteers, while others are organized and led by partner organizations.



Youth Programs at Hopkins Demonstration Forest

Outcomes:

- Several service-learning opportunities were developed in conjunction with local schools and youth service agencies such as Clackamas County Juvenile Services, and DePaul Treatment Center. These programs served more than 200 youth.
- For a second summer, a construction crew from Clackamas County Environmental Youth Corps (EYC) worked at Hopkins, where they built a well house and storage shed. Two additional EYC crews constructed nearly one mile of new hiking trail.
- Science inquiry programs such as *Science in the Forest* and other customized “inquiry” projects engaged students in practicing observation and measurement skills, and comparison of the many habitats and management areas at Hopkins Demonstration Forest.
- High School interns from Oregon City Service Learning Academy, Canby, Oregon City, and David Douglas high schools took a hands-on approach to their education at Hopkins.

Serving youth with meaningful on-site programming and coordinating with partner agencies at Hopkins occupies a majority of staff time and attention. Schools and youth organizations alike are demanding additional service opportunities for teens and young adults. Through strategic partnerships, service-learning opportunities can be continued in coming years at Hopkins Demonstration Forest.

GOAL 3 Youth Education

- Coordinate with Scouts, clubs, other education providers and youth development organizations in the region to use Hopkins Demonstration Forest as a field site.



Nature is great to explore with all your senses—even on a rainy day—just ask the youngsters who come to Hopkins to see, touch, smell and sometimes even taste the forest. Forests Forever staff coordinates with day camp providers to schedule access to the forest to conduct their own activities. The entire 140-acres of Hopkins is reserved for one group at a time, which gives a feeling of being special, and avoids conflicts for use of popular facilities like the picnic shelter.

Hopkins Demonstration Forest Used by Other Groups

Outcomes:

- Youth summer camps schedule to use Hopkins for field trips and nature studies. Usually these groups are self-directed; occasionally they request tours or other activities.
- Cub and Boy Scouts use Hopkins Demonstration Forest for service projects—trail maintenance and tree planting, and to earn badges, including the Eagle rank and a special “Hopkins” patch. Scouts are also making use of Hopkins to practice camping and backpacking, and for their award ceremonies.

The approach to working with other entities that want to use Hopkins creates a sense of ownership, and develops familiarity with facilities and resources on the property so that these groups can truly be self-directed. To assist these groups, orientation of their leadership is important to planning access to facilities, use of equipment, and programming in the forest. Permitting outside groups to be self-directed, in effect, extends the hours of operation to times when staff is unavailable. Typical in our work, we *learn by doing*: formalities are few and the desire to fill the forest with people is high. To date, this turn-key approach has served Forests Forever and our customers well.

CONCLUSION

All program goals described in Forests Forever, Incorporated's 2008 proposed plan of work were accomplished. Education Consortium funds comprised about 80% of Forests Forever budget in 2008. All of the accomplishments described in this report are possible because of the generosity of our community—initiated by the gift of land and forest, and the vision from Margaret Hopkins in 1990.

Program funders, volunteers and many individuals and businesses in the community share their time and talents, and provide funds and materials that support education activities at Hopkins Demonstration Forest. We cannot do it without you. Thank you.

PROGRAM PARTICIPATION SUMMARY COMPARISON 2004 - 2008

	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004
Activity	#People	#People	#People	#People	#People
<u>Volunteers</u>	700	770	500	485	440
<u>On-site Programs</u>	760	600	510	775	440
<u>Youth Education</u>	1,200	1310	1,000	470	250
<u>Off-site Outreach</u>	3,500	3,300	2,800	4640	2300

These individuals, businesses and foundations are the 2008 Education Consortium Partners that provided the funding for programs at Hopkins Demonstration Forest.

Bank of the West; John & Carole Belton; Beneficial (Member HSBC Group); The Campbell Group LLC; Clackamas County Board of Commissioners; Clackamas County Farm Forestry Association; A. J. Frank Family Foundation; Freres Foundation; Friends of Paul Bunyan Foundation; Giustina Resources; Clement and Phyllis Hunter; MBank; Oregon Forest Resources Institute; RSG Forest Products; Safeway; Chester and Hannah Schink; Starker Forests Inc; Walker Family Foundation; Weyerhaeuser Company Foundation

These Program Partners provided significant in-kind services and value to support operations and programming at Hopkins Demonstration Forest in 2008.

Clackamas County Environmental Youth Corps; Clackamas County Juvenile Department; Clackamas County Community Corrections; Community Solutions of Clackamas County; OSU Clackamas County Extension Service; Portland State University; WolfTree, Inc.

Our partners help us complete our mission. Thank you.



In spring 2003 when our first staff was hired with funding provided through the Secure Rural Communities and Self-determination Act of 2000 (Title III), the main gate to Hopkins Demonstration Forest was locked. A sign on the gate directed potential visitors to “call for an appointment” to enter the forest. That gate is now open, and guests are invited daylight hours, year-round. Interpretive signs, brochures, new trails and facilities have all been added since then.

We can be proud of the progress made to date and see ahead of us many new challenges as Hopkins forest has become a place where the community comes together, to learn, to share skills, ideas and techniques, to grow a community forest that provides so much more than wood products: Hopkins Demonstration Forest lives up to its motto as a place...

...where learning and growing go hand in hand.