

Proposed:

Wooden bench dedication with permanent memorial plaque for John and Jean Sully in the new Cynthia Lord Park. The proposed bench is intended to align to the new park's design plan (plan details pending). Proposed donation of \$5,000 for installation of the bench and marker.

Proposed memorial plaque wording:

John & Jean Sully

They spent their lives working on nature's behalf, as noble a mission as we can imagine.

Background:

Hannah Archambault, granddaughter of Cynthia Downes Lord, and I connected over the topic of finding a durable memorial marker for my father, John Sully, a friend and long-time associate of Cynthia's. Hannah suggested the possibility of a bench in the new Cynthia Lord Park that her family is donating to the City of Ashland.

In order to understand the rationale for this request, it's important to understand John and Cynthia Lord's friendship and all they had in common.

Before my father and his wife Jean moved to Oregon, he served as senior field biologist for the state of California, and in this capacity he was instrumental in the preservation of critical wetlands habitat throughout the state. When John and Jean moved to Ashland 30 years ago, they immediately became involved in the fishing-birding-botanizing community, and became members of the Rogue Group of the Oregon Chapter of the Sierra Club, and this is where he first met Cynthia. He was deeply involved at both the Group and Chapter levels as an issue coordinator. John was elected to the Executive Committee for the Rogue Group (as was Bob Palzer who is here today), and he was an active member of the Committee for many years, also serving on the Conservation Committee for Fish and Water, and as Section Chair for the Klamath Basin. With Jean at his side, my father worked tirelessly to protect the Ashland watershed and the Klamath Basin Wildlife Refuge Complex for future generations.

John and Cynthia were partners and allies in protecting southern Oregon's wild-lands, but beyond that they had so much in common. They both taught their children how to fish, camp, backpack, be a quiet birder, identify a wildflower, plant a rose, pet all the kitties, and notice and observe all the beauty the outdoor world has to offer. He took joy in the shade cast by long-lived oaks, the rare summer steelhead in Ashland Creek, the sound of a night heron, and the brave little flowers growing in the cracks of a sidewalk, and anyone talking to him shared in this same delight. John Sully was smart, sweet, giggly, and gentle, but could become fiery when it came to protecting our wildlands. Boy, could he write a letter! The children and grand-children of both families are all firm believers in the preservation of open and natural spaces.

We feel this permanent marker in Cynthia Lord Park is appropriate, based on the friendship between John Sully and Cynthia Lord, their common backgrounds, their love of Oregon's wild places, and their shared goal of protecting those places. Hannah Archambault, Cynthia Lord's grand-daughter, wrote to Michael Black that her family was delighted by this proposal, and fully supported it.

We hope that someday someone who has been walking in this new park and open space with their head bent botanizing or their eyes to sky birding might pause at this bench for a moment to rest, reflect, and perhaps be inspired to spend some of their own lives working on nature's behalf.

Thank you so much for your consideration. Please reach out if you have any questions or would like more background.

All the best,

Louise Sully Mintun
Daughter of John & Jean Sully