



## Rockwood Rising, one of Gresham's urban renewal projects, prepares to break ground

### A new urban hub

By Robyn Stower  
Sr. Urban Renewal Project  
Coordinator, City of Gresham



Rockwood Rising view northwest from [SE 187th & SE Stark St](#)

[Rockwood Rising](#) is a Gresham urban renewal project that will transform a 5.8 acre dilapidated lot into a thriving community hub. The development will include four buildings surrounding a public plaza that will focus on workforce development, job training, healthcare, education, food accessibility, small business development, and housing.

Rockwood Rising is located at [18535 SE Stark Street](#), in the heart of the [Rockwood neighborhood](#). Rockwood has the youngest median age, greatest diversity, and highest concentration of poverty of any town center in the Portland metropolitan region. For decades the community struggled with disinvestment, lack of public infrastructure and limited access of community services.

In 2003, a citywide vote established the [Rockwood-West Gresham Urban Renewal Area](#), which is governed by the [Gresham Redevelopment Commission](#) (GRDC), to empower the disadvantaged community.

Urban renewal plan goals emphasized community engagement, the creation of a town center to provide a mix of high-quality housing, jobs, shopping and community services, the development of parks, and the creation and retention of family-wage jobs.

Beginning in 2013, the GRDC in partnerships with community-based organizations performed extensive outreach to develop [Rockwood Rising](#). The development site, which was previously home to a Fred Meyer grocery store, had been vacant for almost ten years and despite neighborhood mural and park initiatives was slowly becoming an attractive nuisance where families did not feel safe to bring their children.

See **ROCKWOOD** Page 4

### Tell us: What are you most concerned about?



**What would make your neighborhood a better place?**

The WENA board is setting priorities for the new year and your opinion is important.

Maybe it's resident's safety, homelessness, school bus stop, routes to schools, stolen or abandoned cars and trailers, distribution of homeless facilities, speeding cars, bicycle safety, fear of break-in's, park safety, (fill in the blank)?...

We need your help to identify and prioritizing issues in our neighborhood.

Please attend our March 11th Spring meeting and share your thoughts with us.

"Together WE can make a difference!" ■

Download this newsletter with active links at: [wilkeseastna.org/newsletter.htm](http://wilkeseastna.org/newsletter.htm)

**Mark Your Calendar!**  
Wilkes East Neighborhood

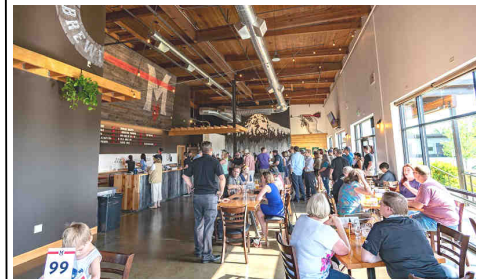
**Spring Meeting**  
March 11th • 7PM

Albertina Kerr Campus, Training Bldg  
722 NE 162nd Ave

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Rockwood Rising, A New Urban Hub
- Migration Brewing Opens New Pub
- Earth Day Recycling Event, April 20
- Nadaka Happenings & Changes
- WENA Spring Meeting March 11, 7PM

### Migration Brewing Opens Pub in west Gresham



[Migration Brewing](#) started as a neighborhood brewpub in [NE Portland](#) in 2010. They grew that business with a focus on making a great product and supporting the community and clientele. After 9 years serving the community with a venue to call home for reunions, birthdays, weddings, baby showers and all life events in between it was time to grow their brand and find a second home.

After searching all the cities surrounding Portland, Gresham proved to be especially attractive. In particular, the City's capacity to get a large project permitted and complete on time, a building that suited their needs, and a location that still maintains the feel and engagement of a small town. "Gresham is one of the friendliest and tight knit communities you could imagine and that is exactly what spoke to our brand" said Colin Rath of Migration Brewing. "For a company that prides itself on being community oriented we felt Gresham was the perfect fit".

See **MIGRATION** Page 2

*Did you know?* The City treats 13 million gallons of wastewater daily and serves 114,000 customers in the cities of Gresham, Fairview and Wood Village.

**Wilkes East Neighborhood Association Newsletter**

Published three times a year. Over 1500 copies distributed throughout Wilkes East.

The Wilkes East Neighborhood Association (WENA) is a non-profit organization in Gresham, Oregon. Deadline for submission is the 10th of the month prior to publication. Submit material to [info@wilkeeastna.org](mailto:info@wilkeeastna.org). WENA reserves all rights, and all copy may be edited for clarity and length. Download a PDF of this newsletter online at: [www.wilkeeastna.org/newsletter.htm](http://www.wilkeeastna.org/newsletter.htm).

**BOARD MEMBERS**

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**BOARD MEETINGS**

Meetings are held on the second Monday of each month at 6:30PM. See [wilkeeastna.org](http://wilkeeastna.org) for details.

**CONTACT US**

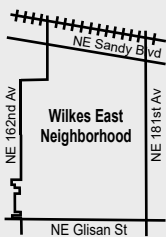
Email: [info@wilkeeastna.org](mailto:info@wilkeeastna.org).  
Postal Mail: PO Box 536 • Fairview, OR 97024

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

Get involved. Let us know how you'd like to help. Email [info@wilkeeastna.org](mailto:info@wilkeeastna.org) for details.

**SPECIAL THANKS**

- The Wilkes East Neighborhood newsletter is funded, in part, through a generous grant from the [City of Gresham](#).
- Printing by [Print Results Inc.](#) 503-287-9566
- Meeting hall: [Albertina Kerr](#), 722 NE 162nd Av, Training Bldg (center north on campus)



*Dear Neighbors • a message from your WENA President*

Although the calendar says spring is only a couple of weeks away the weather lately shows winter is not over yet. So, I remain optimistic that warm sunny days and the colors of spring are really just around the corner.

A few days ago I was fortunate to attend a going-away event for Monica McAllister, Nadaka Nature Park & Gardens incredible Coordinator for the last 5 years. Monica is now the Community Connections Liaison with [East Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District](#). We wish her a bright future. Thank you Monica for all your work at Nadaka! In the interim, Jamie Stamberger will be the part-time Interim Coordinator. Jamie recently served as the Interim Executive Director for the [Columbia Slough Watershed Council](#), and joins Nadaka's current [AmeriCorps](#) Member, Grace Graham, who contributed *Happenings At Nadaka* on page 3. Great job Grace! Jamie Stamberger is forming a Nadaka Vision Committee to gather new goals for Nadaka and assist with selecting the next Nadaka Coordinator. There will be two 2-hour public meetings in March & April. If you'd like to attend contact Jamie at [Jamie@StambergerOutreach.com](mailto:Jamie@StambergerOutreach.com).

Recently I worked registration for the [SOLVE](#) Martin Luther King Day of Service at Nadaka. WOW! Close to 200 volunteers from toddlers to seniors lined up to register including a group of 20 Honor Students from Centennial High School and a couple from Wisconsin wintering in Wilkes East who volunteered at Nadaka last winter!

**Land use**

My Place Hotel, 68 unit, NE 178th & NE Sacramento. Code issues remain before going forward. Meeting to be announced.

New 18 unit row-house apartments, 645 NE 162nd. Applying for code change to continue the driveway through the adjacent property they own to the south to

accommodate fire equipment and garbage pick-up. Meeting to be announced.

New 3 building warehouse project located at NE 170th PI & NE 172nd PI has applied for a zone change to partition the property into 3 separate tax lots. Issues of traffic flow are a concern. Meeting to be announced

MAJ Convenience Store, NE 181st north of I-84. Proposing a 3K square foot convenience store. If you have concerns you need to make them known at the March 6th meeting, Gresham City Hall, Council Chambers. Be prepared with photos and/or petitions supporting your concerns.

Woodspring Suites Hotel, adjacent to US Bank processing center is in the completion phase. Rick's Custom Fencing & Decking, NE 179th & NE Halsey has moved into the new location and is almost ready for their Grand Opening.

Waterside Apts, NE 165th & NE Halsey is moving along, however several neighbors have brought forward concerns about the wetlands & animal habitat. We have contacted the builder SGS Development and are waiting for a reply.

**Mark your calendar**

- [Wed March 6, 2019](#) Public comment for MAJ Convenience Store hearing.
- [Mon March 11, 2019](#) WENA Spring Public Meeting, Abertina Kerr Campus, 722 NE 162nd. Speakers: Eric Chambers, City of Gresham, 'Changes in Home Values in the City of Gresham'; Kristen Purdy, City of Gresham Recycling, 'Doing Better Recycling'; Robyn Stowers, Sr Urban Renewal Project Coordinator, City of Gresham, Rockwood Rising Update

Thank you to all who donate their time & energy in making Wilkes East a better community

See you at the March 11th meeting!!  
Your Neighbor,

*Kristen Freiermuth*

**MIGRATION (Page 1)**



The **3,000-square foot pub** with plenty of open seating has been host to multiple Gresham high school reunions, fundraiser's supporting Gresham nonprofit's, and community causes.

Plus all Gresham teachers get a discount simply by showing their id badge. "We didn't choose Gresham simply because we found a building that suited our needs, we chose Gresham because it's a community we wanted to be a part of." said Rath.

Migration Brewing serves a large selection of house brewed beers, wine, appetizers, soups, salads, pizza and calzone. Open daily. Sun-Thur 11AM-9PM, Fri-Sat 11AM-10PM. [18188 NE Wilkes Rd, Gresham](#). ■

**Did you know?**

- *The City of Gresham encompass a land area of 23.22 sq. miles.*
- *Gresham has 305 miles of streets, over 20,000 signs, 7,500 street lights, and 96 traffic signals.*

**GOT A STORY TO SHARE?**

If you've got an interesting story you'd like to share email it to: [info@wilkeeastna.org](mailto:info@wilkeeastna.org)

[info@rideconnection.org](mailto:info@rideconnection.org)



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## Happening's At Nadaka Nature Park & Garden

By Grace Graham,

[Confluence AmeriCorps](#) Member, Events & Outreach Specialist

The turning of winter over to spring is one of our favorite seasons at [Nadaka Nature Park](#). The forest is cool and quiet, patiently holding its breath for the first signs of new life, and the garden lies resting, silently preparing rich soils that will nurture new seeds in the coming months. This is a time of year that gives [Friends of Nadaka](#) (FON) the opportunity to reflect on the old year's accomplishments, and welcome in a new season of beginnings, opportunities, and goals.



Monica McAllistar, Nadaka Coordinator

This 2019 New Year came with the bittersweet news that our incredible Nadaka Coordinator of the last 5 years, Monica McAllistar, has decided to begin a new journey as the Community Connections Liaison with [East Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District](#). As Nadaka's first and only Coordinator to-date, Monica leaves behind an amazing

legacy of community engagement and education programs, lasting partnerships, and deep ties with our neighbors in West Gresham. We join our partners, neighbors, and park users in thanking Monica for years of dedication, leadership, and initiative in helping bring a community vision to life.

Friends of Nadaka is taking this shift in leadership as an opportunity to review the successes, challenges, and accomplishments of Nadaka's first five years, and develop a strategic plan for moving forward. This review and planning process will last through the spring, and no permanent hires will be made to replace Monica until the review is complete. In the interim period, Jamie Stamberger of [Stamberger Outreach Consulting](#) has stepped in as a part-time Interim Coordinator for Friends of Nadaka, and has begun working closely with Nadaka's current [AmeriCorps](#) Member, Grace Graham, to keep events and programs running through the next several months. Jamie recently served as the Interim Executive Director for the [Columbia Slough Watershed Council](#) (FON's fiscal agent), so she is already familiar with Nadaka's programs, systems, and partners. Please direct all Nadaka inquiries to [info@friendsofnadaka.org](mailto:info@friendsofnadaka.org), and expect a short delay in response as Grace and Jamie are frequently outdoors, meeting with partners, and navigating a new wave of projects and responsibilities.



MLK Day Volunteers at Nadaka Park

Despite all of these organizational changes, Friends of Nadaka hosted a wildly successful [MLK Day of Service](#) event on January 21st, in partnership with [Friends of Trees](#), the [Nature Conservancy](#), and several other community organizations. Over 100 volunteers showed up to help us get 750 native plants in the ground in under three

hours, an amazing feat that demonstrates the passion and energy our neighbors and partners have for giving back to their community and honoring the legacy of a great community servant and leader, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The cold snap and snow that followed forced us to cancel February 9th's Community

[wilkeseastna.org](http://wilkeseastna.org)

Planting Event, but we have decided to combine it with the coming [Nadaka & Rockwood Neighborhood Planting Event](#) this April 13th from 9am-12pm with [Friends of Trees](#), to form one giant restoration party! If you are interested in volunteering with us, please sign up through Friends of Tree's website at <https://friendsoftrees.org/event-calendar/>.

This year's English-led [Seed to Supper](#) gardening course with the [Oregon Food Bank](#) kicked off on Thursday, February 21st, and will take place as a 5-class series every Thursday evening from 6:30-8:30pm through March 21st. This class is free to attend, and is a wonderful opportunity for beginner gardeners to learn how to get started growing their own food on a budget. Due to some unexpected conflicts, the Spanish-led Seed to Supper class has been tentatively postponed for later in the spring. Friends of Nadaka is working with the Oregon Food Bank to reschedule the Spanish Seed to Supper, and we will post details on our website and Facebook page as soon as possible. Please email [info@friendsofnadaka.org](mailto:info@friendsofnadaka.org) with questions or requests to be notified when more details are available.

Friends of Nadaka is excited to announce that for the fourth year in a row, we are once again hosting the [Welcome Back Vulture Day](#) festival on Saturday, March 16th from 12-3pm, in partnership with the [Audubon Society of Portland](#). This free, family-friendly event is filled with educational activities, live birds, food, games, and more! Attendees will have the opportunity to meet Ruby, Portland Audubon's live Turkey Vulture, along with many of Audubon's other education birds. Other activities will include comparing your wingspan to that of a California Condor, exploring the varied cultural significance of different birds, enjoying a scavenger hunt and bird walk in Nadaka Nature Park's forest, and crafting your own unique bird mask! Learn more about this event at Audubon Society of Portland's website: <http://audubonportland.org/>.



Welcome Back Vulture Day, Nadaka

If you aren't able to make it to our Seed to Supper series but are still interested in building or freshening up your gardening skills, [Outgrowing Hunger](#) will be hosting a monthly hands-on Natural Gardening Class from 6-7:30pm in the [Nadaka Community Garden](#), starting with April 16th, May 16th, June 20th, and continued once a month through the end of the growing season. Find more event dates at <https://outgrowinghunger.org/calendar>. We will also be hosting the [Creating Edible Landscapes Workshop](#) on May 18th from 9-11:30am with [East Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District](#). Registration is required for this event, and it will fill up fast, so don't wait! Sign up here: <https://emswcd.org/workshops-and-events/upcoming-workshops/>.

For more information about how to get involved in creating positive social and environmental change at Nadaka and the [Wilkes East](#) and [Rockwood neighborhoods](#), sign up for [Friends of Nadaka's](#) brand new e-newsletter! Newsletter subscribers will receive an email at the beginning of each month with event information, park news, and other community resources! Sign up here: <http://eepurl.com/gb1A2r>. You can also stay up-to-date by "liking" our page on [Facebook @NadakaNaturePark](#), or following our new [Instagram account @nadakanaturepark](#). If you have questions about any events, news, or programs at Nadaka Nature Park, please email [info@friendsofnadaka.org](mailto:info@friendsofnadaka.org). Thank you for your support, and we hope to see you at Nadaka soon! ■

**Did You Know?** Gresham's parks system includes over 300 acres of park land and 840 acres of natural areas.

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ROCKWOOD (Page 1)



Rockwood Rising, (left to right) buildings A, C, & B surround the plaza

Thousands of local stakeholders participated in the visioning for [Rockwood Rising](#) which identified access to healthy, affordable food and economic opportunities as the highest priorities.

The community also participated in the design of Rockwood Rising which consists of four buildings (Building A, B, C, and D) surrounding a public plaza. Building A is a newly constructed four-story structure containing approximately 52,824 square feet of commercial space and will house education, workforce and business development services such as [WorkSource Oregon](#), [Mt Hood Community College Small Business Development Center](#) and [MetroEast Community Media](#). Building B is a newly constructed mixed-use structure that will provide approximately 27, 913 square feet of commercial space and 104 workforce housing units, twenty percent of which will be income restricted. Building C is the newly constructed Market Hall which will include two commercial kitchens, eight small restaurants, office space and up to twenty-four vendor booths. Building D is a significant renovation of an existing 7,000 square feet facility which will house a community maker space and construction and manufacturing apprentice program operated by [Oregon Tradeswomen](#) and [Portland Opportunities and Industrial Center](#). The public plaza is a place the whole community can come and enjoy. The plaza will feature three age-specific playgrounds, interactive water feature, public art, including the recreation of the iconic [Plaza del Sol mural](#), and will incorporate free Wi-Fi and amenities to support festivals and farmers markets. All these services promote Rockwood Rising’s mission to create an economic engine that will break the generational cycle of poverty and build family and community prosperity.

The [GRDC](#) recruited and selected, [RKm Development, Inc.](#) (RKm) through a transparent Request for Proposal developer search. RKm’s commitment to community and exceptional track record of equitable and quality management and development, such as Bethany Village, made them the ideal candidate to manage the project. As developer RKm will own and manage all the buildings on the property while the GRDC will own the property. This arrangement gives the GRDC the ability to repossess the property if the development agreements are not met.

Groundbreaking for Rockwood Rising is TBD 2019.

ED: Robyn Stowers will speak at WENA’s March 11 meeting. ■

**Did you know?** The average American produces more than four pounds of garbage per day. Over the course of a year, that is more than 1,600 pounds of garbage per person.

## Free! Earth Day Recycling Event Sat April 20th 9AM-2PM

Gresham City Hall  
1333 NE Eastman Pkwy



The City's annual [Earth Day recycling](#) and reuse event keeps tons of recyclable and reusable materials from the landfill. This event is **free** for all Gresham and Wood Village residents. This event is for hard to recycle items. For complete details visit <https://greshamoregon.gov/Earth-Day/>

**ACCEPTED ITEMS:**

- **Fluorescent lights:** compact CFL or straight tube. Limit 30.
- **Paper Shredding:** Limit 2 paper bags per household.
- **Plastics:** Lawn chairs, grocery bags, large hard plastic toys, rigid swim pools, bubble wrap, etc. Limit 1 trunk load.
- **Small Appliances & Electronics:** Computers, monitors, keyboards, cell phones, printers, tv's, stereos, wires & cords, games consoles, cameras, microwaves, blenders, toasters, etc.
- **Styrofoam:** Rigid household styrofoam, packing peanuts.

**Did you know?** Americans use over 2 and a half million plastic bottles every thirty minutes, and most are simply thrown away rather than recycled.

**Did you know?** The leading cities for recycling in the US are (#1) San Francisco CA, (#2) Boston MA, (#3) Chicago IL, (#4) Denver CO, and (#5) [Portland OR](#).

**Save the Date!**  
**Wilkes East Neighborhood Spring Meeting**  
**Monday, March 11th, 7-9PM**  
 Albertina Kerr • 722 NE 162nd Av  
 Training Bldg (center north on campus)

- Eric Chambers, City of Gresham, Changes in Home Values in Gresham
- Kristen Purdy, City of Gresham, Doing Better Recycling For You
- Robyn Stowers, Rockwood Rising, Project Update and Estimated Start

**See you there!**

**Have You Signed Up?**  
[Nextdoor.com](#) is the neighborhood-centric social network for you, your neighbors and your community. It's the easiest way for you and your neighbors to talk online. And it's free! [Sign-up today!](#)