

A Fresh Start for Doc Mock Park

By: Elizabeth McKay, PUHS

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Patagonia's Tree and Park Committee is now working and planning some new things-- good things. Although the Tree and Park Committee's activities often go unnoticed in Patagonia, it is now going to be getting a lot of new publicity, under the direction of Cornelia O'Connor and fellow members Ann Gosline, Andy Wood, Jason Botz, Barbara Ellis, Bethany Brandt, Caleb Weaver, Mary McKay, Harry Hower, German Quiroga, Karla Espinoza, and Yunghi Choi.

If you don't know what Doc Mock's Park is, it's the vacant, "and quite dusty" piece of land in the middle of town across from Richardson park. It's been vacant for years but the tree and park committee is planning to rejuvenate it all. The grant that was written for it was "ranked #1 out of 22 in the state," according to the Program Manager for Urban Community Forestry, Alix Rogstad, who signed the grant.

The Patagonia Tree and Park Committee will apply an AZ Forestry grant, together with the efforts of the Nature Conservancy, Borderlands Restoration, and Patagonia High School's biology teacher Charles Mitsak and his class, to make Doc Mock's Park a better public space.

Borderlands Restorations is planting native trees that provide shelter, a food source, and a habitat, mainly for birds. They are getting volunteer students to work because, "you have to match the amount of volunteer hours with the amount of money you get with the grant," says Cornelia O'Connor, and she adds that she'd "like to see a skate park but there are a lot of issues that go with it."