



New Timber Stack Play Structure Coming to Nadaka Park This Spring

After many years providing endless hours of physical activity and inspiring young imaginations the original log house play structure at Nadaka Park's nature-based play area is being replaced.

The new play structure is being built with durable/pest resistant timber stack logs made from sustainable black locust wood. Black locust is a very hard and strong wood, competing with hickory as the strongest and stiffest domestic timber: but with more stability and rot resistance.

The original play structure, built in 2014, began to show signs of rot after years of exposure to the elements. It was constructed using peeled logs made



New timber stack play structure coming to Nadaka Park nature-based play area



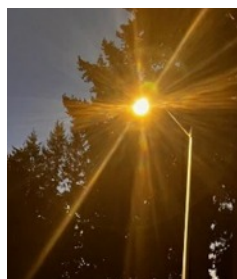
from approximately 12 Douglas fir trees removed from within the park due to laminated root rot; a fungal disease passed from tree to tree through direct root contact causing decayed roots to separate at the annual rings like pages in a book, weakening the tree's ability to stand.

Replacement of the old play structure began in January 2023. The new structure is expected to be completed early Spring 2023.

For more information contact Tina Osterink at Tina.Osterink@GreshamOregon.gov ■

City of Gresham Replaces LED Streetlights

by Greg Hartung,
Land Use Co-Chair



Starting in 2014, the City of Gresham replaced 8000 streetlights with more efficient LED lights. Gresham was one of the first cities in Oregon to completely switch over to LED lights. The City of Gresham was recognized with the 2015 Sustainable Practices Award from the Oregon Chapter of the American Public Works Association.

At the end of 2022, workers began replacing the LED lights with a new generation of LED light. There was a perception that these new LED lights were dimmer than the old LED lights. So, we asked, are they dimmer?

Gresham's Transportation Division explains: "The new lights emit 4299 lumens

(compared to 4100 for the old), so they should be a little brighter, and use 15W less power. The perception that they are dimmer is probably due to the different lighting pattern, possibly diffusing the light to a larger area but looking dimmer overall (while providing more lumens)".

The city released this statement: "The City of Gresham is in the process of replacing most of the LED streetlights in neighborhoods and along arterial roads with newer, brighter, and more efficient units that spread their light more evenly.

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Did You Know? Gresham has over 116 miles of bike lanes; and, Gresham is the fourth largest city in Oregon.

Se Habla
Español



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Wilkes East Land-Use Update

By Greg Hartung,
Board Member, Land-use Co-Chair

The Wilkes East Neighborhood Association board regularly receives land use plans from the City of Gresham to notify us of land use projects within or proximity to the Wilkes East neighborhood boundaries. We are recapping some of the projects from the summer and fall WENA Newsletters as well as some projects in the Rockwood and North Gresham neighborhoods.

Plan case [PRE-22-00376](#)

Application Date 5/31/2022

Location: 2777-2789 NE 181st Ave, Gresham Or 97230. The proposed Cyberwash car wash building will include a 110-foot-long tunnel design, overall dimensions 127 feet long by 48 feet wide, total building gross square footage 5000 sq. ft.

UPDATE: As of this date, the Wilkes East Neighborhood Association has NOT received Early Neighborhood Notification meeting documentation as required.

Plan Case [DR-22-00328](#) (Rockwood NA)

Application Date 05/19/2022

Location: NE 165th and Burnside. The proposal is as follows: New 92-unit multi-family affordable apartment development consisting of one, two and three bedroom units.

LAND-USE (Page 3)

Mark Your Calendar!
Wilkes East Neighborhood

Spring 2023 Meeting
March 13th • 7PM

Moose Lodge • 16411 NE Halsey

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. WENA reserves all rights, and all copy may be edited for clarity and length. Download a PDF of this newsletter online at: wilkeaseastna.org/newsletter.htm.

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member3@wilkeaseastna.org

BOARD MEETINGS

Meetings are held on the second Monday of each month at 6:30PM. See wilkeaseastna.org for details.

CONTACT US

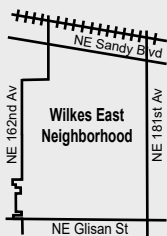
Email: info@wilkeaseastna.org
Postal Mail: 17104 NE Oregon, Portland OR 97230

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Get involved. Let us know how you'd like to help.
Email info@wilkeaseastna.org for details.

SPECIAL THANKS

- The newsletter is funded in part through a generous grant from the City of Gresham.
- Printing by Hush Ink / Print Results. 971-279-4969



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Dear Neighbors • a message from your WENA President

Greetings to everyone! Hope you have survived the wind, rain & very cold temperatures of late!

Our first General Meeting of 2023 will be Monday the 13th of March at 7PM and will take place at the Moose Lodge located at 16411 NE Halsey St. They have plenty of parking available, and are excited to make their facility available to us for our meeting.

Confirmed speakers for our March General Meeting include: Keven Dahlgren, Houseless Outreach Service Specialist; Michael Gonzales, City of Gresham Neighborhood & Community Engagement Manager; Lucy Harden and Janet Unruh good neighbor's and volunteer's extraordinaire.

We will have the election of Board Officers prior to our speakers, since we were unable to accomplish this important task at our November meeting. If you are interested in joining the Board please contact any Board member prior to the March meeting for details.

We will continue to have monthly Board Meetings via Zoom on the second Monday of January, February, April, May, June, July, September and October. Our General Meetings are held in March, August & November. You

are also invited to join us for our monthly Board Meetings. Visit our website at wilkeaseastna.org for the meeting link.

A reminder, beginning the 2nd Monday of each month March through November the street sweepers will be working in your neighborhood. Please move vehicles, boats, campers, garbage cans, basketball hoops and other objects into your driveway.

Problems with abandoned cars, cars parked in front of mailboxes, or large commercial vehicles parked too close to fire hydrants or blocking your line of sight? Report it using the "My Gresham" app. Download it free at the Apple App Store or Google Play. It's quick, easy, and effective.

We continue to look for ways to slow down traffic on NE 172nd with the assistance of the City of Gresham. This is a priority project. If you would like to join our effort please let us know.

Hope to see you Monday, the 13th of March 7PM!

Your Neighbor,

Kristen Freiermuth

Update on WeShine Village at Parkrose Community United Church of Christ



By Lucile Harden, Wilkes East neighbor

The micro village that opened last fall on church property now has 10 occupants. You may have noticed the fence built around the village has been painted, too. In the near future they hope to have some artwork displayed on the outside of the fence. The residents are all doing well and are attending weekly check-in meetings. One person recently was able to get into permanent housing.

WeShine is in the process of getting permits and materials to begin construction of a community building, laundry room and bathroom in the village. The water line has been installed.

In the meantime, Parkrose Community UCC provides showers on Monday evening in partnership with the Union Gospel Mission. On Wednesdays from 11-2, we partner with Cultivate Initiatives who brings their mobile shower and laundry truck to the church. The

showers and laundry facilities are open to the micro village or anyone in the community that need the services. The church also continues to distribute healthy meals provided by Feed the Mass on Monday, Wednesday and Friday ■

Attention Neighbors

The Wilkes East Neighborhood Association would like to remind our neighborhood that all neighbors are welcome to attend board meetings, and are strongly encouraged to attend our general meetings held 3 times each year. Our next general meeting will be Monday, March 13th 7pm at Moose Lodge, 16411 NE Halsey.

In order for our community and neighborhood to thrive, we need participation and input from all individuals living in Wilkes East. Your voices, opinions, and concerns matter. ■

Start a Neighborhood Watch in your area. Visit greshamoregon.gov/Neighborhood-Ready

LIGHTS (Page 1)

The first generation of LED streetlights, which were installed 2014-16, were found to have a design flaw, so the city has received the new lights under warranty.

If you'd like to know more, or if you'd like to report a streetlight outage, please visit <https://greshamoregon.gov/LED-Streetlights/>.

It is a notable difference. The lights are indeed emitting a softer glow on the ground and through bedroom windows at night. Along with the improved energy savings and greater ground coverage, this is a win-win for the residents of Gresham. ■

***Did You Know?** You can recycle old electronics at the Goodwill.*

URBAN FORESTRY IN GRESHAM

By Janet Unruh, Wilkes East neighbor

Urban Forestry is the study and management of a city's trees, on public and private property.

Gresham's Urban Forestry Subcommittee (UFS) began in 1990 as the Tree Preservation Council Advisory Committee. In 2008, the Tree Preservation Committee was renamed the Urban Forestry Subcommittee made up of City staff, tree professionals, and volunteers. See the Urban Forestry Management Plan at greshamoregon.gov/WorkArea/DownloadAsset.aspx?id=1375

Over the years, UFS has planted thousands of trees, tracked tree code violations, monitored the health of green spaces, identified areas of the city in need of tree canopy, and worked with neighborhoods in planting projects. UFS has also made major contributions to the online Tree Canopy Map, Right Tree in the Right Place, Significant Trees of Gresham, Street Tree List, Neighborhood Tree Plan, and the Tree Code. UFS has coordinated with organizations such as Arbor Day, and Friends of Trees, and helped make Gresham a "Tree City" for 14 years.

When the Urban Forestry Management Plan was published in 2011, it was at the height of enthusiasm for UFS. 50 participants including City Councilors, City staff, and UFS members worked on the development of this comprehensive 77-page document. Recently, however, UFS attendance has declined. At the UFS meeting in November 2022, attendees expressed a fear that UFS was going away. Tina Núñez-Osterink, UFS Staff Liaison and a major contributor to UFS was transferred to Parks and Recreation. Others were resigning due to a lack of cooperation from the City. Today, only three members remain.

At the January 23, 2023 UFS meeting, Eric Schmidt, Assistant City Manager, asked UFS not to meet for 2-3 months. Eric said that the City needed to get its house in order and figure out how to interact with UFS. UFS projects would be paused during that time.

Funding from federal programs and grants will be coming in and need to be used by June 2023. Eric said because UFS is "still on paper" and is "legally an active subcommittee," the City will be able to receive grant funding. Others in the City will handle that.

Eric said the City is aware of the subcommittee's frustration, and complaints have not gone unheard, but he did not say that the City would address concerns in the future. He gave no definite timeline for the resumption of meetings, [omit or] no plan for interim communication, nor did he give any commitments whatsoever, leaving the impression that the subcommittee was effectively shut down.

Please watch the recording of the meeting on January 23, 2023. It can be found on the UFS site at

<https://greshamoregon.gov/urbanforestrysubcommittee/>

After this meeting, complaints resulted in a meeting scheduled for February 13, 2023. Please attend UFS meetings and show your support! ■

LAND-USE (Page 1)

No retail/commercial is proposed. Anticipated 4-story wood frame construction on conventional slab on grade foundation. Surface grade parking to be located to the North and East of proposed building. Site improvements and outdoor amenities to support development requirements including storm infiltration and two exterior courtyards.

UPDATE: Permit number [BLDMF-23-00541](#) applied for on 1/29/2023. Building review is scheduled for 2/22/2023. On-site existing homes have been now vacated and boarded up.

Plan Case [PRE-21-00688](#) (Rockwood Neighborhood)

Applied date 12/09/2021

Habitat for Humanity development of the 1.41-acre site, comprising two lots, located on the south side of NE Glisan Street,



approximately 100 feet east of NE 176th Avenue (17616-17636 NE Glisan) directly south of Nadaka Nature Park. The proposal includes 7 buildings comprising a total of 20-units and 29 parking spaces in a surface parking lot. The elevations and site plan provided show a typical two-story structure with individual ground floor entries and small rear yards. A condominium review (subdivision) and parking reduction are also being proposed. **NOTE:** There has been no update from the city of Gresham regarding proposal.

Plan Case [DR-21-00616](#)

Applied date 11/05/2021

Phase 1 of new construction of approximately 26,000 square foot pre-engineered metal building for Pape Machinery's new Ditch Witch facility located at 17217 NE Sandy Blvd. This is on the 11-acre property adjacent to the historical Zimmerman House. Due to site constraints all regulated trees are proposed to be removed. The Gresham Wetland report indicates no wetlands on this property. Phase 2 will include a second Pape Machinery facility. Update: DR 21-00616 has been completed, there has been no other update from the city of Gresham regarding proposal.

These plans and other public information can be viewed on Gresham Online Services portal where applicants can electronically submit Plan or Permit applications quickly and easily, and where interested parties searching for public records can search for project data or access the City's map service.

For public records requests for files processed between July 2017 and December 31, 2020, please continue to access ePlan or contact the Planner on Duty at POD@GreshamOregon.gov.

For public records requests for files processed prior to July 2017, contact the Planner on Duty at POD@GreshamOregon.gov.

If you have any questions about using Gresham Online Services, please contact PlanningTech@GreshamOregon.gov.

More information on these land use projects can be obtained by calling 503-618-2845 to speak with a submission's coordinator or email the planner on duty at pod@GreshamOregon.gov. ■



Get involved! Meet Your Neighbors.

Start a Neighborhood Watch in your area. Visit greshamoregon.gov/Neighborhood-Ready

80 Years of Development • Wilkes East Aerial



Wilkes East 1943



Wilkes East 2023



Meet Michael Gonzales, City of Gresham's Neighborhood Services Manager

"I've been with the City of Gresham for since 2017 (6 years). Prior to joining the City, I was a small business owner who ran a digital agency with my brother here in Gresham for 10 years. We provided client

services such as creative direction, digital marketing, and an online web presence to help brands we love to take their business to the next level. I oversaw client relations and business development to ensure that our team always had plenty of work to keep them busy. Our company hit its growth potential and I needed a new challenge, so I decided it was time to start giving back in a public service role to the community I grew up in and was raising my family in. Outside of work, I love to volunteer for causes I am passionate about that improve outcomes for those who might not have been given similar opportunities that I was blessed with. My favorite non-paying job that I love participating in is coaching whatever sport's activities my kids are involved with throughout the year. I also love to barbeque for family and friends when I have free time. My favorite place to vacation is Mexico which reminds me that I need to renew my passport!"

Contact Micheal at michael.gonzales@greshamoregon.gov (ED. Michael will a guest speaker at our March 2023 meeting)

Garden Planting Guide

The success of any harvest relies on putting the plants in the soil at the right time. [Portland Nursery's](https://portlandnursery.com/docs/veggies/VeggieCalendar.pdf) free *Veggie Calendar* offers a great timeline for starting seeds and placing transplants in the garden, borders or patio pots. Download your copy at: <https://portlandnursery.com/docs/veggies/VeggieCalendar.pdf> ■



Wilkes East Neighborhood Association Annual Election of Officers

Join your neighborhood Board. All positions up for election!

To join the Board, simply show up Monday March 13th 7pm and nominate yourself! Get involved. Make a difference!

Caught on Camera

We've received several reports lately of concerning activity in the neighborhood.

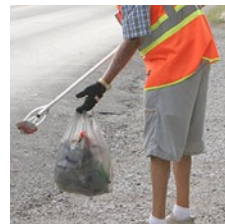
One neighbor reported a woman knocked at the door wanting hot water. As soon as the homeowner opened the front door, the woman tried opening the screen door and coming in the house.

Another neighbor's security camera caught a man dressed in khakis and a long sleeve dark shirt holding a clipboard feeling above the door for a key.

Be sure your screen door is locked when you're at home and don't leave spare keys outside where they can easily be found. ■



Thank You For Your Selfless Service!



To the many individuals that pick up litter while walking or jogging in our neighborhood, the Wilkes East Neighborhood Association would like to acknowledge you and extend a very special "Thank you!" ■

Save the Date!

**Wilkes East Neighborhood
Spring 2023 Meeting
Monday, March 13th, 7-9PM**

Moose Lodge, 16411 NE Halsey

- 2023 Wilkes East Board Elections
- Keven Dahlgren, Houseless Outreach Specialist
- Michael Gonzales, Neighborhood & Community Engagement Manager
- Lucy Harden, WeShine Village
- Janet Unruh, Urban Forestry

See you there!

Are you signed up?
Nextdoor.com is the social networking service for neighbors to connect with each other. Sign-up today!

