

Welcome to the Wayne Morse Family Farm

Home of Wayne Morse – UO Law School Dean, labor arbitrator and United States Senator from Oregon – and his family for 40 years.

A 27 acre retreat in Eugene’s South Hills.

A City Park and a National Historic Site.

A place to relax, picnic, walk your dog and learn about history and politics.



Family Life at Edgewood Farm

Wayne and Mildred Morse moved into their new Edgewood Farm home in 1936 with their daughters, Amy, a few months old, Judith, age 2 and Nancy, age 5. Wayne was now Dean of the UO Law School and beginning to take on labor arbitration assignments.

They enjoyed their wooded haven. American saddle horses moved into the farm’s stables and Romney sheep, Angora goats, chickens and Dalmatians were bred. Riding ovals were built in the upper and lower pastures. They were founders of the Eugene Hunt Club. The family became known for success at county fairs and horse shows.

Visitors were always welcome. Sometimes joining lively discussion; sometimes helping with animals or harvesting the orchard’s cherries and filberts; other times simply for gatherings of neighborhood families or fellow horse lovers. On election nights, friends and supporters were invited for an open house potluck. Morse daughters kept things lively with their play; horseback rides through the neighborhood; their friends coming and going.

Historic Homes of the Crest Drive Neighborhood

You can easily walk from the Wayne Morse residence at 595 Crest Drive to several homes that were here when the Morse family took possession in 1936. At that time, the community was very rural. People raised chickens, rode horses, and looked after each other's children. In the 1930s and 40s, the area was known as College Crest and sometimes referred to as “Horse Hill” because of the numerous horse stables in the neighborhood.



Historic houses in the neighborhood — **all except the Morse home are private and not open to the public** — include:

The green bungalow at 763 Crest Drive where Wayne and Mildred Morse and their three daughters lived for four years before moving into the Edgewood Farm residence. They rented from owners of Cressy Stationery in Eugene. The property included an orchard, barns where Morse stabled horses and a second small bungalow occupied by the senior Cressys.

The white colonial house adjacent to the Cressy property (3325 Storey Blvd.) owned by Dave Evans, a prominent Eugene attorney. It was built about the same time as the Morse residence.

The Gilson Ross House (3270 Storey Blvd) built before the Morse residence and designed by Wallace Hayden, professor at the UO School of Architecture. Wayne and Mildred Morse admired the house and later engaged Hayden as the architect for their own home and farm buildings.

Dr. Lester Edblom's bungalow and stable at 697 Crest Drive just across the pasture and adjacent Park parking area.

Below the farm at Lincoln Street was the Lamont Hatchery. Nearby along the creek was the Prall Dairy.

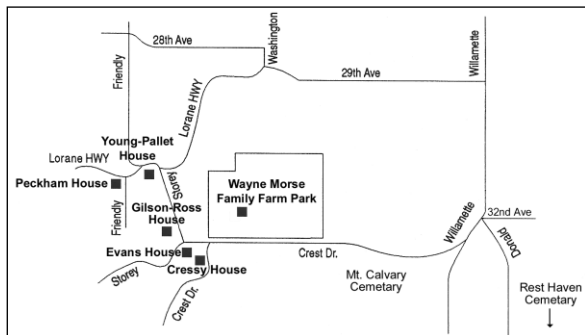


The Young-Pallet House (814 Lorane Highway) is the first Crest Drive area property to be designated as a City of Eugene Historic Landmark. Built in 1911 by William Young, a local attorney and his wife Nettie, it was known for years as the Stan Darling House. Earl M. Pallet, UO Registrar and his family moved to the property in 1933 and lived there until 1962 when it was sold to George and Eunice Kjaer, who operated it as a bed and breakfast for many years. The house was built in the Craftsman style and features some of the original maple and fir floors.

Just west at 940 Lorane Highway is a Craftsman bungalow built by the Darling/Ruth family in 1921. In 1936, it was purchased by the Peckham family. The first floor was remodeled in the 1940s in an art deco style with black and chrome fittings, ceiling fixtures and elaborate crown molding and trim. Additional owners have continued restoring the house and landscaping the two-acre lot.

Both Mt. Calvary and Rest Haven Cemeteries were in existence during this early period. Senator Morse and his wife Mildred as well as their middle daughter Judith are buried at Rest Haven.

The map below will help you find your way around the Crest Drive neighborhood. Enjoy your visit!



Protecting A Family's Legacy

Shortly after Wayne Morse's death in 1974, his widow Mildred indicated that she was interested in having her family's beloved farm set aside as a park.

With help of countless friends and campaign supporters – many of whom formed the Wayne Morse Historical Park Corporation – the property was set aside as a Eugene City Park in 1979. WMHPC continues to assist the City with the historical and cultural interpretation of the Park, successfully adding Edgewood Farm to the National Register of Historic Places in 1999.

Enjoying the Morse Home

The Morse tradition of hospitality continues! The farm's house recaptures the warmth and excitement of an energetic family. It recreates a moment in time. It offers opportunities to learn about a remarkable Oregonian.

Original pieces of furniture and art are still used, thanks to generous gifts from the Morse family. Photos, campaign materials, family, and Senate memorabilia are on display. Exhibits in the former children's playroom downstairs discuss Wayne Morse's legacies. Signs throughout the main floor offer visitors information about each room

On your tour, note the distinctive architectural details: large windows overlooking the lower pasture and wooded area; a compact kitchen with many conveniences; back-to-back fireplaces with an adjacent dumbwaiter to bring up wood; a telephone nook.

Enjoy your visit – and come again!

Extend your visit to our neighborhood. Nearby are several historic homes, many of which welcomed the Morse family. Stroll through neighboring streets with our Historic Home Walking Tour guide. Homes are privately owned and not open to the public.

Learn more about Wayne Morse. Throughout Eugene visit other sites that memorialize important periods in Wayne Morse's life and discuss his legacies. Grab a copy of our Finding Wayne Morse in Eugene brochure and go "On the Trail of the Tiger!"

For more information about the Park, rentals, WMHPC or programs contact us at 541.682.5380.

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