

Retaining walls damaged by erosion and underground springs are in danger of collapsing at Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden.



These photographs show one of the retaining walls beginning to pull away from the upper pathway above the Flowerree Memorial Garden at Crystal Springs. The pathway has been closed until the retaining walls can be rebuilt and the hillside stabilized.

Dear Friends of Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden,

Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden is one of the most beautiful and peaceful gardens in Portland. It's also said to be one of Portland's best-kept secrets. Over the last few years, we've made many improvements to the garden, with new plantings and landscaping of areas large and small. If you haven't taken a walk through the garden recently and seen many of the new additions to the garden, it's well worth your time when you have the opportunity to do so. The wildlife has also increased recently: a mink and muskrat each had babies. The bald eagles have returned for a fifth year—hopefully to raise another batch of eaglets.

While Portland Parks & Recreation owns the land on which Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden sits, and the Portland Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society oversees the management of the garden, **all of the money made in the garden stays in the garden to support it and make**

improvements. Crystal Springs is solely supported by our entrance fees, memberships to Friends of Crystal Springs Garden, photo shoots, weddings and other events, our Early Show and Mother's Day rhododendron sale, and donations

Crystal Springs has not escaped the fallout from the pandemic. We have lost a major portion of our operating income that is essential to our ability to properly care for this unique garden.

In addition, Crystal Springs now faces an even more crucial challenge. In November we noticed the walls below the gatehouse had begun to pull away from their banks and were threatening to collapse. A professional engineering assessment determined that all the walls below the gatehouse urgently need to be replaced.

Estimates made by the engineers as to the cost of the entire project range between \$400,000 and \$500,000. Needless to say, this enormous sum is an unexpected expense for us.

We ask you for your generous help in supporting Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden with its operating expenses and this emergency project. Your contribution will help us to continue to save and improve this treasured garden and keep it safe and beautiful for all our visitors. With your help, we hope to have this essential work concluded in the coming months. Thank you!

[Click here to make a gift to support the garden.](#)



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