

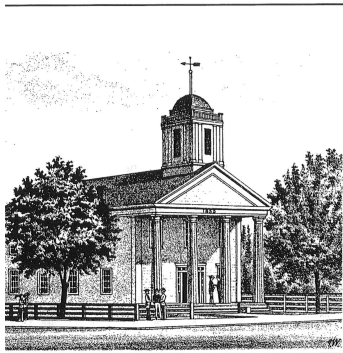


History Timeline of Eugene, Oregon

- 1846 - The region was home to the Chifin band of the [Kalapuya](#), who lived there for thousands of years but whose numbers were decimated during the nineteenth century by introduced diseases, such as smallpox and malaria. **When the first white settler, Eugene Skinner, arrived in 1846, he described the small valley between two buttes at a bend in the Willamette River as “beautiful, surrounded by these hills, reminding me of a bird’s nest.”** He filed his land claim that July and returned in October to build a cabin partway up the butte closest to the river, known by the Kalapuya as Ya-Po-Ah, meaning “high place,” and now called Skinner Butte. Eugene Skinner claimed 640 acres on and around Skinner Butte. (While not premium agricultural land, it included a potentially good ferry crossing and suitable town site.) He built the first house in Eugene--a one room log cabin--on level high ground on the west side of Butte, following the advice of the local Kalapuya (or Calapooya) who warned him of potential flooding.)
- 1847 - Skinner travels to Yamhill County to reunite with his wife Mary (Mary Cook) and their daughter Mary Elizabeth and brings them to their new home. Mary Skinner is the first white woman to make her home within the boundaries of what was later to be named Lane County. The Skinners opened a trading post in their cabin.
- 1847-1848 - Between 1847 & 48, Charles Mulligan, Prior Blair, James Huddleston, and Daniel Christian staked claims adjacent to Skinner’s. Other settlers north of the Willamette River include William Stevens, the first to claim land in the present day Willakenzie area (also in 1847).
- 1848 - The Skinners’ daughter, Leonora, became the first white child to be born in the new settlement. In March of 1848 Congress designated Oregon a Territory of the United States, and with this designation came the establishment of individual counties.
- 1850 - In January, Skinner’s Post Office was authorized and the new settlement became known by the same name. The community of Irving, just north of River Road, was established in the late 1840s and early 1850s as a settlement separate from Eugene. Because of its size, however, the community retained a particularly rural character.
- 1850 - The Donation Land Claim Act of 1850 allows each married white male settler 18 or older to claim 640 acres (one square mile), or 320 acres of land if single. A person had to reside on the land and cultivate it for four years. This applied to those who emigrated before or by 1850. (Subsequently settlers were entitled to 320 acres if married; 160 if single, provided they reside on the land for 4 years.) Government surveys are conducted and subsequent claims follow the grid pattern of the survey in regular geometric patterns rather than prior claims which conformed to the topography of the land
- 1851 - The Territorial legislature officially organized Lane County. Eugene Skinner and Judge Risdon establish a meridian line from which to survey and plat a town site, which was located east of Skinner’s Butte. Mary Skinner was given the honor of naming the town, calling it Eugene City, after her husband. Frame houses begin to appear as the first sawmill/lumber mill was established in 1851. Hilyard Shaw,

recently returned to his land claim west of the future UofO campus from the California Goldrush, views from a knoll the potential for connecting two natural sloughs (old river bed scars) to form the Millrace, which may be the oldest man-made structure surviving in the city. Good mill and ferry sites were usually the first claims to be taken in the Willamette Valley. Native vegetation along the sloughs included poplar, maple, willow, alder and oak trees. The primary reason for the millrace was to serve as a source of power for the first lumber and flour mills. With the help of Avery Smith, Shaw decided to excavate a ditch approximately five blocks long connecting the sloughs, thus creating the millrace. The Millrace, completed in 1851, served as the nucleus of industrial development in Eugene City until well into the 20th century.

- 1851-52 Winter has extensive flooding, causing the original town site to become unbearably muddy.
- 1852 - The first petition presented to the Lane County court at its initial meeting in 1852 was a request that a road be built from Spores Ferry (Jacob Spores ran a ferry across the McKenzie River north of Eugene as early as 1848, where he ferried foot passengers across the river in a canoe) to the Territorial Road, crossing the Willamette River at Skinner's Ferry (the modern day Ferry Street Bridge crossing.) The petition was granted and the construction of this road between the ferries made Eugene a convenient stopping place for travelers.
- 1853 - **Eugene City became the Lane County seat.** County Commissioners entertained offers for land for county buildings and accepted adjacent parcels of 40 acres each from Skinner and Charnel Mulligan--the dividing line being present day 8th Avenue. The commission hired Mahlon Harlow, the county clerk, to establish a revised plat, and Dr. A.W. Patterson surveyed the town site. **"While the town was platted on a standard grid, typical of scores of speculative western towns, the public square was carved from the corners of four larger blocks, a form unusual in the west, and the only example of that pattern in Oregon."** This public square retains part of its original configuration and is now known as the Park Blocks, located at the intersection of 8th Avenue and Oak Street.
- 1854 - The public school system established in Eugene, the fourth in Lane County (with joint boundaries with a small part of Linn county), thus the name of school district No. 4J.



Lane County Courthouse, built 1855, Classical Revival style.

- 1855 - Lane County Courthouse is built in the Classical Greek Revival style on the park blocks.

- 1856 - The main road from Eugene City to Corvallis and on to Portland has been established along what is currently known as River Road. In later years the main road was relocated from River Road to what is now known as Highway 99. Also in 1856, the first sternwheeler (the *James Clinton*) made it as far as Eugene City, arriving on March 12 to an excited crowd. (The river at Eugene proved to be quite shallow, and steamer traffic was limited to only four to six months out of the year, during periods of high water. Snags and uncharted sand and gravel bars were a continuous problem, making steamboat travel quite unreliable.) Also in

1856 the first *public* school was established, known as the Eugene School, or School on the Common. It was a rectangular log building with a fireplace and doors on either end built on the south side of 11th avenue near Olive Street. About this same time, Columbia College was founded on top of what is now College Hill. (It closed in 1860 due to community strife over the slavery issue.)

- 1857 - Stagecoach service begins in Eugene. Renfrew's Tavern, on the corner of Willamette and 9th avenue (now Broadway) was the main stop in Eugene.
- **1857 - Oregon citizens voted against slavery but also voted to prohibit the residency of free blacks, a provision that was redereed invalid after the Civil War (which lasted from 1861-1865)**
- **1859 - Oregon officially becomes the 33rd state on February 14th**

- 1859 - The earliest cemetery--the Masonic Cemetery--is established in the city at the intersection of 25th Avenue and University Street. Although established by and for members of the Masonic Lodge, the cemetery soon became the burial place for many of the city's founding members.
- 1860 - Eugene Skinner wrote a letter to his sister in Canada describing the growing town, quoted here exactly as it was written: "Our little town has from 900 to 1000 inhabitants, one Episcopal Church, one Old School Presbyterian and one Methodist Meeting House, 8 stores, 2 drugstores two Hotel, two saloons, two printing offices, three Black, one tin & sheet Iron factory, one Goldsmith, 3 wagon shops, two Livery Stables, One Market, one Shoe Shop, two Saddle and Hemp makers, one Saddle tree maker, one Grist & One saw mill, ... One door and sash factory, two cabinet shops and one post-office and your humble servant has been for the last 10 years Post Master."
- **1862 - Eugene is incorporated as a town (Oct. 17th)**
- 1863 - The City hired its first marshal, C.H. Fox, who began patrolling Eugene as the first member of what would become the Eugene Police Department.
- **1864 - Eugene is reincorporated as a city with slightly smaller boundaries.** Between 1864 and 1866, the Oregon Central Military Road was completed through the Willamette Pass, with BJ Pengra as superintendent of construction. Eugene Skinner died December 15th, 1864.
- 1866 - the first brick building in Eugene was built on the corner of 9th avenue and Willamette Street.
- 1869 - The Bethel School, a log building, was constructed on a site now occupied by the Southern Pacific railroad tracks in the Bethel area. The Opera House was also built on the corner of 8th Avenue and Willamette Street, accommodating entertainers, meetings, and other social gatherings.
- **1871 - The railroad arrives in Eugene--a pivotal event in the development of Eugene City. The rest of the country was now accessible to those who had traveled to Oregon in covered wagons and a new wave of settlers begin to arrive by train from eastern states. Agriculture, industry, and transportation now form an important triangle of commerce for the City.** The arrival of the Oregon and California Railroad (now Southern Pacific) in 1871 stimulated Eugene's growth as an agricultural and lumber center. The *J.B. Stevens* arrived in Eugene to an excited crowd in October of 1871. (Construction had begun in Portland in 1868 working south towards Eugene.) **Commercial development shifts from the Courthouse Square/Park Blocks at 8th and Oak towards Willamette Street and the depot area at Fifth Avenue and Willamette.**
- 1872 - Legislation passed to establish the University of Oregon in Eugene; the first volunteer fire department established. (The first recorded fire in the city occurred in 1867.)
- 1873 - The location for the university was decided upon when 16.75 acres of land was obtained from community member J.H.D. Henderson on the east side of town. Also in 1873, the Odd Fellows established the first cemetery within the city limits and is now known as the Pioneer Cemetery, located at 18th Avenue and University street next to what will become the UofO Campus.
- 1874 - The Eugene Library Association was organized. (This "library" was not a library as it is understood today, but probably a reading room where members could come to read from the collection that had been established. Also in 1874 a music school was opened by the Musical McGibeny Family, and within two weeks had 100 pupils from a population of 861.
- **1876 - The University of Oregon opens for instruction** in one building -- unfinished Deady Hall (it wasn't named that until 1893, but as of 2020 it has been known as University Hall.) The first students register in October. Initial courses in Latin, Greek, philosophy, theology, and math made up the original curriculum and classes took place in six rooms on the first floor as the second floor wouldn't be finished until the following school year. (The UofO will be a major influence on the city as a cultural and education center.) **A covered bridge replaces Skinner's Ferry** and efforts were made to improve the conditions of the streets. (Horses and wagons remain the primary mode of transport for short distances.)

- 1877- The Literary Societies of the University of Oregon purchased the Eugene Library Association's collection and moved it to campus where it was housed in Deady Hall.
- 1878 - The Eugene School at 11th and Olive was torn down to make way for the new Central School. Originally built as a one story four-room schoolhouse, the building was soon expanded to two stories and by 1884 six teachers instructed over 400 students there.
- The city's population between 1870 and 1880 grew slowly relative to other communities in Oregon from 861 to 1,111. In 1870, Eugene was the 4th largest community in the state, led by Portland, Salem, and The Dalles. In 1880, Eugene was the 7th largest, even though its population had increased. Other communities such as Albany and Corvallis had simply grown faster than Eugene during these years. Large land holdings were being subdivided and the trend toward smaller, more compact land ownership patterns had begun.
- 1880 - a fire destroys many of the earliest wood frame commercial buildings in Eugene, and "fireproof" brick structures began to replace them, thus changing the streetscape.
- 1881 - The Lane Agricultural Society made a commitment to purchase part of the Huddleston Donation Land Claim for use as County Fairgrounds in the downtown area, though in later years the fairgrounds relocated to its current location on West 13th Avenue. A flood threatened to cover the valley floor with four feet of water; the community was able to save itself by building dikes.
- 1882 - the first bank in the county, the Lane County Bank, was established (but only lasted 10 years.)
- 1883 - Eugene's first City Hall is built on the Park Blocks, complete with bell tower and also housing the fire department, Engine Company No. 1.
- 1883-1884 - The Baker Hotel (now Smeede Hotel) is built. It still stands on Willamette between 7th and 8th Avenues.
- 1884 - A privately owned waterworks company is chartered. The first Lane County Fair was held. In 1884 A.G. Walling describes Eugene as containing "25 brick business buildings, with twice as many wooden ones; three hotels and a fourth one of brick just commenced. Her private residences betray the possession of every comfort; many of them are elegant mansions, and as we write there are upwards of a dozen new buildings in the course of construction." This description reflected the rise in development and the impending building boom of the 1890's. Also, in the winter of 1884, when cold weather froze the millrace, it was first used for recreational purposes as it was an ideal ice skating pond.
- 1886 - Villard Hall, the second building on the University campus, was completed and opened. (Named for Henry Villard, a major financial contributor to the University. A large theater addition would be added in 1949.)

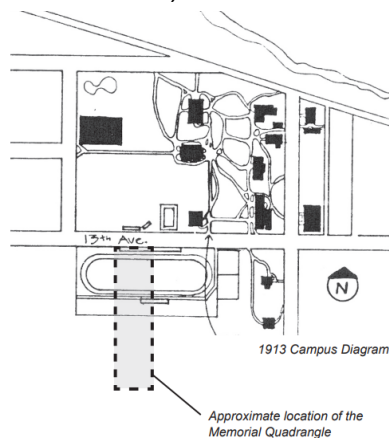


- 1887 - Southern Pacific Railroad line to California completed; the city grants a franchise to the Eugene Electric Company.
- **1888 - the name of the city was officially changed from Eugene City to Eugene**
- 1890 - two new residential areas emerge when the College Hill Park and Fairmount subdivisions were platted in 1890. (Fairmount--near Hendricks Park--was annexed to the City of Eugene in 1903 or 1904 and developed into a residential neighborhood in which many University and other professionals resided.)

- 1893 - The State Legislature passed an appropriation of \$25,000 for the construction of the first dormitory building (Friendly Hall). It consisted of two wings, the north wing for women and the south wing for men, and housed 90 students. (Prior to this students boarded with local families or rented rooms.)
- **1894 - University of Oregon football began on March 24th, 1894, when the first football team played its first official game, coached by Cal Young. (They beat Albany College 44-2.)**
- 1895 - Northwest Christian College (now Bushnell University) opens as the Eugene Divinity School. Located at E. 11th Avenue and Kincaid Street near the UofO, it was instituted to prepare men and women to enter the ministry in the Christian church.
- 1896 - The class of 1896 had 18 graduates and was the first to wear caps and gowns. It was this class that chose the colors of yellow and green for the school colors.
- 1900 - William Kuykendall established the first Eugene Hospital in 1900 and construction began in January 1901 at 1245 Willamette. (This year had a smallpox outbreak.) The population of Eugene in 1900 was 3,236. In rural areas, though farm size decreased around the turn of the century, production was increasing all over the Willamette Valley. Farmers worked to diversify their crops and create demand for many different types of produce. Popular local crops included hops, flax, peppermint and clover, as well as more common fruits, nuts, vegetables and grains.
- 1901 - The Eugene Business College started and was located on E. Broadway.
- [Between 1862 and 1902 the Willamette River continued to change its course. East of the Ferry Street Bridge and north of Alton Baker Park the river coursed through the area considerably north of its present location with a system of sloughs and waterways existing in the midst of the riparian forest. Historic photographs inform us that by 1902 the southern course was the main channel of the river with the two northern channels filled by sediment, undoubtedly from repeated flooding between 1861 and 1902. This floodplain continued to inhibit agricultural development until the early part of the 20th century when it was converted to orchards, hop fields, and crop land.]
- 1903-1904 - The Eugene High School was built to accommodate 300 students, located with its entrance on 11th Avenue between Willamette and Olive Streets. This substantial red brick building required an addition in less than two years, and by 1915 the building was abandoned in favor of a larger facility. The structure then served as city hall for many decades until it was demolished in 1964 following the completion of the city hall at Pearl and 10th avenue (which itself was demolished by June of 2015.) In 1903, George Dorris began to grow Filberts (Hazelnuts) commercially in the Springfield area. Today approximately 99% of the country's filbert/hazelnuts are grown in Oregon's Willamette Valley.
- 1904 - The first automobile arrives in Eugene. (Though the first auto arrived in Oregon in 1899.)
- 1905 - **Kincaid Field is constructed for athletic events (where the Memorial Quad is now).** The Willamette Valley Company purchased the private water works established in 1884. The City acquires horses for the fire hose carts (previously they were hand-drawn.)

The Inception Era (1876-1913)

The Quadrangle as seen today had not been conceived during this era. The northern half of the site was occupied by Kincaid Field and the southern half was an empty field.



- 1906 - The City of Eugene began its involvement in management of the landscape for recreational purposes in 1906 when T.G. and Martha Hendricks donated 10-47 acres of land to be used as the first city park outside the downtown area (now called Hendricks Park.) Following their donation, the city purchased 31 additional acres to increase the area. The Chamber's boathouse opens and the millrace became increasingly popular for canoeing and picnicking. A sewer leakage into the millrace caused a serious outbreak of Typhoid fever. The epidemic results in over 300 cases and 14 deaths.
- 1907 - A second hospital, the Eugene General Hospital, is established at 20th Avenue and Willamette Street in the present day College Hill area. The steps that led to this building are still visible on the west side of Willamette Street (though they now lead up to the back fence of a residence near and across the street from the old Civic Stadium on the corner of Willamette and Grand View.) The Sisters of Mercy purchased this hospital in 1912 and renamed it Mercy Hospital. Image below of UO's Kincaid field in 1907:



- 1908 - In 1908 Southern Pacific built the existing passenger depot at the north end of Willamette Street, replacing the earlier wood frame structure. Voters endorse the concept of public-owned utilities and the city purchases the waterworks company. (A typhoid fever outbreak had been blamed on sewage leakage into the millrace, which in turn leaked into the water system's wells, prompting the takeover.) Nationally, the Ford Model T is born and will revolutionize American life and bring the Motor Age into begin.
- 1909 - Local telephone lines are connected to long distance lines. (The Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company had started in 1894 with 25 customers). Also in 1909 the city recorded the "greatest building record" up to that date, following an economic lull in 1907.
- 1910 - The population of Eugene grew to 9,009 (it was less than 2,000 in 1884.) The University of Oregon newspaper, the Daily Emerald, began.
- **1911 - The Eugene Water and Electric Board (EWEB) is organized.** Also, the First Christian Church is built in 1911, an example of a Classical style church in the Greek and Roman tradition, with an imposing portico and graceful bell-shaped dome. (Tower was added in 1926)
- 1912 - The Oregon Electric Railroad arrived in Eugene. (The Oregon Electric Passenger Station, which became the Oregon Electric Station restaurant, was built in 1914.) There are now 10,000 autos in Oregon. Following WWI (1914-1918), the number grew to 100,000 and by 1930 Oregon had over 250,000 autos. New turbine pumps were installed at the Skinner Butte EWEB plant.
- 1913 - Two new stories were added to the McClung Building (on the corner of 8th Avenue and Willamette). Albert Tiffany purchased the structure in 1927 and it has since been known as the Tiffany Building. The City of Eugene purchased its first gas-driven fire truck, although the horses and carts were kept until the fire department was fully motorized in 1915.
- **1914 - The Eugene Water Board sold the land surrounding their Skinner Butte property to the City of Eugene for use as a city park. Skinner Butte Park was officially dedicated on July 6, 1914** with a concert from the Eugene Band, dancing, and fireworks. The original acquisition was for 67 acres. Over the years the park has increased to include 92.85 acres. (In 1910 there were only one or two

businesses in Eugene directly related to the automobile. By 1914, the number had grown to include six auto dealerships, three repair shops, two motor supply companies and five garages, some of which provided storage for vehicles.) A new era begins at the UofO: After the Inception Era (1876-1913) came the Lawrence/Cuthbert Era (1914-1946), followed by the Mid-Century Era (1947-1974). A new well for city water was established.

- **1915 - A new Eugene High School was built on the block between 17th & 18th and Lincoln & Charnelton.** The UofO School of Law (which had been established in 1884 in Portland) moved to the Eugene Campus. The College Hill reservoir is completed. The "Blair Yard" was established by Southern Pacific Railroad. (Blair Boulevard was the original highway connecting to River Road.)
- 1916 - The railroad route from Coos Bay to Eugene was built.
- 1918 - First airplane to land in Eugene does so in an open pasture near 18th and Chambers--a Canadian built "Jenny". (This became the first "airport"--now the site of Westmoreland Park.)
- **1919 - The Eugene Airpark, the first municipal airport in the state, opens under the direction of Mahlon Sweet, chair of the Chamber of Commerce Aviation Committee near 18th & Chambers. Also in 1919, Hayward Field was constructed as a football stadium and the wooden east grandstand completed. The first football game was played there November 15th, 1919 against Oregon Agricultural College** (which became Oregon State University.) The site had previously been a cow pasture when the university kept cattle to supply milk to the dormitory students. A creek ran through this lot creating problems when the university moved the athletic field from Kincaid Field to this new location. Three feet of rock and coarse gravel had to be laid down, and then 12 to 15 inches of sandy soil on top. Bill Hayward (who coached track 44 years from 1904-1947) also served as an athletic trainer and basketball coach. He didn't know that Hayward Field had been named in his honor until the day after the dedication because the ceremony was held during halftime of the first football game while Hayward was in the locker room serving as the football team's trainer. (In his career Hayward coached four track world record holders, six American record holders, and nine Olympians, and assisted on U.S. Olympic teams from 1908-1932.)
- 1920 - Mrs. Mahlon Sweet became the first woman in Eugene to go up in a plane. Skinner Butte Park was home to Eugene's zoo as early as 1920 when the Eugene fire department presented a bear as a mascot to the city. (Additional animals were added over the years until the zoo was disbanded in 1970.)
- **1921 - The Memorial Quadrangle, part of Ellis F. Lawrence's plan for campus as early as 1914, was dedicated when the first memorial plaque in the quadrangle was placed in 1921 to recognize the site of Kincaid Field and the students who played there.** (Lawrence was the campus architect and founder and first dean of the School of Architecture and Allied Arts at the University of Oregon, from 1914 until his death in 1946.) Intended to be a key element of his grand entrance to campus, Lawrence envisioned a great axial view that initiated at the Dads' Gates at 11th Avenue and eventually terminated at the head of the Memorial Quadrangle. The quadrangle was to be the university's more formally-designed campus open space, and Lawrence initially proposed to build a great civic auditorium as its focal point, later to be replaced by the Library. The Quad gets its name from three distinct memorials. The first is a plaque dedicated in 1921 to the athletes who represented the University of Oregon on Kincaid Field. The second consists of the distinctive walks of the Quadrangle that honor the students who fought in the Spanish American and First World Wars. The third consists of eight Pyramidal English oaks planted in 1940 to honor the senior class president of 1939, Robert Chase Bailey, who drowned in the Mill Race during his senior year. A brass plaque is located on the Library's terrace fountain as part of this memorial. **Also in 1921, a six-lane cinder track was installed at Hayward Field and the storied history of Track and Field at Hayward Field begins.** The track, bordering the football playing field, was installed for \$10,000, and included a 220-yard straightway on the east end. The bleachers were transferred from Kincaid Field, where the University of Oregon's football and track and field team previously competed.

- 1922 - A municipal bond of \$22,000 was raised for improvements and maintenance of the airpark. KFAT radio station is licensed in 1922.
- **1923 - Construction on a large railroad terminal yard began (the last unit was completed in 1929.) This substantial yard is located in the Bethel area, between Bethel Drive and River Road.** By 1923 the Oregon portion of the Pacific Highway (from Canada to Mexico) was completely paved, and by 1926 the Pacific Highway was the longest continuous paved road in the world. It originally passed through Eugene along River Road and Blair Boulevard, then south along present day Franklin Boulevard through Glenwood. Also in 1923, the Eugene Country Club (founded in 1899) moved to its present location on Country Club Road and established the first golf course for members.
- 1924 - The Pacific Christian Hospital was constructed at 12th and Hilyard Streets. In 1936 it's sold to the Sisters of St. Joseph and renamed Sacred Heart General Hospital. (The old Mercy Hospital was razed about 1938.)
- **1925 - By 1925, EWEB had begun using the McKenzie River for drinking water as well as power. (Previously wells were drilled for a city water source.)** The Southern Pacific maintenance shops were moved from Junction City to Eugene. The McDonald Theater opens (as the Lowell Theater) and was one of Oregon's finest moving picture palaces. A wooden west grandstand (designed by Ellis Lawrence) is added at Hayward Field.
- **1926 - McArthur Court, a basketball arena located on the campus of the University of Oregon opened in December 1926.** Also known as "The Pit" or "Mac Court," it was known as one of the most hostile arenas in the nation. The arena is named for Clifton N. (Pat) McArthur, U.S. Congressman and Oregon student-athlete and the school's first student body president. It was designed by Ellis F. Lawrence, who also designed many of the other campus buildings including the Main Library (built 1935-37 and known now as the Knight Library) and the Museum of Art (1930.) Sladden Park (north of Whiteaker and west of the Rose Garden) is added to the city parks system. Construction of the Natron Cut-off to the east (Willamette Pass/Pengra Pass) created a new rail route to California. Eugene was now a major junction in the transportation network.
- **1927 - The citizens of Eugene voted for \$6,000 worth of bonds to purchase Spencer Butte for a city park when it was threatened with logging.** (Though the park was established in 1928, it was in the 60s and 70s that improvements were made to include a parking lot and much improved trails.)
- 1928 - KORE was Eugene's first commercial broadcasting station when it went on air in 1928. All industries previously using water power on the millrace convert to a more reliable form of power, electricity, after a flood damages the intake channel. All water wheels were stopped for good. Also in 1928, the northeast bleachers at Hayward Field were covered. (University of Oregon students paid to cover the bleachers on the northeast end that remained until 1950.)
- 1930 - The two main local newspapers, the *Eugene Daily Guard* and the *Eugene Register* merged operations becoming the *Eugene Register-Guard*. The population of Eugene is 18,901. 9%, or 1,462 of those residents live in the River Road-Santa Clara area. The Peterson Barn, built as a dairy barn in the early 1930s, is a reminder of the dairy industry that was active through the 1940s in the Bethel-Danebo area. Many Danish people had previously settled in the Danebo area and the Bethesda Lutheran Church became the center of the community. (Services were held entirely in Danish until 1920.) Danebo is short for Danish borough. Since the land was somewhat marshy, it wasn't ideal for agriculture so many became dairy farmers instead. Many also worked for the Booth-Kelly lumber company as the sawmills were nearby. (Danish farmers also raised poultry in large quantities, especially during World War I.) On the campus of the UofO, the Museum of Art was constructed in 1930 (designed by Ellis F. Lawrence.)



- 1932 - Frederick Cuthbert (landscape architect professor at the University of Oregon) was commissioned by Ellis Lawrence to design the quadrangle landscape in 1932. The distinctive 'X' and 'O' paths of the UofO's Memorial Quad and the Library's terrace and fountain were designed by Cuthbert and put into place in 1932. The landscape design is made up of concrete walks shaped in the form of one large circle located directly in front of the Museum of Art with walks in the shape of an X to the north and south and another along 13th avenue. Also, there are walks which radiate from the center and also surround the perimeter of the mall. There are two bronze plaques at the north end corners of the quadrangle which state: "The walks of this Quadrangle are the gift of Chaplain William S. Gilbert, as a memorial to the men of the University who served their country in the time of war." Also, seven lamps flank the mall; they were designed with fluted columns with decorative band with a floral pattern near the bottom topped by a frosted glass globe.

MEMORIAL QUADRANGLE

ERA DESCRIPTION:

The Lawrence/Cuthbert Era (1914-1946)

During this era Kincaid Field was replaced by the Memorial Quad, and Lawrence's grand signature open space was born. Gilbert and Peterson Halls help terminate the northern vista, with Condon and Chapman Halls marking the northern corners of the Quadrangle. The Library and Art Museum sat in a great open lawn that stretched all the way to Kincaid Street. The distinctive 'X' and 'O' paths of the Quad and the Library's terrace and fountain were designed by Cuthbert and put into place in 1932. The large circle walk served first as an automobile path to reach the art museum. Cuthbert kept this design and added the diagonals for pedestrians. Small trees like the eight Pyramidal English oaks dotted the exposed open space and the immature landscape of the Memorial Quadrangle was less than ten years old.



Looking north, with Kincaid Field in the foreground.



1944 aerial

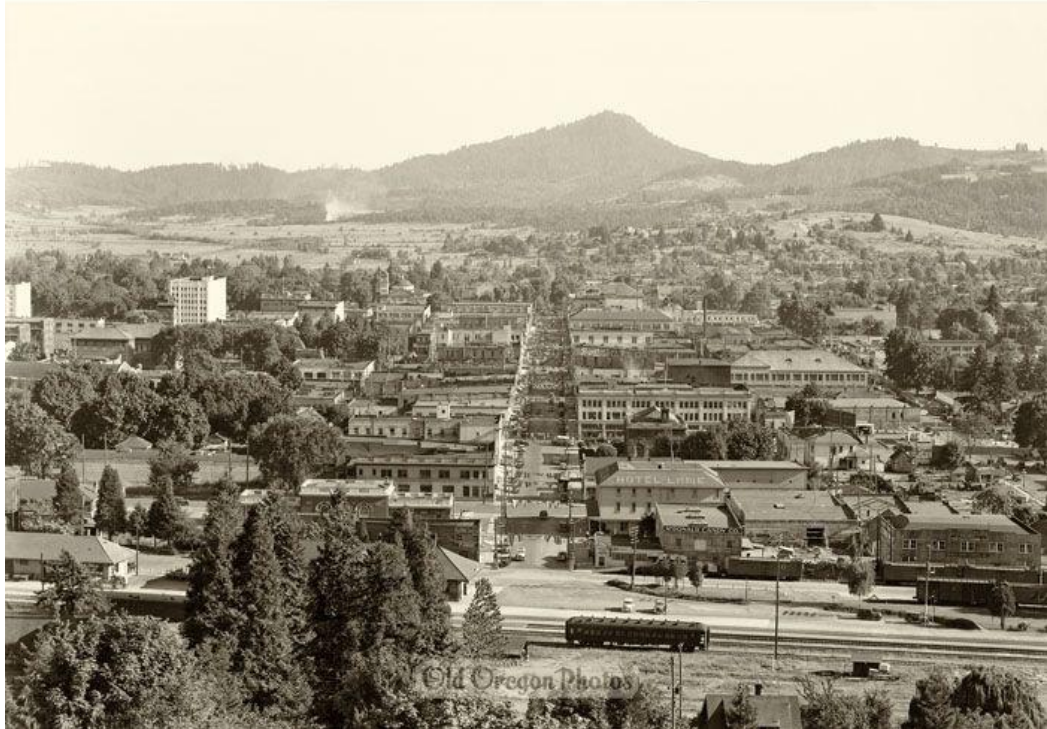


1928 aerial

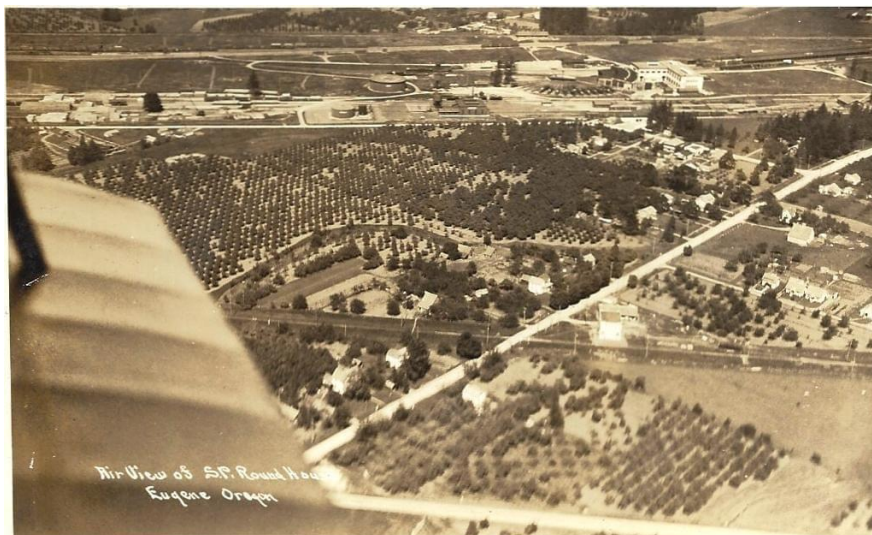
- **1934 - A massive tree planting campaign on Skinner Butte was undertaken with the assistance of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC.)** Other CCC-assisted ventures were the building of the Civic Stadium in 1938 and construction of the Willamette National Forest building on W. 1st Ave.
- **1936 - Due to frequent flooding, the route of the Pacific Highway through Eugene was relocated west of the railroad tracks (modern day Highway 99.)** Also in 1936, the Army Corps of Engineers conducts a Willamette Valley project and [photographs the entire Eugene area from the sky](#):



- 1937 - A turf field at Hayward Field replaces sawdust. The main library (constructed 1935-1937) opens at the south end of the Memorial Quad (designed by Ellis Lawrence.) 1937 Eugene in image below:



- 1938 - United Airlines began negotiations to include Eugene as a regular stop on their west coast commercial route if the city would purchase additional land and improve the runway conditions. **Civic Stadium was built** (originally the Willamette Stadium Ball Field) with the assistance of the Civilian Conservation Corps and/or the Works Progress Administration. (It burned to the ground June 29, 2015.) The image below ("Air view of Southern Pacific RoundHouse") is dated 1938 and shows filbert orchards near Bethel Drive (parallel with the tracks) and Highway 99N crossed by Roosevelt Blvd just under the wing of the plane.



- Late 1930s: swimming in the Willamette River ceases after the river becomes so polluted.
- **1939 - The University of Oregon's "Tall Firs" basketball team wins the inaugural NCAA tournament title game by defeating Ohio State on March 17th (at Northwestern.)** By 1939 air activity in Eugene had outgrown the Airpark on Chambers Street and 900 acres were purchased northwest of the city for a new airport. On the UofO's memorial quad, a plaque is added to honor Robert

Chase Bailey. Born in 1917, Bailey was senior class president at the time of his death by drowning in the Mill Race on April 9, 1939. At the time of Robert's death, his father, John Ora Bailey was chief justice of the Oregon Supreme Court. The memorial consists of the eight Pyramidal English Oak trees which line the quadrangle. A brass plaque atop the fountain at the library terrace reads, "*Here where the living mind and step of youth retrace the ancient paths to human wisdom's goal, the symmetry of these oaks shall keep this place for one, for all who like him thought, in soul, in body, voice, and friendship* - by Robert D. Horn. In memory of Robert Chase Bailey, Class of 1939."

- **1940 - Construction begins on the Fern Ridge Dam** (completed in 1942.) Work began on the Mahlon Sweet Field in 1940. The population of Eugene is a little less than 21,000. 12% of Eugene's population now live in the River Road-Santa Clara area, which had increased nearly 60% since 1930 to 2,545 residents.
- 1941 - The Oregon Highway Department converted 6th and 7th Avenues into one-way couplets to service the 99 north highway (which at that time followed today's Prairie Road.)
- **1942 - The Fern Ridge Dam is completed.**
- **1943 - The new airport northwest of Eugene opened with the first flight arriving on May 1st, 1943. One May 11th, the airport was named the Mahlon Sweet Field. (Renamed the Eugene Airport in 1989.)**
- **1946 - Additional improvements to Highway 99N, including its separation from Prairie Road, near the rail yards, resulted in the roadway's current configuration.** The Gilbert subdivision near Four Corners was platted, the first subdivision filed outside of the metropolitan area after WWII. Recreation services were consolidated into the Parks and Recreation Department. A year round parks program was initiated under Don January. Also in 1946, the Century Progress Fund was created to organize the acquisition of Amazon Park. The Progress Fund worked for seven years to acquire ownership of 90 acres from fifty land owners. (Amazon Park was finally dedicated in 1955.)
- 1948 - Eugene adopted its first zoning ordinance. Bethel School District is formed with the consolidation of the Bethel, Irving, Clear Lake, Danebo, and Malabon School Districts. On April 9, the rural Lane County, Oregon communities of Bethel, Clear Lake, Danebo and Irving passed a measure to consolidate and build the high school. A 50-acre school site was purchased on May 17, 1948. Funding was provided by bond levies passed on May 11, 1948, and October 20, 1948.
- 1949 - Willamette High School in the Bethel School district opens in September 1949 with an enrollment of 381. Lane County was the first county in Oregon to create its own planning commission. The commission's first act was the adoption of a zoning ordinance that applied to the fringe areas and along highways, which prohibited businesses within 800 feet of a school. The "fringe areas" referred to then-outlying neighborhoods such as Friendly, River Road, Bethel, and Bailey Hill that were growing rapidly following WWII. New permanent and removable seats in the south endzone are added to Hayward Field bringing capacity to 22,500. A new electric scoreboard is added as well.
- 1950 - The population of Eugene has risen quickly following WWII to 35,879--an increase of 72% since 1940. 18% of the city's residents, or 6,412, reside in the River Road-Santa Clara area. "Due to its location near most of the area's sawmills and the railroad, River Road and Bethel-Danebo received the bulk of suburban growth north of Eugene." West Eugene was greatly developed in the 1950s after the airport moved to its present location. And flood control on the upper Willamette River was securely established by 1950 allowing for the development of previously wet land that had been located within the flood plains. Houses replaced many of the filbert and walnut groves in the River Road and Willakenzie areas by 1950. The Owen Rose Garden, a 6.52 acre garden, is donated by Mr. and Mrs. George Owen. (George Owen was a local lumberman and former City Councilor, and a philanthropist.) The park was originally 4.9 acres and at the outset of development included the planting of 1,500 rose bushes and two acres of lawn. The initial collection of rose bushes was donated by the Eugene Rose Society and various interested collectors and growers. At the northwest corner of the Rose Garden

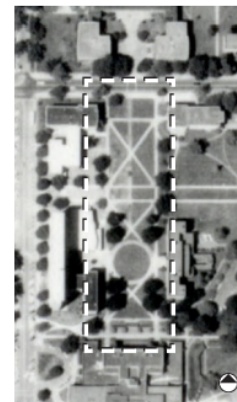
stands the Black Tartarian cherry tree which might have been planted in 1860. This is believed to be the largest cherry tree in Oregon and one of the largest in the United States. At Hayward Field, the north grandstands are removed. The main library gets its first addition, and the Erb Memorial Union opens at 13th and University (with additions in '62 and '73 and major expansion and renovation completed in 2016.) Present day UO website explains: "The Erb Memorial Union (EMU) is the center for student activities and involvement. It brings together opportunities for all students to experience community, meet up with friends, attend a lecture series, enjoy a cup of coffee, or just hang out and study. The EMU is more than a building; it's a variety of programs and services designed to help you get the most out of your student experience. It's your union; and it was designed to support you and serve as the largest living room you'll ever have."

- 1951 - In January, the Eugene Rhododendron Society established the Rhododendron Garden, one of the main features of Hendricks Park. In November, the new Municipal Jail opened at 5th and Olive; staffed by Police Department personnel. (Remodeled and expanded in 1961.) Between Skinner Butte and the river, Fred Lamb Cottage is remodeled from an open picnic shelter to an enclosed building.
- 1952 - Controversial [Commonwealth Hall](#) is constructed (it connected the two corner buildings but ended the open site line at the north end of the Memorial Quad.)

ERA DESCRIPTION:

The Mid-Century Era (1947-1974)

By the end of the Mid-Century Era, Commonwealth Hall was built between Gilbert and Peterson Halls, and more definitively terminated the view north. Most of the changes in the Quadrangle occurred on the western edge when Prince Lucien Campbell Hall rose to its full nine-story height, and an addition to Condon Hall moved the building's footprint within 80 feet of PLC's new auditorium. Johnson Lane was extended from Kincaid Street to the EMU upon its completion in 1950.



1968 aerial



1950 aerial



View of the Memorial Quad with the Museum on the right.

- **1953 - The building on 19th Street and Patterson was built in 1953 as Eugene High School. The name was changed to South Eugene High School four years later when North Eugene High School was built.** A 1953 study of the rural-urban fringe in Eugene (fringe neighborhoods being such as Friendly, Glenwood, Bailey Hill, Bethel, and River Road) determined that "the primary motivations for moving to these areas included less congestion, more room; better for the children; unable to find housing in town; proximity to employment or business; room for garden; cheaper land and lower rent; and lower taxes." Beginning in the 1950s "we see subdivisions plunked down in the middle of orchards and farming land. Open fields, horse pastures, orchards, abandoned orchards, and idle land are mixed with rows of modern suburban houses. The voices of children playing in the fields mix with the noise of the farmer's tractor." (Spyrou, Michael. *Land in the Suburbs: Spatial Patterns of Lots in the River Road-Santa Clara Area, Eugene, OR*. University of Oregon Thesis, Department of Geography, 1973.) Fairfield Elementary School in the Bethel area was built in 1953. **(Between 1945-1955, the urban-rural sector grew faster than that within the city, as Eugene expanded toward the west and northwest.**

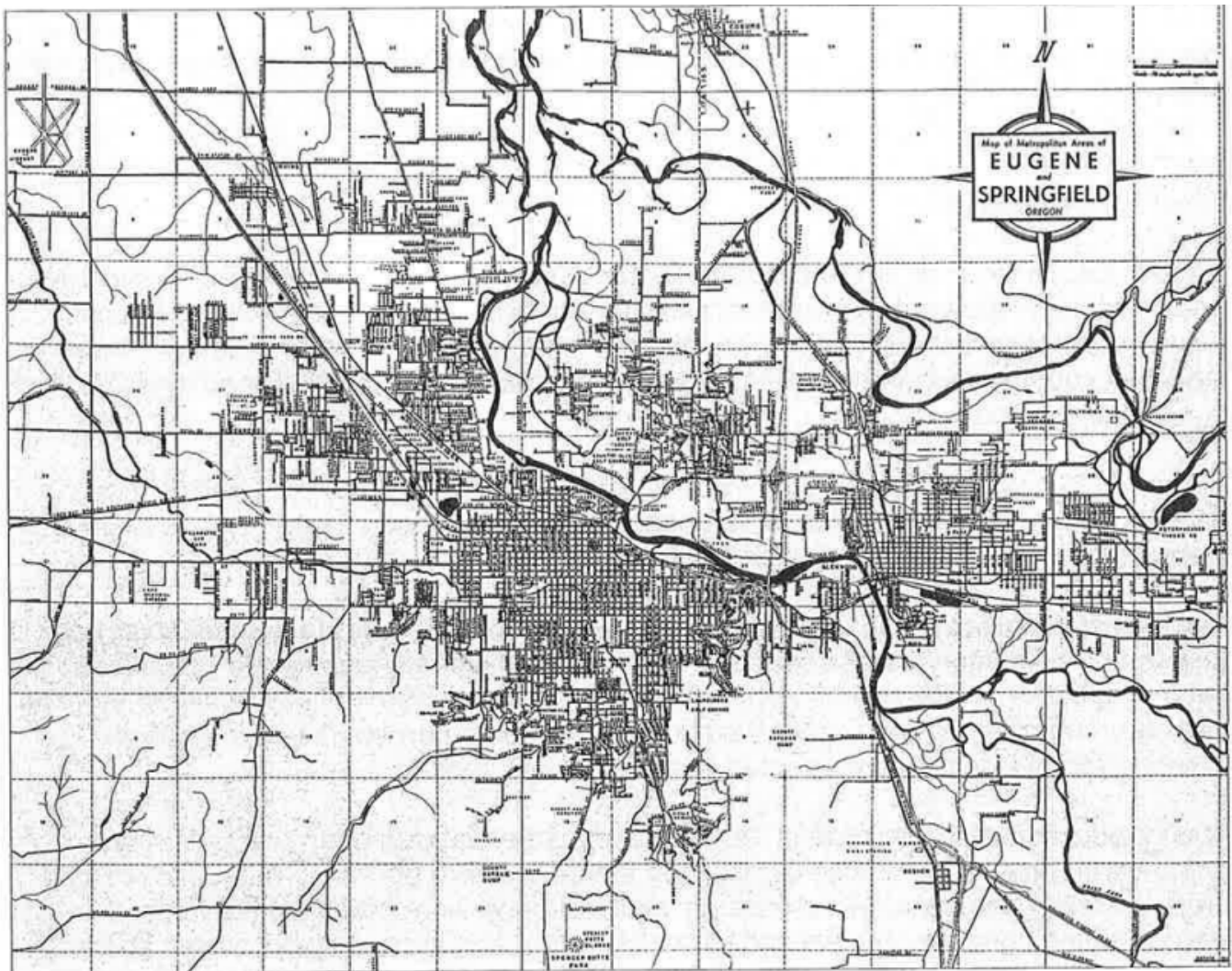
- 1954 - Eugene's first television station began broadcasting--KVAL-TV, on Channel 13, an affiliate of NBC. The old Eugene Airpark, which had been leased during WWII to the US Army and continued to serve private airplane owners and small commercial ventures, is declared a hazard and all operations cease. The land was later redeveloped and is now the location of Westmoreland Park and several schools (such as Chavez and Adams Elementary, and Jefferson Middle School--now Arts and Tech Academy.) Some of the airpark land was also developed as lots for single family housing. Also in 1954, the Amazon Creek was channeled and contained. (Prior to this it flooded seasonally.) At Hayward Field, the grandstand is reinforced and raised 20 feet. The River Road Park & Recreation District was formed in 1954. Shortly thereafter, Emerald Park was opened at 1400 Lake Drive, complete with playground equipment and picnic area.
- 1955 - With Eugene's expanding population came the need for a second High School. In 1955 a bond issue was passed to build a new high school and the following Spring (1956) construction began on North Eugene High School. In 1955 Amazon Park was dedicated. Westmoreland Park begins to be developed on the site of the old 1919 airpark. The runways were too costly to remove so tons of fill were brought in and mounded on the site. From the mid-1950s to the mid-1960s, a number of large-scale road projects were undertaken around Eugene. Lane County began to expand its street network and improve its roadways to the north of Eugene. "Using federal timber receipts, Lane County built the roads that served the fringe developments," including Irvington, Royal and Barger.
- **1956 - Local construction began on Interstate 5**, which was part of the Interstate Freeway system established the prior decade. Amazon Pool is constructed. Ground is broken for North Eugene High School (finally completed in 1958) on a 25-acre site that had once been a filbert orchard.
- 1957 - I-5 was designated in 1957 and replaced U.S. Route 99 for most of its length, itself preceded by the Pacific Highway and various wagon roads. The freeway incorporated early bypasses and expressways built for US 99 in the 1950s, including a new freeway route from Portland to Salem, and additional bypasses were built using federal funds. (The last segment of I-5, the Marquam Bridge in Portland, was opened in October 1966 and the whole highway was dedicated later that month.) **The Petersen Tunnel (also called the Mapleton Tunnel or the Knowles Creek Tunnel) was completed in 1957. At 991 feet, it marks the point where the last barrier to a one-hour drive from Eugene to the coast was breached.** In 1988 the tunnel was renamed for Ralph A. Petersen (1902–1986), the Lane County Commissioner from Florence who was instrumental in completing it.
- 1958 - By 1958 the Army Corps of Engineers had completed the Amazon channel all the way to Fern Ridge Reservoir. New schools and parks were built on the previously vacant land along the Amazon slough (particularly family housing at 24th and Patterson as early as 1947.) Amazon Park was greatly developed in the 50s and 60s. Today it's part of an impressive series of bicycle and jogging paths that meander through much of the city. North Eugene High School finally opened in 1958--a relatively inexpensive, modern facility--though freshman weren't admitted until 1983 when it transitioned to a four-year school. (It stood until the 2022-2023 school year, as a new high school was built next door.)
- 1959 - Howard Buford (the first planning consultant for the former Central Lane Planning Council) arrived in Eugene in 1945 after working for the National Park Service and came to envision a "Central Park" for Eugene. He arrived at a propitious time because the community was badly in need of planning and park acquisition. He became concerned about the north bank of the Willamette River between the Ferry Street Bridge and Springfield. He felt the site was perfect for a large metropolitan park and believed that the only way to save the land for park purposes was to remove it from private hands. To accomplish this he helped interest the State Highway Department in acquiring more than 100 acres of land as a source of gravel for construction of Interstate 5 during the late 1950s. At a later date the state agreed to sell 92 acres of the tract to the University of Oregon for part of its stadium site. In 1951 the Eugene Park Study had identified the recreational potential of the site for the Central Lane Planning Council. Being that the 1950s were an era of massive highway, water supply, and power development

projects, and since Eugene had become a lumber capital for the state, a movement was established to make the area a cultural and recreational center. The creation of a metropolitan park was in keeping with the community's goals. In 1959 new roads were being created in and around Eugene, as well as a number of new subdivisions. There was a concern that subdivisions would engulf the farm land on the north shore of the river if it was not put into public ownership. By the close of 1959 the populace and government officials were committed to acquiring the land that would be needed to create the North Bank Park (Alton Baker Park.) Today Alton Baker Park, Eugene's largest developed park, is home to dozens of recreational features and facilities serving the City of Eugene. The park is made up of two major areas: the more developed West Alton Baker Park, and the 237-acre Whilamut Natural Area. The park is named after Alton F. Baker, co-founder of the Eugene Register Guard, who was involved in park acquisition issues, and was instrumental in acquiring both this park and Maurie Jacobs Park. Located immediately east of the Ferry Street Bridge along the north bank of the Willamette River, West Alton Baker Park has had a long history of development, first under the jurisdiction of Lane County Parks Department, and more recently under the jurisdiction of the City of Eugene Parks and Open Space Division. The original 20-acre parcel was purchased by Lane County in 1881, however most of the park land was acquired by Lane County Parks between 1959 and 1964. The current size of the park is approximately 413 acres, including 40 acres (Eastgate Woodlands) which are owned and managed by [Willamalane Park and Recreation District](#). Alton Baker Park contains many unique facilities and special features such as the [Cuthbert Amphitheater](#), [Nobel Peace Laureate Project](#), [Whilamut Natural Area](#), [Citizen Planning Committee](#), [Hays Tree Garden](#), [Native Plant Nursery](#).

- 1960 - The population of Eugene has risen to 50,977 (up from 35,879 in 1950). During the 60s and 70s the city continued to expand in all directions, with the south hills greatly subdivided and developed. The city annexed large areas north of the Willamette River. The first TacoTime was a two window walk-up restaurant and opened near the UofO campus in 1960.
- 1961 - The original I-5 bridge over the Willamette between Eugene and Springfield is completed. "By December 1961 Lane County proceeded with construction of the North Eugene Highway, now known as the Beltline, across the [railroad] yard." Beltline Highway connected Interstate 5 to the River Road and Bethel-Danebo neighborhoods. A Eugene transportation report suggested a number of changes around the Southern Pacific Railroad terminal to help facilitate the flow of vehicular traffic. One was a road connection over the tracks at River Road and Chambers Street and another was the construction of a northwest highway along the east side of the railroad yard. The River Road Park and Rec department open the community center and indoor swimming pool next to Emerald Park.
- **1962 - Historic [Columbus Day storm](#) hits the area on Friday, Oct. 12th. Hayward Field hosted the NCAA Championships for the first time. The Men of Oregon won their first NCAA Championship** with 85 points. It was also the first NCAA Championship for legendary Oregon head coach Bill Bowerman. Southern Pacific expanded its yard north to Irving. The Delta Highway was constructed on the agricultural lands of Goodpasture island. It provided a connection between Beltline Highway and Interstate 105 to its south. KEZI began its first broadcast to the greater Eugene area.
- 1963 - Sheldon High School opened for the 1963-64 academic year as the third high school in the Eugene School District. The school gets its name from Dr. Henry D. Sheldon (1874–1948.) With the influx of baby-boomer students, University of Oregon enrollment topped 10,000 in 1963 and reached more than 17,000 six years later. Westmoreland Housing (off campus) is completed. (The complex was sold by the University in 2006.) Through the late 1960s and into the 1970s, Eugene gained a reputation for liberal thinking and alternative lifestyles. Eugene is often referred to as Track Town, USA, where legendary coach Bill Bowerman coached runners such as Steve Prefontaine, Kenny Moore, Bill Dellinger, and Phil Knight, who later founded Nike. The city is also the birthplace of jogging in America, a movement started in 1963 after Bowerman visited New Zealand and saw people of all ages regularly running in groups at a slow, steady pace. When Bowerman placed an announcement in the local

newspaper calling for people interested in feeling healthier to meet at the university intramural field, more than 200 people showed up.

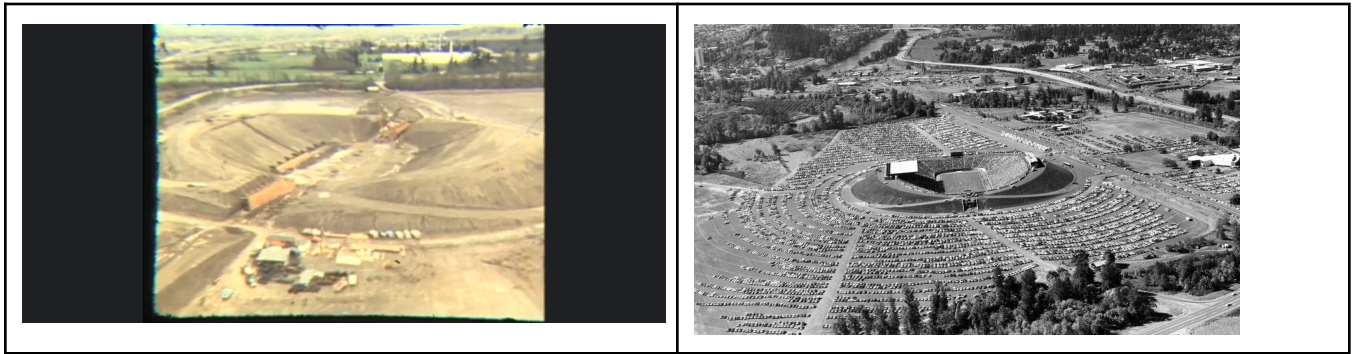
- 1964 - The city annexed the seven square-mile Bethel-Danebo area, which added more than 7000 people to Eugene's population. Hayward Field hosted its second NCAA Championships. The Men of Oregon won their second NCAA Championship (their second NCAA Championship at Hayward Field) with 70 points. It was also the second NCAA Championship for Bowerman. The five story Prince Lucien Campbell Hall is constructed on the west side of the Memorial Quad, though by 1966 the university begins construction of the 8 story addition on the west wing (completed in 1968). In '64, former Oregon track runner Phil Knight did a handshake deal with Bill Bowerman, securing a \$500 investment in a company called Blue Star Sports, which specialized in importing athletic shoes from Japan. Blue Star Sports later became Nike — the multibillion-dollar company that would take over the world of sports and completely alter the UO campus, contributing to a new football stadium, a remodeled law school and library and the 2019 rebuild of Hayward Field.



The highlighted area is the basic boundary of the study area on this 1965 map of Eugene, extending from Bellline Road to the north, the Willamette River to the east, Cross Street to the south, and the Northwest Expressway to the west.

- 1966 - Sheldon Meadows Pool opens. Opening of the Belt Line Highway coincided with the completion of the Delta Highway in 1966. Both facilities were constructed by Lane County in the 1960s. Football plays its last game in Hayward Field. The Ducks football team's last game in Hayward Field was against Washington State on November 5, 1966. The UofO's main library gets its second addition.

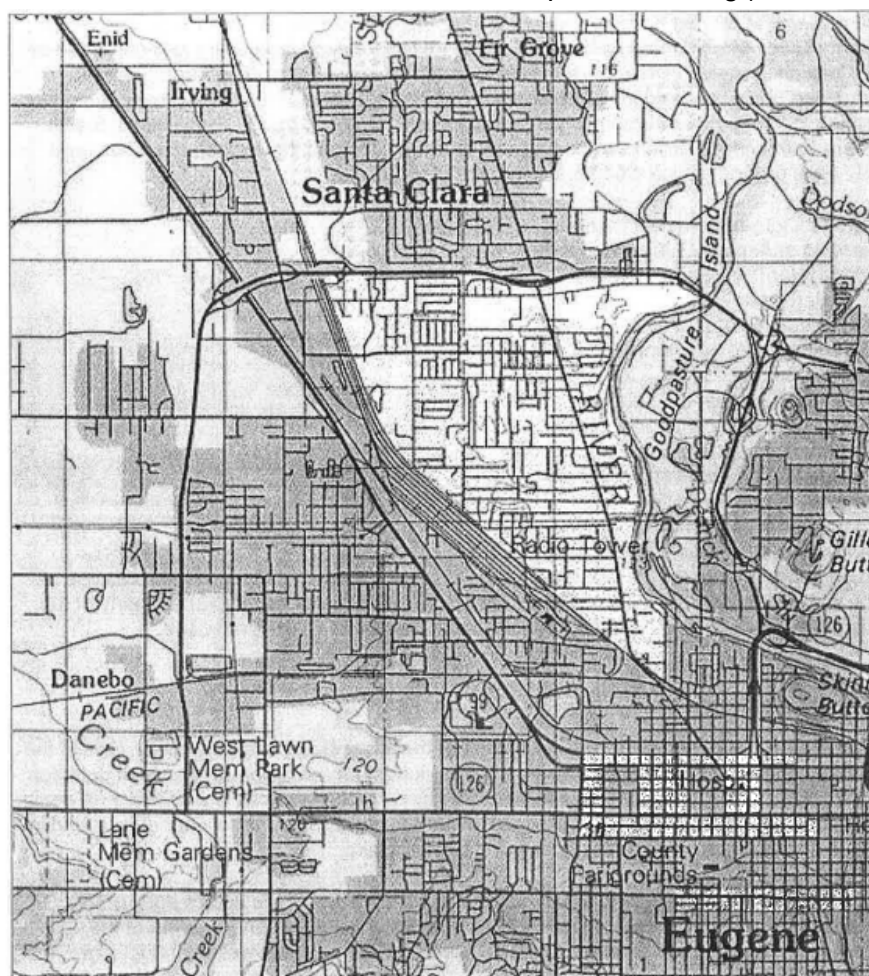
- **1967 - Autzen Stadium opens.** In Track, Hayward Field hosted the Pac-8 Conference Championships. The Men of Oregon won their fourth conference championship, and the first at Hayward Field.



- 1968 - The Laurelwood Golf Course came into city ownership as a 9 hole course. (It had been an 18 hole course originally when established in 1929.)
- 1969 - **The new Valley River Center Mall opened August 4th 1969.** It is the largest shopping mall between Portland and Sacramento. 13 miles east of Eugene, a unique combination of county fair, renaissance fair, outdoor music festival, and environmental school, the annual Oregon Country Fair, is held in Veneta. **Echo Hollow Pool opens.**
- **1970 - The Eugene Saturday Market starts. Located in the Park blocks along 8th Street, it was the first Saturday Market in the United States.** The city created the Eugene Bicycle Committee to provide a comprehensive plan for creating bike lanes and building dedicated paths. At Hayward Field, an all-weather urethane surface was installed to replace the cinders, and the track was expanded to have 8 lanes. During this renovation, the place is dedicated solely to Track and Field. The Beltline/River Road interchange was completed.
- 1971 - 13th avenue closes to automobile traffic through the university campus.
- **1972 - Hayward Field hosted the US Olympic Trials for the first time,** which saw three Men of Oregon advance to the Olympic Games in Munich, including Steve Prefontaine. (Hayward Field hosted the NCAA Championships for the third time. UCLA took home the title, while Oregon finished fourth.)
- 1973 - The old reservoir on top Skinner's Butte was removed. Hayward Field hosted the Pac-8 Conference Championships for the second time as USC took home the title and Oregon finished in third. **Population of Eugene is 75,000.**
- 1974 - The rampant growth of these decades led to the establishment of the Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC) in 1974. Nineteen statewide land use goals were established with the intention of preserving Oregon's unique and natural features from overdevelopment. These land use goals have helped to shape the look of Eugene up to the present day.
- 1975 - Hayward Field West Grandstand is completely rebuilt. Substantial funds were raised from gifts and a special track meet in which Steve Prefontaine ran.
- 1976 - Petersen Barn community center opens. Hayward Field hosted the US Olympic Trials for the second-straight time, which saw two women and six men, including Matt Centrowitz, advance to the Olympic Games in Montreal.
- 1978 - Hayward Field hosted the NCAA Championships for the fourth time as UCLA and Texas-El Paso tied for the title and Oregon finished 4th. (The stadium also appears in the movie "Animal House.")
- **1980 - Eugene's population now exceeds 100,000. (Census data shows 105,624) The Northwest Expressway is constructed.** Hayward Field hosted the US Olympic Trials for the third-straight time, which saw seven men, including Alberto Salazar, qualify for the Olympic Games in Moscow. However, the United States boycotted the 1980 Olympics so those athletes did not compete. The Knickerbocker Bicycle Bridge (officially the Willie Knickerbocker Bridge) was dedicated in 1980. The

pedestrian bridge was originally constructed to carry a Eugene Water & Electric Board water main for \$330,000. The city and county added the bridge deck, rails, and approaches for \$110,000. The bridge is named for Willie Knickerbocker (1868–1960), "The Father of Bicycling in Eugene".

- **1982 - The Hult Center opened on September 24th, 1982. Built by the people of Eugene, the Hult Center has quite an impressive history. Since its grand opening in 1982, the Hult Center has been charming audiences and popular performers alike with its stunning architectural and acoustical features.** From the towering glass Lobby, the grand 2,447-seat Silva Concert Hall with its basketweave ceiling and the intimate 495-seat Soreng Theater with its intriguing asymmetrical design the Hult Center is truly a great arts facility. The Hult Center is operated by the City of Eugene's [Cultural Services Division](#), as part of the City's [Library, Recreation and Cultural Services](#) Department. Hayward Field hosted the Pac-10 Conference Championships. (Third time hosting conference championships.) UCLA took home the title; Oregon finished 4th.
- 1984 - Hayward Field hosted the NCAA Championships for the fifth time as the Men of Oregon won their fifth national title overall and first for head coach Bill Dellinger while the Women of Oregon finished fourth. (The weight room under the north end moved to a separate building.)



A 1986 USGS quadrangle map of northwest Eugene with the River Road area highlighted and retained neighborhood

- 1987 - Museum of Natural History opens.
- 1988 - The Chambers Connector is built, connecting River Road and Chambers at Northwest Expressway, Railroad Boulevard, and Roosevelt Boulevard. Hayward Field track was converted from 440 yards to 400 meters. East grandstand was moved 11 meters east and was reconditioned. Hayward Field hosted the NCAA Championships for the sixth time as the Men of Oregon finished tied for seventh while the Women of Oregon finished third.

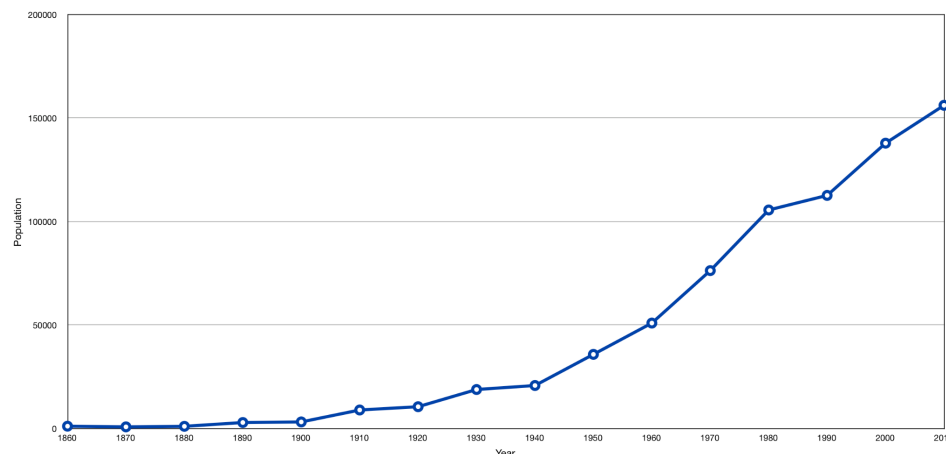
- 1990 - New science buildings (Cascade Hall, Deschutes Hall, Streisinger Hall, and Willamette Hall) open at the University of Oregon, marking completion of the science complex.
- 1991 - Hayward Field added a new scoreboard and hosted the NCAA Championships for the seventh time as the Men of Oregon finished third while the Women of Oregon finished tied for 15th.
- 1992 - Situated on the northwest corner of the facility, the \$2 million Bill Bowerman Family building was dedicated to Bill Bowerman and his family, who donated funds necessary to construct the all-purpose building. The two-story, 15,000-square-foot brick building housed the Bowerman Sports Science Center along with athletic treatment, locker rooms, and meeting rooms. Memorabilia and various exhibits commemorated great athletes, teams and moments of the program's history. Hayward Field hosted the Pac-10 conference championships for the fourth time as UCLA took home the men's title and the Men of Oregon finished in second, while the Women of Oregon won their second-straight conference championship.
- 1993 - Hayward Field hosted the USA Championships for the first time as Michael Johnson broke the championship record on his way to the men's 400-meter title.
- 1994 - The Oregon Football team completes a magical season (including a dramatic Kenny Wheaton interception return for a touchdown against Washington) and go to the Rose Bowl on Jan. 1st 1995.
- 1995 - Coach Rich Brooks leaves for the NFL's St. Louis Rams following the Rose Bowl and offensive coordinator Mike Bellotti becomes the new head coach. The University of Oregon men's basketball team upsets #1 ranked UCLA at Mac Court and has a great season in which they qualified for the NCAA tournament for the first time in many years.
- 1996 - Hayward Field hosted the NCAA Championships for the eighth time as the Men of Oregon finished 30th while the Women of Oregon finished fifth.
- 1997 - Beginning in 1964, Eugene was visually dominated by a fifty-foot-high concrete cross that a local businessman installed on public property on top of Skinner Butte. The controversy that followed prompted a 1965 story in the Saturday Evening Post, which reported that while Eugene was in many ways politically progressive it also had the highest proportion of churchgoers in Oregon. After thirty years, three trials, and eight court rulings, the cross was removed in 1997 and placed at the Eugene Bible College (now New Hope Christian College) at the southwest end of the city.
- 1998 - An 90 foot American Flagpole is installed on Skinner Butte, replacing the cross. (Paid for by LL "Stub" Stewart.) Voters approved the round-the-clock flying of the American flag in November 1998 as an amendment to the city charter. Hayward Field appeared in the movie "Without Limits". The University of Oregon opened up the Moshofsky Sports Center in August of 1998, giving the Ducks the first indoor practice facility in what was then known as the Pac-10. The dazzling facility has a full-length artificial turf football surface, a synthetic four-lane 120-meter running track, and a Duck Shop souvenir retail outlet. EMU Amphitheater is completed at the corner of 13th and University.
- 1999 - The William W. Knight Law Center opens to house the Law School. Across the street, Hayward Field hosted the USA Championships for the second time. The Student Recreation Center opens, which includes a remodel of the adjacent Esslinger Hall. (The center undergoes a significant expansion and renovation and reopens in 2015.)
- **2000 - By 2000, Eugene's population has grown to 140,600.** At Hayward Field, the Bill Bowerman statue was added next to the Bowerman Family Building in the northwest corner of the stadium on the "Bowerman Curve." It was sculpted by Nike employee Diana Lee Jackson. Hayward Field hosted the conference championships for the fifth time as USC took home the men's title and the Men of Oregon finished in seventh, while UCLA claimed the women's title and the Women of Oregon finished ninth. On September 23, 2000 #6 UCLA Football came to Oregon and ESPN's College **GameDay made its first trip to Eugene**, broadcasting from a location west of the stadium now made up of the outdoor practice fields. (It was only their second trip out west, for a replay of the same matchup they'd seen two years before at UCLA. However, this time the game was at Autzen Stadium.) Lee Corso donned the Duck

head for the first time, and the game played out accordingly. Oregon held UCLA to -9 rushing yards, and Maurice Morris rushed for 139 yards and two scores as the Ducks rocked the Bruins 29-10. It would be five years before GameDay would return to a Pac-10 campus, and seven years before they would return to Eugene.

- 2001 - Hayward Field hosted the USA Championships for the third time. Hayward Field hosted the NCAA Championships for the ninth time as the Men of Oregon finished ninth. The Oregon Ducks Football team only loses one game to Stanford, but Nebraska, fresh off a loss to Colorado in the Big-12 Championship game, goes to the BCS National Title Game against Miami instead of Oregon. Oregon demolishes Colorado in the Fiesta Bowl and finishes the season ranked #2 in the final polls.
- 2003 - Autzen Stadium was renovated in 2003 by Ellerbe Becket, an AECOM Company, to expand its capacity by 12,000 seats, 32 new luxury suites and two private clubs. Also in 2003: Construction ends on the Lillis Business Complex, opening Oct. 24th and replacing Commonwealth Hall ('52). (Complex includes Lillis Hall, Chiles Center, Peterson Hall, and Gilbert Hall.)
- 2004 - The UO's Museum of Art gets an addition.
- 2006 - Outside of Hayward Field, a new four-lane, fully-lit 400-meter all-weather track was added that encircles six new tennis courts on the southwest edge of the track. Hayward Field hosted the conference championships for the sixth time as USC took home the men's title and the Men of Oregon finished in second, while ASU claimed the women's title and the Women of Oregon finished fifth.
- 2007 - New permanent lighting system was unveiled at Hayward Field to easily accommodate the most televised hours of Olympic Trials coverage, thanks to eight, 110-foot light poles and an additional lighting system fixed to the top of west and east grandstands. The Oregon Football team finds a new offensive coordinator from New Hampshire, Chip Kelly, who helps revolutionize fast paced zone read offense. (Ducks were flying high that season with Heisman leading quarterback Dennis Dixon until he was injured.) On September 29, 2007 -- #6 California came to #7 Oregon in a game that established Eugene as an ESPN College GameDay favorite, and put the west in regular rotation for the show. There were nerves in Bristol about who would show up for a 7:00 a.m. start--nerves that were calmed as the Oregon faithful stayed all night on the GameDay set across the Autzen footbridge for the show. A large and raucous crowd was among the best GameDay had seen. The game itself was a disappointment--Cameron Colvin fumbled the potential go ahead score into the end zone for a touchback with seconds to go--but this started the tradition of GameDay in Eugene. GameDay enjoyed that first visit so much that they came again November 3, 2007 for #6 Arizona State at #4 Oregon. Like in the last matchup, Corso donned the Duck head. This game nearly wasn't televised nationally, as the national TV matchups were picked weeks in advance, and former Pac-10 commish Tom Hansen was weary of making any last minute changes. But the game ended up on ESPN, and Oregon came through with a 35-23 win. It looked like perhaps Oregon's last significant hurdle to the national title game, but we didn't know at the time that Dennis Dixon blew his ACL.
- 2008 - On August 10th, 2008, having nearly outgrown the original Sacred Heart Medical Center campus near the University, PeaceHealth opened Sacred Heart Medical Center at RiverBend. This new facility is one of the Northwest's largest hospitals, with 386 patient beds and the only Level II trauma center in Lane County. The new flyover ramp from I-5 to Beltline west bound opens in November. (Construction work began in May of 2006) A new Hayward Field scoreboard was added, designed by noted Nike designer and University of Oregon graduate Tinker Hatfield. Hayward Field hosted the US Olympic Trials for the fourth time, which saw two men qualify for the Olympic Games in Beijing--Galen Rupp in the 10,000 meters and Andrew Wheating in the 800 meters.
- 2009 - The Jaqua Center, a dedicated academic facility for student athletes, opens on the corner of E 13th and Agate. Construction of Matthew Knight area begins February 9th. Hayward Field hosted the USA Championships for the fourth time as former Duck Galen Rupp won the men's 10,000 meters. Hayward Field hosted the conference championships for the seventh time as both the Men of Oregon

and the Women of Oregon took home the conference title, the 13th conference title overall and third straight for the men and sixth overall for the women. Mike Bellotti resigns as head coach to become athletic director and make way for new head coach Chip Kelly. ESPN's College Gameday returned to Eugene for the 4th time on October 31, 2009 for #4 USC at #10 Oregon. Washington had wounded the USC dynasty earlier in the season, but this game put a stake in the heart of it. The 47-20 Fright Night thrashing established a new Oregon dynasty in the Pac-10. (The Ducks would go on to play Ohio State in the Rose Bowl in Chip Kelly's first season as head coach. #8 Ohio State defeated #7 Oregon in the Ducks' first Rose Bowl since 1995). Also in 2009, the Eugene Water & Electric Board begins moving the majority of its operation departments from its riverfront headquarters to a building with more updated facilities on Roosevelt Boulevard in West Eugene.

- 2010 - Eugene calls itself "A great city for the arts and outdoors," a more humble variation of its official -- and boastful -- five-year-old slogan, "The world's greatest city for the arts and outdoors." Its population, as of the most recent census, is 156,185. Hayward Field hosted the NCAA Championships for the 10th time as the Men of Oregon finished third as Andrew Wheating won both the 800 meters and the 1,500 meters and Ashton Eaton won the decathlon, while the Women of Oregon finished second with Brienne Thiesen winning the heptathlon. ESPN's College Gameday returned to Eugene October 2, 2010 for #9 Stanford at #4 Oregon. Stanford rushed out to a 21-3 lead, but Oregon came storming back, fueled by a gutsy onside kick. Oregon would come back from the 18 point deficit to blow out the Cardinal, 52-31. The Oregon Football team finished the regular season undefeated and qualified to play in the BCS National Championship game. (They fell to Auburn, losing in the final seconds on a field goal after a controversial run was not called down.)



- 2011 - January 10th, 2011, the 12-0 Oregon Ducks play the 13-0 Auburn Tigers in the Tostitos BCS National Championship Game. Brand new Matthew Knight Arena (MKA) opens to a sold-out crowd on January 13, 2011, as the Ducks beat the USC Trojans, 68–62. The 12,364-seat, multi-purpose arena replaces Mac Court and is built on the site of the former Williams Bakery on the east side of campus near the residential halls at the corner of Franklin Boulevard and Villard Street, a gateway to campus as people arrive from I-5. It is named for chief donor Phil Knight's son, Matthew Knight, who died at the age of 34 in a scuba diving accident. Hayward Field hosted the USA Championships for the fifth time as former Duck Galen Rupp won the men's 10,000 meters, Matthew Centrowitz Jr. won the men's 1,500 meters, and Ashton Eaton won the decathlon. In the fall, **ESPN's College Gameday** came back to Eugene for their sixth visit to the Eugene campus (though 11th game overall featuring UO) for October 15, 2011 for #18 Arizona State at #9 Oregon. However, this marked GameDay's first appearance to not be at the Autzen complex, as GameDay set up on the Memorial Quad, across 13th from the Lillis Business Complex. In time for the broadcast, a bright yellow Oregon "O" logo was added to the front of the Lillis Building, providing a perfect backdrop (and an extended commercial for the University of Oregon.) In the game itself, Bryan

Bennett came in for an injured Darron Thomas, leading the Ducks to a 41-27 win. Also in 2011, the west side span of the Whilamut Passage Bridge (I-5 over the Willamette near Glenwood) was completed. Construction began in 2009. The east side span is completed in Aug. 2013. (These replaced the earlier bridge completed in 1961.)

- **2012 - The Rose Bowl on January 2, 2012 had #9 Wisconsin vs. #6 Oregon. The Ducks beat the Badgers to earn Oregon's first Rose Bowl championship in 95 years.** Also in 2012, the Eugene Police Department moved into the new Police Headquarters at 300 Country Club Road. Hayward Field hosted the US Olympic Trials for the fifth time overall and second-straight, which saw five men qualify in six disciplines for the Olympic Games in London—Ashton Eaton set the world record in the decathlon and Galen Rupp won both the 5,000 meters and the 10,000 meters—and three women qualify, including Becky Holliday who finished second in the pole vault. Hayward Field hosted the conference championships for the eighth time as both the Men of Oregon and the Women of Oregon took home the conference title, the 16th conference title overall and sixth straight for the men and ninth overall and third straight for the women. In the fall, after redshirting the 2011 season, Marcus Mariota was showcased to start the 2012 season as the first freshman to start a season opener for the Ducks in 22 seasons. He helped lead Oregon to a 12–1 record and the No. 2 final season ranking while being named Pac-12 All-Conference 1st Team, Pac-12 Freshman Offensive Player of the Year, and earning the 2013 Fiesta Bowl Offensive MVP Award as he guided the Ducks to a 35–17 victory over #5 Kansas State. (It was after this bowl game that Chip Kelly left Oregon to become head coach of the NFL's Philadelphia Eagles.)
- 2013 - The [Hatfield-Dowlin Complex](#), a massive football operations facility, opens in 2013. Hayward Field hosted the NCAA Championships for the 11th time.



- 2014 - As a junior in 2014, Marcus Mariota became the first University of Oregon player, as well as the first Hawaii-born athlete, to win the Heisman Trophy. Hayward Field hosted the IAAF World Junior Championships for the first time. The meet saw some of the world's best up-and-coming athletes compete in Eugene. Hayward Field hosted the NCAA Championships for the 12th time as the Men of Oregon won their sixth title highlighted by Edward Cheserek winning the 10,000 meters, Devon Allen winning the 110-meter hurdles, Mac Fleet winning the 1,500 meters and Sam Crouser taking home the

title in the javelin, while the Women of Oregon finished third as Laura Roesler won the 800 meters and Jenna Prandini won the long jump.

- 2015 - January 1st Rose Bowl is host to a new College Football Playoff Semi-Final game between the Oregon Ducks and the Florida State Seminoles. Led by Heisman winning quarterback Marcus Mariota, Oregon defeats FSU 59-20 to advance to the National Championship game, held January 12th at AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas. Oregon scores first but falls to Ohio State. Hayward Field hosted the USA Championships for the sixth time as former Duck Galen Rupp won the men's 10,000 meters, Matthew Centrowitz Jr. won the men's 1,500 meters, and Jenna Prandini won the women's 200 meters. Hayward Field hosted the NCAA Championships for the 13th time as the Men of Oregon won their seventh overall title and second straight as Edward Cheserek swept the 5,000 and 10,000 meters and Sam Crouser won the javelin, while the Women of Oregon won their second championship as Jenna Prandini won the 100 meters and Raevyn Rogers won the 800-meter title.
- 2016 - Major expansion and renovation of the University's student union building (Erb Memorial Building, or EMU) is completed. Hayward Field hosted the US Olympic Trials for the sixth time overall and third-straight, which saw seven men qualify in eight disciplines for the Olympic Games in London, including Ashton Eaton, who won the decathlon; Galen Rupp, who won the 10,000 meters; Matthew Centrowitz Jr., who won the 1,500 meters; and Devon Allen, who won the 110-meter hurdles; and Cyrus Hostetler who won the javelin; and four women qualify, including English Gardner, who won the 100 meters. Hayward Field hosted the NCAA Championships for the 14th time as the Men of Oregon finished fourth as Edward Cheserek swept the 5,000 and 10,000 meters and Devon Allen won the 110-meter hurdles, while the Women of Oregon finished second as Ariana Washington swept the 100 and 200 meters and Raevyn Rogers won the 800 meters.
- 2017 - In 2017, Eugene completed the first phase of adopting a Eugene-specific comprehensive plan, which includes the Eugene Urban Growth Boundary. The [2017 Adopted Envision Eugene Comprehensive Plan](#) replaces regional policies in the Metro Plan with new policies that are specific to Eugene, and includes the following Appendices: [Urban Growth Boundary Map](#), [Employment Land Supply Study](#), [Residential Land Supply Study](#). "Envision Eugene is the largest community engagement effort ever undertaken by the City of Eugene. Envision Eugene is about making sure we manage growth in a way that protects and enhances our quality of life and reflects our shared values as Eugeneans. A key component of implementing our community vision was adopting our Urban Growth Boundary (UGB). After seven years of community engagement and technical analysis, the state of Oregon approved Eugene's UGB in October of 2017." Hayward Field hosted the NCAA Championships for the 15th time as the Men of Oregon finished in ninth place, while the Women of Oregon won their third national championship as Raevyn Rogers won the 800 meters. Hayward Field hosted the conference championships for the ninth time as both the Men of Oregon and the Women of Oregon took home the conference title, the 21st conference title overall and 11th straight for the men and 14th overall and eighth straight for the women.
- 2018 - Summer construction begins to completely renovate Hayward Field at the University of Oregon into a world-class track and field facility. When it opens in 2021, the reimagined stadium gives athletes an unparalleled stage on which to push the limits of what is possible while providing the ultimate fan experience—a theater for track with comfortable seats, in-stadium amenities, amazing sight lines and intimacy to the competitors. Also in 2018, the City purchased the Eugene Water and Electric Board's vacant riverfront property in an effort to create a mix of residential and commercial buildings along the Willamette River, along with a new Downtown Riverfront park connecting Eugene's core to the river.
- **2020 - According to the 2020 Census, Eugene's population has risen to 175,000 (176,654.) Though the metro area's population is more like 385,585.** Eugene, with the rest of the nation, masks up during the global COVID-19 pandemic. Schools shut down in the Spring, and in the Fall students will have mostly virtual classes conducted remotely until the very end of the 2020-2021 school

year. On June 24th, 2020 the University of Oregon Board of Trustees voted unanimously to remove the name of Matthew Deady from the university's oldest building due to the racist views he held. It will now be known as University Hall (unless a new permanent name is chosen.)

- 2021 - The newly reimagined theater for Track and Field, Hayward Field, opens in time to host the U.S. Olympic Trials for the COVID-postponed-by-one-year Tokyo Olympics. It features unobstructed sight lines throughout, great acoustics, a new nine-lane track, intimacy, with a proximity of spectators to athletes. All seating is in the form of spacious 22-inch seats with generous and comfortable 44-inch tread depth throughout the stadium. The first row of seats sit on track level, mere feet from the outside lane. Views open to the surrounding green landscape and hillside, design maximizes natural daylight and a new unifying iconic roof provides a continuous roof element for spatial enclosure, intimacy, and acoustics. The heroic wood roof structure showcases Oregon history, culture, and forest products. As Bill Bowerman said before the 1974 Hayward Renovation, "Oregon is wood and wood is Oregon." The Bowerman Tower is a multi-story landmark tower aligned with the east stands. The tower features a lobby filled with interpretive exhibits, an observation deck, viewing areas, stairway, elevator, and a staircase to the top. Its perforated metal skin and steel form flare upward and outward to resemble a torch, a shape inspired by the Olympic torch. The tower is already a campus landmark, with a lasting visual elegance. Each floor of the tower is designed for a specific use, including: Tower lobby and exhibits, connected to conference meeting room, Concourse level, Security, Satellite offices, Conference rooms, and Observation Deck (Exterior). The 4,000-square-foot Hayward Hall, with interactive exhibits, is situated under the east side of the stadium, with windows along Agate Street. The exhibits highlight significant pieces of Historic Hayward Field and a timeline with biographical information on all UO track coaches and exhibits on Bill Bowerman, highlighting his deep Oregon roots and re-creation of his workshop to illustrate his work as a tinkerer, innovator, and inventor.
- 2021- The new Beltline Delta Highway Interchange ramp opens July 30, 2021



- 2022 - **The Track and Field World Championships are held for the first time on North American soil, hosted by the stunning and reimagined Hayward Field on the campus of the University of Oregon.** The new Downtown Riverfront Park opens in time to host a [festival](#). New Ducks Head Football Coach Dan Lanning guides Oregon to a winning season. One highlight came on Oct. 22nd when ESPN's College Gameday came to Eugene again, broadcasting from the Memorial Quad. A packed

crowd showed up before 6am and stayed until Lee Corso donned his favorite Duck head. The game featured the 4th largest crowd in Autzen Stadium history, many dressed in pink for breast cancer awareness, to see #6 Oregon beat #9 UCLA 45-30. At a later press conference Dan Lanning was asked to comment on rumors linking him with another coaching job. He said the following:

“First off I’ll say that things like this are going to come up when you have team success and when you do your job and things go the way they’re supposed to go. That’s credit really to our team. That being said, I think there’s a little bit of a problem in society today with people looking for what’s next and where there’s an opportunity. And the reality is, you know, **the grass is not always greener (elsewhere). In fact, the grass is damn green in Eugene.** And I want to be here in Eugene for as long as Eugene will have me. This place has everything that I could possibly ever want, that my family could ever want. I’ve got an 11-year-old that’s lived in eight states. The last thing I want everyone to do is leave. So I want to enjoy this opportunity here. It’s been a phenomenal place for us. And when you talk about things that align, things that’ll match your vision for what you’re looking for as a head coach, Oregon checks every box for me. I think history maybe shows that this is a great place to be, and not a great place to leave. I want to be here. Hopefully, that’s the last time I have to really address it, but the reality is, this is a destination, not just for me, but for elite players. And why is it a destination? Because great administration, great fans, great support, and it’s a good reason to be here and why we’re having the success that we’re having.”



Main sources of information for this timeline:

“[Eugene Area Historic Context Statement](#)” (April 1996) - researched and prepared by historic preservation consultants Elizabeth Carter and Michelle Dennis, in conjunction with City of Eugene Planning and Development Department staff

“[Eugene’s Historic River Road](#)” (Nov 2005) - researched and prepared by Bernadette Niederer, Caitlin Harvey, Sally Wright, and David Pinyerd of Historic Preservation Northwest in conjunction with the City of Eugene Planning and Development Department staff. (As well as many other sources of information and images found in various locations on the internet, including the UofO.)