

Jensen-Olson Arboretum Advisory Board
Annual Report - 2021

To: CBJ Assembly Human Resources Committee
From: Nell McConahey, Chair. Jensen-Olson Arboretum Advisory Board
Date: February 2, 2022
Subject: Jensen-Olson Arboretum (JOA) Advisory Board 2021 Annual Report

The Jensen-Olson Arboretum (JOA) property was donated to the City of Juneau by Caroline Jensen on her passing and opened to the public in 2007. The property had been in her family since the late 1800's and had extensive gardens. Mrs. Jensen provided an Endowment, now worth over \$2.5 million which helps pay expenses. The property is also part of Southeast Alaska Land Trust. Both the wishes of Mrs. Jensen and SEALT guidelines help the Advisory Board and CBJ Parks and Recreation Department decide the best ways to operate and maintain the property. Friends of the Jensen-Olson Arboretum (FJOA) is the non-profit organization that does fund raising and special projects at the property.

Ginger Hudson joined the JOA in January of 2021 as the new manager. She and her husband moved from Anchorage to live in the home at JOA as required by the job. We are very happy to have her skills and interest in gardening and to be the team leader at the Arboretum. Because of its 'out the road' location, Internet access and water quality on the premises have been a challenge. City staff have assisted in trying to solve issues, so the residents and visitors have a better experience on site. Resolutions are ongoing.

FJOA held a Grand Opening for the 'Lovely Loo', a permanent vault toilet. They coordinated fundraising and grants to build the loo that replaced a portapotty. They also created a call for art to decorate the interior of the loo. Sitka artist Larisa Manewal was granted the award and painted the interior of the space with a mural of native plants and birds.

Over 7000 visitors came in 2021. Weddings, school groups, girl scouts, Sealaska Heritage Classes and other events were held. A composting area, for education and garden use was reorganized, and new paving stones installed. The manager presented online at American Public Gardens Association and Alaska Invasive Species Conference among others. Some invasive Mountain Ash trees, a bear attractor, were removed from the property making it safer for all. Onsite seeds were saved and shared with American Primrose Society and National Rock Garden Society Seed Exchanges. While open 5 days a week in the summer, it was decided to reduce winter to 3 days a week (Friday to Sunday) to allow for the manager to access CBJ services in town.

The Board's challenge for the past few years has been creating a Commercial Use policy that works for Mrs. Jensen's wishes, SEALT, and CBJ Parks and Recreation. After an update last year to the P&R Commercial policy, JOAAB has rewritten its suggestions and those are currently with CBJ Law and SEALT for approval.

2022 is JOA's 15th Anniversary. All residents of Juneau are invited to stop in the Jensen-Olson Arboretum and enjoy the plants, the location, and if you are lucky, a docent may be available to tell you more.

JENSEN-OLSON ARBORETUM ADVISORY BOARD ATTENDANCE 2021

	2/10/21	5/12/21	8/11/21	11/10/21
Nell McConahey Chair	A	P	P	A
Ed Buyarski, Co-Chair	P	P	P	A
Kristin Bartlett	A	A	A	P
Catherine "Rose" Evans	P	P	A	P
Peter Froehlich	P	P	A	P
Patricia Harris	P	P	P	P
Deborah Rudis	A	P	P	P
Paulette Schirmer	P	P	P	P
Sarah Dolan	VACANT	P	P	P

*LEGEND: **A** – Absent / **P** – Present / **P(t)** Present telephonically*