Nature Patch Coming to Alberta Park

Portland Parks & Recreation

I"t has a wilder character than other spaces you’ll find in most parks"

In September, Parks staff broke ground on the very first Nature Patch that will offer natural experiences for visitors and enhance the park’s ecological value for wildlife.

An acre-sized stand of Douglas fir in the center of Alberta Park is being transformed into a lush understory landscape. The new feature will include forest plantings, an accessible pathway, a split-rail fence, seating logs and boulders, signage, and natural elements to explore. Fallen branches, fir needles, and leaves will help build a layer of duff to complete the forest aesthetic.

The nature patch is the first project of its kind for PP&R. It’s not a natural area, but it has a wilder character than other spaces you’ll find in most parks – a small chunk of forest nestled in among the ballfield, playground, and off-leash area. The project is designed with pollinators in mind. Plants and other elements were selected to create a space with real ecological function that will provide habitat and food for pollinating insects and birds. Even small patches of natural habitat in parks can support wildlife, while at the same time giving more Portlanders a chance to engage with nature closer to home. Portland Parks wants to see these co-benefits at more of its facilities, and is beginning right here in our neighborhood.

The major elements of the nature patch will be in place by the end of the year, and planting will continue through the winter. In the spring, planting will resume and the patch will be in place by the end of the year.

Residential Infill Project Addresses Housing Affordability

By Luke Norman, Sullivan’s Gulch neighbor and co-chair of NECN’s Land Use and Transportation Committee

A s anyone who followed local news or tried to buy a house knows, housing prices in Portland have skyrocketed. To help address the affordability crisis, the City of Portland has launched the Residential Infill Project (RIP) to increase housing options, while maintaining the unique character of Portland’s neighborhoods. The Northeast Coalition of Neighborhood Board has identified housing affordability as a top priority. As such, the Board has provided city staff with recommendations to enhance the affordability aspects of the RIP.

The RIP seeks to provide smaller and more affordable housing options in Portland’s opportunity and transportation rich neighborhoods, by allowing the development of more duplexes and tripleplexes. Duplexes and tripleplexes are a common sight in many classes of Portland neighborhoods and were widely built until their development was restricted in the 1950’s. Additionally, the RIP would allow homeowners to build additional Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) on a lot, for a total of one detached and one internal ADU. ADUs have proven to be popular housing options and a valuable source of rent for homeowners.

While proposing to increase density, the RIP will also reduce the mass and scale of buildings in single-family zones. For example, a house on a standard 5,000 square foot RS lot would be limited to 2,500 square feet, excluding basements. The limit on size along with other changes balances the need for affordability with neighborhood concerns on the size and shape of new houses. Interested in sharing your opinion? There will be two additional opportunities to comment as the proposal is considered by the Planning and Sustainability Commission and City Council in 2018.

See RIP pg 8

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Non-Profit Org
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Permit 2235

Portland Parks & Recreation
PHOTO BY MICHAEL ANDERSON
SE Salmon Street duplex from 1907

PP&R field crews celebrate the first phase of planting in November

Nature Patch Coming to Alberta Park

Residential Infill Project Addresses Housing Affordability

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In this issue
GAP Helps Reduce Graffiti

The Graffiti Abatement Program (GAP) serves the communities of Portland by providing free and reduced-cost graffiti removal assistance for residents, small businesses (ten or fewer employees), and non-profit organizations. GAP coordinates community cleanup events in partnership with neighborhood coalitions, business groups, interested organizations, and individual volunteers. Additionally, anywhere between 700-1000 reports of graffiti per month are captured in the GAP database. GAP refers these reports to the appropriate bureau or agency for cleanup and contacts property owners with graffiti that hasn’t been removed from private property.

A new proactive removal route strategy was implemented mid-summer to further reduce the volume of accumulated graffiti seen on private property sidewalks, and poles on main thoroughfares throughout Portland. These routes are being performed on a quarterly basis across the city. Outside of the routes, free and reduced-cost removal assistance continues to be available upon request with written permission from property owners.

To obtain a waiver and request graffiti removal assistance on your business or home, please go to www.portlandoregon.gov/oni/46186. In response to an uptick in reports of hate graffiti, the Graffiti Abatement Program emphasizes that reports of hate and/or gang graffiti are top priority removals. GAP works to have these cases of graffiti removed as quickly as possible.

If you see what you believe to be hate graffiti, please do the following:

- Document it with photographs.
- Report it to non-emergency and request a police report.
- Notify the Graffiti Abatement Program via email: graffiti@portlandoregon.gov.
- Cover or remove the graffiti if possible. Do not attempt to remove graffiti on any public art or the fronts of street signs.

How to report graffiti:

- Report online at www.pdxreporter.org (requires a Portland Online login, which is easy to create.)
- Email graffiti@portlandoregon.gov.
- Call the Graffiti Line at 503-823-4824.

Have a questions for the program? Please feel free to email the program at graffiti@portlandoregon.gov or leave a message on the graffiti line at 503-823-4824.

NECN Fiscal Sponsorship Spotlight: Repair PDX

By Mischa S. Webley
NECN Staff Writer

NECN provides fiscal sponsorship to community organizations around the area. This month we check back in with Repair PDX’s Lauren Gross, who received sponsorship in 2017.

Hey Neighbor: Tell us about your organization.

Lauren Gross: Our mission is to spread repair culture. We do that by hosting monthly events called Repair Cafes where volunteers fix people’s broken items for free. Our goals are to repair items and extend their life, shift attitudes about getting something repaired instead of immediately throwing it away, and empower people to learn how to fix their own items. We were inspired by the Repair Cafes organization in the Netherlands, who began hosting events like ours in 2009. In 2013, several of us who wanted to make this happen in Portland, got together and started organizing. It’s been a rewarding process and we continue to love what we do.

HN: How has having NECN as your fiscal sponsor helped you achieve your mission?

LG: We are so totally grateful to NECN for agreeing to be our fiscal sponsor! For the last four years, we have been operating as a grassroots organization that is all volunteer run. None of us get paid, which means we have a very limited capacity to make things happen. Fiscal sponsorship allows us to accept donations that we would not have otherwise been able to accept, which includes grants as well as in-kind donations. NECN also helps with admin and promoting our activities, which will definitely help build our capacity and allow us to do more!

HN: What’s been your impact so far?

LG: Since we began in May of 2013, we have hosted 44 repair cafes in the Portland area and fixed around 2,000 items. We have also helped other groups in our region get started. There are now similar repair groups that host events in Beaverton/Hillsboro, West Linn, Gresham, Milwaukie, and Vancouver. Our events are more than just fixing things to keep them out of the landfill. They are about fixing people’s treasured items and building community in the process. The feeling of community that comes from volunteer and participant problem-solving and fixing something together is really special.

HN: What’s next for Repair PDX
ASK THE HISTORIAN:  
**Group Works to Purchase/Restore Alberta Shul**

By Doug Decker, Concordia News historian  

The question: What can you tell me about the building at 20th Avenue and Going Street that used to house the Tifereth Israel Synagogue? – Alessandra Nova.  

The historian reports: I’m so glad you’ve asked. It’s a fascinating and rich story.  

This long, narrow white clapboardsided building was built in 1907 and purchased in 1914 by Congregation Tifereth Israel, a Jewish community with roots in Russia and the Ukraine.  

Originally the center of Jewish life for a small handful of families on Portland’s eastside — many of whom lived within walking distance — the congregation expanded over the years to include up to 100 families.  

Known during those early years as the Alberta Shul — a Yiddish word meaning a place of study for worship and prayer — the building drew the eastside Jewish community together. By the early 1950s, Tifereth Israel had outgrown the building, so the congregation purchased and moved into the former Redeemer Lutheran Church at 15th Avenue and Wygant Street.  

From 1952 until the early 1980s, the building was home to several African American congregations, including the Mt. Sinai Community Church. In 1980, when it was sold to its current owner, the building was rented out for various purposes including religious gatherings and then eventually as storage space. In 2010, it became a home to Xchurch, its current occupants, as a gathering and workspace for resident artists and musicians.  

When the property was placed on the market in 2016, members of Portland’s Jewish community began to organize an effort to purchase and restore the building. The group’s proposal was in competition with developers interested in tearing down the building. But the current owner was intrigued with the restoration project and has since entered into a contract with the coalition for purchase.  

Today, the Alberta Shul Coalition has secured an agreement with the current building owner and is raising funds to purchase and restore the 117-year-old building. Their vision is for a special, simple gathering place for local Jewish residents to connect through a variety of community-driven programming, as well as a space that northeast neighbors could rent and use for meetings, classes and events.  

“The fact that we could work, play and practice in a building that our ancestors built and made into a Jewish home is very important,” Eleya said. “There are many young Jews who are looking for a place to be Jewish, who are yearning for Jewish community in some format.”  

The coalition’s vision is that Alberta Shul can be a cultural venue for Jewish art, music, learning and gathering, as well as a place for traditional and alternative religious services and prayer.  

The coalition raised about $40,000 during the summer and early autumn, and is hoping to raise $136,000 by March 2018 to complete the purchase. Further fundraising of another $250,000 is planned the following year to enable the restoration.  

To learn more, visit the Alberta Shul Coalition at Facebook.com/TheAlbertaShul.  

For more details and photos of the building, visit Doug Decker’s local history blog www.calamehdistory.org.  

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**Vernon Neighborhood Rising!**

The Vernon Neighborhood Association (VNA) is gearing up for the next year with some fun, engaging events. We hope to involve a diversity of Vernon interests to build off the momentum of our last few years. We’re open to new voices and faces and would love to hear from you! The VNA is seeking creative partnerships with other community groups and businesses who align with our mission. Our 2018 focus is on continuing to connect neighbors and building the long-term safety and resiliency of the neighborhood.  

We have re-organized our board meeting format for 2018 to focus on issues relevant in an ever-changing socio-economic climate. In addition to hosting our long-standing Movies in the Park and Neighborhood Cleanup, we are energized to make the neighborhood association relevant in light of an ever-changing city and uncertainty in our nation’s future.  

Over the last year, the VNA engaged in discussions of safety, development, and homelessness. We also developed a vision statement for our neighborhood to use as reference with the city and community. It’s a living document, and we invite feedback. You can download our neighborhood vision statement from our website www.vernonpix.org.  

The coming year will feature a blend of social mixers and meetings. We’ll meet as a board once per quarter beginning in January, and we’ll be hosting quarterly mixers as well. We’re inviting speakers on Vernon history and on the important issues facing our community. We invite you to join us in 2018 and be a part of building connections in the Vernon community.  

**Next meeting:** Wed. Jan. 17 7-9 pm  
Help us choose the 2018 Movie in the Park, Held at Leaven Community Center, 5431 NE 20th Ave.  

**Our 2018 Schedule:**  
- February - Work Party  
- March - Neighborhood Mixer  
- April - Meeting at Leaven  
- May - Neighborhood Cleanup  
- June - Work Party  
- July - Meeting; Movie in the Park!  
- August - no meeting  
- September - Neighborhood Mixer  
- October - Meeting; Elections  

To get involved, or suggest a topic, contact us at vnaoard@gmail.com.  

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**PACS COW MOBILE PANTRY**  
**REACHING UNDERSERVED NEIGHBORHOODS**

The PACS COW (Commodities on Wheels) is a mobile food pantry brought to you by People to People Ministries and the Stone Tower Church. We deliver food to underserved neighborhoods by partnering with churches and other organizations in the Portland area.  

Find us at Neighborhood Facility: 4906 NE 8th  
3rd Tuesday of the Month from 3:30pm and 5:30pm  
Call 503 893-9033 to schedule an appointment  
Limited to first 30 who register.  

Qualifications are income-based according to the poverty guidelines. Commodities come through the Oregon Food Bank and a variety of donations from grocery stores and individuals.

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**Eligibility Guidelines for PACS Food Program**  
Must live in Oregon, bring a photo ID with Oregon address or a bill on property which has your name and your Oregon address. Number of people live in house.  

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**Hey Neighbor!** A free publication by Northeast Coalition of Neighbors
Clean Energy Jobs Bill is a Local Solution to a Global Problem

By neighbor Paulette Wittwer

When I first started thinking about climate change, it was a worry in the back of my mind. I was busy being a small business owner in NE Portland and then a community volunteer and grandmother. I wanted to do something about it, but proceeded instead. Then I noticed the trees in my yard becoming less healthy. I've lived in Oregon all my life and have been a Northeast Portland resident for many years. I love the Oregon forests and oceans and I love my neighborhood with its old trees and pretty gardens. An arborist told me that the trees have been struggling from the drought. Yes, the hotter summers and long dry periods are taking their toll even in Western Oregon.

I was already chewing my nails over melting glaciers and acidifying oceans and concerned about the future for my grandchildren and all children. The issue became more urgent for me.

Climate change is a huge issue and it's easy to think that it can only be solved on a national and international level. But it's important to look at what we can do locally. It's a priority to do whatever we can to reduce the carbon being pumped into the atmosphere and causing a warmer climate. I joined an environmental organization and have been putting time into several projects, in particular a "cap and invest" bill being considered in the Oregon Legislature called the Clean Energy Jobs Bill. Under the bill, corporations must pay carbon credits if they emit greenhouse gases above a set cap. It creates an economic incentive to cut emissions. The proceeds from the credit sales go to a fund that must be used to promote clean energy solutions. Although this is a state effortive are not alone. Oregon is part of a Western States Initiative passed ten years ago to reduce carbon pollution, and this bill puts teeth in that initiative. California has already passed a cap and trade bill and has successfully lowered carbon and added several billion dollars to their budget for clean energy. Like California, Oregon can be a role model.

It's very heartening that our Senators and local Representatives in the Oregon Legislature are not only supportive but are leaders and sponsors of the Clean Energy Jobs bill. They need to hear from concerned Northeast Portlanders. To find your representative, visit www.oregonlegislature.gov.

You can find more information about the Clean Energy Jobs Bill at www.climatesolutions.org.

By Courtney Rae, Bark Community Organizer

Oregon's forests foster an enormous sense of pride for our communities, but what goes on behind the “beauty strips” surrounding popular recreation sites and roads is purposefully misrepresented by the Forest Service and the timber industry. This keeps the public largely misinformed about the destructive impact of commercial logging on sensitive ecosystems, and the natural areas we value so much. Since 1999, Bark has organized public hikes, campouts, classes, and opportunities to engage with the Forest Service about its management practices giving people on-the-ground experience and tools to counter the false, industry-led narrative - which states that forests are made healthier through large-scale logging and practices such as “thinning”. While the timber industry has branded thinning as “Thinning”, “regeneration harvests”, and “salvage logging” have destructive outcomes and do not improve the ecological health of forests.

We now know that immediate action is needed to avert the worst climate scenarios, but the Management Plan for Mt. Hood National Forest has not been updated in nearly 30 years. In response, Bark began in 2016 to envision the Free Mt. Hood campaign, which focuses on shifting the management priorities in Mt. Hood National Forest towards those that prioritize sustainability. The campaign has so far achieved protections for National Forests in the Renewable Energy Resolutions passed by the City of Portland and Multnomah County; convened the first ever People’s Forest Forum to cultivate the community vision for stewardship of the forest in a changing climate; and relays result in long-lasting degradation of soils, watersheds, and wildlife habitats. Practices such as “thinning”, “regeneration harvests”, and “salvage logging” have destructive outcomes and do not improve the ecological health of forests.

For more information visit www.africanfilmfestival.org or call 971-722-5711.
When Right 2 Dream Too opened its doors in 2011 as a respite for people experiencing houselessness in downtown Portland, it came with a lot of publicity, both good and bad. Right in the heart of the city, on the northwest corner of Burnside and Fourth Avenue, it looked to some like yet another tent city.

In reality though, it was different; a self-governing place of rest for all types of people, a safe place to relax with a strong sense of community.

This past summer, Right 2 Dream Too, or R2DToo as it's come to be called, gained attention again when it moved across the river to a discrete location across from the Moda Center.

Within a stone's throw of the Yellow Line Max Stop, R2DToo gives shelter to houseless residents who sign up for a place to sleep day or night.

Participants must agree to a strict code of conduct that, among other things, bans substance use of all kinds. R2DToo also provides its own security detail.

And while talk of a "tent city" sprouting up in the inner north-east core was met first with some trepidation, the surrounding community has welcomed the new residents as their own.

"It's pretty easy to look at the situation from the outside and have your opinions but trust me, that will change when you start doing the work," says Keith Jones, chair of the Resident Committee of the Lloyd District Community Association. He goes on to say that the residents of Right To Dream Too are members of the community just like any other neighbors; they do weekly litter pick-ups in the neighborhood, meet with other community members over spaghetti dinners, and overall share a common interest in making this small corner of the Northeast quadrant a nicer place to live.

Jones hopes to see the model expanded into other parts of Portland, as the perpetual and severe housing crisis continues to push people onto the streets, and neighborhoods grapple with how to accommodate the shift. "The Portland community needs to start having a conversation about what kinds of things we can all do. We can't push this problem away," he says.

Tucked away on a hillside facing the river, it's easy to pass by the Moda Center Transit Center by train or by car and not even notice the Right 2 Dream Too space.

Perhaps that's just as it should be. Like any other neighbor, they blend right in.

R2DToo is an all-volunteer run, 501c3 not-for-profit organization. Donations of sleeping bags, socks, and prepared food are always welcome. You can also donate funds online, 999 N. Thunderbird Way or online at www.right2dreamtoo.blogspot.com.

Kinship House offers support to foster and adopted families

Kinship House is a non-profit that provides outpatient mental health services to foster and adopted children and their families. They champion children and families with target interventions during all stages of foster care, reunification, and adoption.

In over twenty years of providing mental health services, they have served thousands of local children on their journey to the care only a permanent and healthy family can provide. With almost 3,000 children in foster care annually in the tri-county area, their services support children as they find their forever home. Kinship House's mission is to champion the successful permanency of each child who comes to their door. They consider each individual's unique history, culture, and needs as they journey to stable, healthy homes.

Kinship House addresses the missing pieces in services provided to children touched by foster care and adoption. In addition to therapeutic services to address significant mental health concerns, they help children move beyond the trauma caused by their experience in the necessary but difficult foster care system.

Their work helps minimize transitions and increases the chances of children settling into a stable, healthy and permanent home. They engage the family and offer a variety of therapy: drama, play, art, movement, and talk. To learn more about how you can be involved with Kinship House, visit www.kinshiphouse.org.

Bark cont'd from pg 6

Added forest defense as a priority for regional climate action organizations.

Next April, we hope to see you at the People’s Forest Forum to learn about the opportunities available for local governments and community organizations to shape the future of Mt. Hood. We will also need your help to leverage community resistance to a climate-denying administration and empowered extractive industry to move Oregon’s high-end decision-makers to push for stronger protections for all public lands. In the coming year, Bark is calling on all Portlanders to take responsibility for the forest we rely on and urge the Forest Service to free Mt. Hood from commercial logging, and allow the forest a fighting chance in a changing climate.

Visit us at www.bark-out.org or on social media to give, learn more, volunteer, and see our calendar of events.

NET Fundraiser at Lagunitas

HOST: Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods and Lagunitas Brewing Company
WHERE: Lagunitas Community Room 237 NE Broadway St #300
WHEN: Thursday, January 11, 2018 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Cost: $5 minimum suggested donation at the door. Includes free food and 1 beer/cider token
Extra drink tokens available for purchase
Raffle tickets available for purchase. All proceeds go to support our Neighborhood Emergency Teams (NETs) in inner N/NE Portland.

To learn more about NETs and emergency preparedness go to www.portlandoregon.gov/pbem

SPONSORS:

Social Justice Book Club
The Social Justice Book Club meets on the first Saturday of the month at the Portland Center for Spiritual Living 6211 NE MLK Blvd. 12:00 to 2:00
All are welcome. Bring a friend.

La Sirenita Taqueria
Two Towns Cider
Lagunitas Brewing
Handmade Pasta
Pok Pok Nai
Hey Neighbor! Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

3 Clean ___ Jobs Bill
5 Residential ___ Project
6 Black ___ Books
7 Historical Jewish Language
9 ___ Abatement Program
11 Right 2 ___ Too
12 Courtney ___ Bank Community Organizer

DOWN

1 People’s ___ Forum
2 Invitation, Conversation Project on January 28 at NEON
4 House, providing services for foster families
8 Oregon ___ Bank
10 ___ Cafes, where you can get items fixed

Grants Available to Promote Eco-Health

Do you want to establish an eco-friendly community garden, bioswale or rain garden? Would you love to educate your community about local salmon? Do you have an idea for a project to promote or improve a watershed health? Do you have zero grant writing experience?

Have no fear, the Community Watershed Stewardship Program (CWSP) is here! CWSP is a partnership between the City of Portland’s Bureau of Environmen- tal Services and Portland State University. It offers two grants to individuals, community organizations, schools, businesses, and nonprofits in the Portland Urban Services Boundary. CWSP is devoted to equity and always looking to make new community partners.

CWSP has two types of grants available. The first grant is their Native Plant Mini Grant, and they accept applications for this type of grant year-round. This grant provides up to $500 to purchase and plant native plant species, which are greatly beneficial to our watersheds and ecosystems. The application is a single page and has no deadline.

The second grant is the Stew- ardship Grant, which provides up to $10,000 for projects that address watershed health, educate about watersheds or promote awareness. It is a multi-step application process to ensure that applicants have the best chance of receiving funding. CWSP coordinators are available to help every step of the way. The first step is to fill out the one-page pre-application form and submit it to CWSP by the first Friday in February.

More information, examples of projects and application materials can be found at www.portlandoregon.gov/bes/cwsp. CWSP coordinators are happy to answer your questions, and can be reached at 503-823-7917, or by email at CommunityStewardship@portlandoregon.gov.

The focus is on providing fresh food.

“I live right off Alberta. It’s less than a two-mile, six-minute commute.”

Her passion is food and food access, which makes sense as Allison’s favorite part of her job is the food repack. Produce arrives at the warehouse in 48-by-48-inch bins. Volunteers repack the food down into family-sized portions.

The items that are repacked mirror the season. “Right now we are repacking potatoes, pears, apples, turnips and radishes,” she reported on a recent Thursday. “Tonight we are doing cauliflower.”

The focus is on providing fresh food. Allison sees engaging the community – in addition to raising hunger awareness – as the most important part of the job. “I like to share and develop relationships focused on what we do here and making a difference.”

Of course, she loves coordinating all the volunteers. “Our volunteer registration is strictly online. After you sign up for a shift, you’ll receive a confirmation of the date and time you’ve signed up for and you’re all set.”

“Freelance volunteer opportuni- ties are in our food repack shifts that run Monday through Saturday,” she added.

“We also have a garden – it just wrapped up for the season – and administrative work that people can volunteer in as well.”

Volunteer opportunities at the Portland and Beaverton locations also include leading nutrition education classes, maintaining learning gardens and lending a hand at events. Most volunteer opportunities are two to three hours in length and do not require a regular commitment.

And contributions are always welcome.

“We are currently holding Our Season of Giving campaign,” Allison added. “That helps us raise money to enable us to get more food throughout the year.”

To donate, you can mail a check, drop off cash or a check, or donate online at OregonFoodBank.org, the same website where you can register for a volunteer shift.

OFB’s goal is $20,000 and the Season of Giving goes through the first week of January. Within the first day, on Nov. 1, OFB had already raised $2,000.

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Weeds will also like to start hosting workshops and perhaps organize an apprenticeship type program where anyone wanting to learn repair can partner up with our volunteers to learn how to repair items. It would be wonderful to expose kids to tinkering and repairing things as well.

Find out more about Repair PDX at www.repairpdx.org.

Hey Neighbor! A free publication by Northeast Coalition of Neighbors