

Clock ticking on Madison Meadow

South Eugene neighbors face a December deadline to purchase a beloved plot

By EDWARD RUSSO
The Register-Guard

Residents leading the effort to save Madison Meadow in south Eugene have their fundraising work cut out for them.

By late December — about nine months from now — they must raise \$186,000.

That may appear a daunting task for the Friendly neighbors who in the past three years have raised \$270,000 toward the purchase of the 2-acre field at West 22nd Avenue and Madison Street.

But the volunteers hope the impending deadline spurs residents to action so they can meet the fundraising goal by December, when they must complete the property purchase.

"People tend to do what they have to do," said Lynne Marsh,



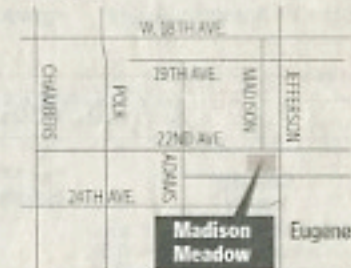
treasurer of Madison Meadow, the nonprofit group that formed to buy the land. "People will look and say, 'We have to do it this year.' I think (the deadline) will inspire us to take it to the next level to bring in the funds."

The neighbors' challenge was

not easy. They're trying to raise a large sum in order to buy a small open area for what amounts to a neighborhood park. If they fail, the land is likely to end up in the hands of a resident who has plans to sell it for housing, which fits the metro area's growth plan for the

Saving the meadow

Neighbors have until year-end to finish buying 2 acres west of College Hill.



STEPHANIE BARROW / *The Register-Guard*

Seedlings Preschool students (left) enjoy recess in the meadow.

property.

But the neighbors have enjoyed surprising fundraising success. Now, they're thinking of more ways to raise money, from door-to-door solicitations to fundraising

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