



## As Spring Approaches 6th Grade Students Prepare For An Educational Week At MESD Outdoor School

Providing innovative and collaborative leadership for students to learn science and interpersonal skills

By: Gardner Hartung  
Plants Field Instructor,  
Collins Outdoor School



It's 7:45 in the morning, the sun has just begun rising over the tree line in the distance. Cabins of 6th grade students are lining up near the flagpole on a bark chip pathway. The day begins with a mindful moment, with a deep breath and listening to a staff member recite a poem that they had written. After the mindful moment, cabins are dismissed and students flood into the dining hall for a family-style breakfast.

This is how a typical school day starts for 6th grade students at [Multnomah Educational Service District](#) (MESD) Outdoor School, an environmental science program that has been serving the Portland metro area since 1966. The program was founded shortly after President Johnson's "Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965" was passed allowing funding for 5th and 6th grade students to experience innovative education opportunities. Since then, multiple outdoor education programs have popped up all over the state of Oregon and are now funded on a state level, thanks to the passing of Measure 99 in 2016, which provides statewide funding for Outdoor School through the Oregon Lottery, and provides every 6th grader the opportunity to experience the weeklong program for free.

Students will spend their week learning during "Field Study", where they will go on hikes, use scientific tools and field guides, and collect data with a focus on Plants, Soil,

Water, and Animals as the 4 main subjects. "It was a lot of fun learning things that you wouldn't be able to do if you're sitting in a classroom at school" one 6th grader wrote about their experience coming out this past fall. While the outdoor school program mainly covers scientific subjects, topics such as indigenous history, weather, and local environmental issues are also covered as part of the curriculum.

While scientific learning is what outdoor school is funded to offer, many consider the most important part of outdoor school to be the social-emotional skills students gain while away for a week. It's a chance for students to be away from technology and make new friendships through games, meals together and other activities. Cabins typically include a mixture of students from 4 different Portland area schools, who are strangers at first but become close friends by the end of the week. Cabins are tasked with certain duties throughout the week like helping clean up after meals and keeping their cabins tidy. Students are awarded with "beads" for their service and for helping build community around the camp.

**OUTDOOR** (Page 4)

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Outdoor School for 6th Grade Students
- Wilkes East Land Use Update
- Rockwood Greenspace Now
- Try The MyGresham App
- Street Sweeping, 4th Wed, Mar-Nov



### Wilkes East Land-Use Update

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

Hello members of our Wilkes East Neighborhood Association. 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.

**Plan Number PRE-23-00466**  
Application 08/14/2023 (Rockwood NA)  
Location: 270 NE 188th, Gresham, Or 97230 a 1.22-acre parcel. Project Subdivision Proposal by SGS Development, LLC will consist of 19 lots, 18 are proposed for townhouses and one flag lot proposed for duplex and middle market housing. Existing structures would be demolished and the extension of NE Everett Ct through to NE 188th. The project would include the removal of many trees from the project site.

A petition has been filed to save the trees from removal by an advocate group operating as Rockwood Greenspace Now, calling for the city to purchase the site for a potential pocket park for the Rockwood neighborhood. To participate visit: [change.org/p/save-the-trees-in-rockwood](https://change.org/p/save-the-trees-in-rockwood)  
**LAND-USE** (Page 4)

### Mark Your Calendar!

Wilkes East Neighborhood

## Spring 2024 Meeting

March 11th • 7PM

Moose Lodge • 16411 NE Halsey



**See A Broken Streetlight, Pothole, Or Graffiti? Report It Using The MyGresham App**

MyGresham is an online issue-reporting tool through which you can request non-emergency services, such as fixing a pothole, reporting a broken streetlight or simply asking a question. Your request is instantly routed to the right person in the right department at City Hall. Read in real-time Spanish, Russian and 14

other languages. It's simple, quick, and effective. Use it anytime, anywhere. MyGresham is available online at [greshamoregon.gov/services/mygresham/](https://greshamoregon.gov/services/mygresham/) or download the free mobile app available in the Apple App Store and Google Play. ■

*Did you know? The real name for a hashtag is an octothorpe*

**Se Habla Español**



**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: [wilkeeastna.org/newsletter.htm](http://wilkeeastna.org/newsletter.htm).

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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**

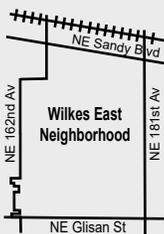
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**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

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

**SPECIAL THANKS**

- The newsletter is funded in part through a generous grant from the [City of Gresham](http://City of Gresham).
- Printing by [Hush Ink / Print Results](http://Hush Ink / Print Results). 971-279-4960



*Dear Neighbors* • a message from your WENA President

I hope everyone survived our January storm and are looking forward to a normal Oregon spring.

Soon we will see the first curb trucks in our neighborhoods sweeping the debris from the trees and cleaning any plugged storm drains. The schedule has been confirmed and will be different than last year. We are in Section 2; the fourth Wednesday of each month from March through November. This service is done nine times a year. If you forget, you can check the sweeping schedule at [greshamoregon.gov/Street-Sweeping-Program](http://greshamoregon.gov/Street-Sweeping-Program) for maps and dates for our area. It is most important that the following items not be at or near the curbs; cars, boats, campers, garbage cans, recycling containers, portable basketball hoops and anything else sitting in the street or protruding past the curb, which would hinder crews from cleaning thoroughly. If obstructions prevent sweeping it will be left behind on the street. The sweepers are not equipped to remove leaves piled at the curb - only naturally fallen or blown leaves on the street from nearby trees, Keep overhanging tree branches at least 12' above the street and 8' above the sidewalks. Please help keep storm drain grates running smoothly by clearing leaf debris.

Check out the City of Gresham's Community Resources website at [greshamoregon.gov/live](http://greshamoregon.gov/live) for answers to commonly asked questions like code

compliance, fences and property lines, graffiti removal, holding an event in Gresham, prescription drugs and medical waste disposal, social services and more.

Nadaka Nature Park has many activities and events. Schedules can be found on our website at [wilkeeastna.org](http://wilkeeastna.org) and posted on the entrance gates to the park.

We are always looking for volunteers. If you have a special interest, please feel free to contact one of our Board members and let them know. We are always in need of volunteers to deliver newsletters and to write newsletters articles.

Our next general meeting is Monday, March 11, 7PM and will be held at the Moose Lodge, [16411 NE Halsey St](http://16411 NE Halsey St). Guest speakers will include: Gresham Fire Chief Scott Lewis, talking about radon problems at Gresham fire stations, and plans for the future of our fire department; Janet Unruh, Tree Enthusiast will discuss trees, parks, and what the future looks like in our community.

Please frequent these businesses that support projects in our community; [Jazzy Bagels](http://Jazzy Bagels) downtown Gresham, [Starbucks](http://Starbucks) and [Albertsons](http://Albertsons) at 181st & Glisan, and [Growers Outlet](http://Growers Outlet) at 162nd & Glisan.

See you at the March 11th meeting. Happy Spring everyone!

Your Neighbor & Friend,  
*Kristen Friermuth*

**Meet Gresham Fire Chief, Scott Lewis**



(Chief Lewis will be a guest speaker at the March 11th Wilkes East Neighborhood meeting)

Fire Chief Scott Lewis joined the [Gresham Fire Department](http://Gresham Fire Department) as the Deputy Chief in January of 2003, after serving with the Fairborn, Ohio Fire Department for 20 years. The East Gresham resident has held many titles with Gresham Fire; Deputy Chief, Division Chief, Assistant Chief, and most recently Fire Chief.

The biggest issue facing the Fire Department are continued community growth, without a similar increase in resources. While the population and demands for service grow, the Fire Department is operating out of the same stations, with a similar personnel deployment model for the last 30+ years.

What is going well is the quality and dedication of our employees. The level of commitment to deliver excellent service to our community remains unwavering. ■

**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 11th 7pm at the Moose Lodge, [16411 NE Halsey](http://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. Join us. Plan to attend.

**Start a Neighborhood Watch in your area.** Visit [greshamoregon.gov/Neighborhood-Ready](http://greshamoregon.gov/Neighborhood-Ready)



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



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### Rockwood Greenspace Now!

By Janet Unruh, Wilkes East neighbor

A group of concerned neighbors are working to save a little piece of nature that they call the Rockwood Greenspace. The green space is on NE 188th, about half a block south of NE Glisan, in the heart of Rockwood. See: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/fUrGhqVUWUDNv5JLA>

The 1.22 acres are targeted for high-density housing development. If the project is allowed to go through, around 50 Douglas Firs and a meadow will be bulldozed.

The current owners, the Mitus, are asking **\$495,900**. [Rockwood Greenspace Now](#) (the group of concerned residents in the neighborhood) is in the early stages of pursuing grant funding. It may be a race as to who can buy the property first. The developer, [SGS Development, LLC](#) is in the process of completing the requirements for the application. As you may know, housing development projects are automatically approved by the city if all the requirements are met.

Quoting SGS' *General Project Narrative* for the Mitu property, "The project proposal consists of a subdivision to create 19 lots. 18 lots are proposed for townhomes and one flag lot is proposed for a potential duplex and middle market housing...and the extension of NE Everett Ct through the property."

#### Reasons why it's a bad idea

##### There are too many units in a small space.

This development should consider reducing the number of units. The quantity of households in such a small space on NE Everett Street does not allow enough space for each household's garbage, recycling, and glass containers (and potentially a yard waste cart) on the morning of pickup. In addition to concerns about where the carts will go during pickup day, we also need to know where carts will go after pickup. Please demonstrate where on each lot the residents will store these containers when not on the street for pickup. Source: *Pre-application Summary*, Waste Management Comments.

##### Additional traffic

The section of 188th between Burnside and Glisan is already a proverbial racetrack, with drivers regularly exceeding the speed limit and endangering pedestrians and other drivers. The corner of NE Everett Court and 188th is also a school bus stop for multiple schools and age groups. *-Trevor Koch's testimony to City Council on 1-16-24.*

##### Not family-friendly

Almost a quarter of our residents are kids!... The homes in my neighborhood do not have sidewalks. Everyone from large families to folks walking their dogs, to parents taking their infants on stroller walks, to watchful parents that have younger children either on bikes or tottering around the neighborhood all have to walk in the street. Not only that, but many times there are children that don't have sidewalks to walk on to go to school or to play, so they walk, bike, and play in the street. *-D'Andria Ornee's testimony to City Council on 1-16-24.*

##### Rockwood has too few trees

The west side of Multnomah County averages 51% tree coverage, while Rockwood has only 13.1% tree canopy cover. We also

have 67.5% impervious surfaces, like concrete. Concrete absorbs the heat and causes urban heat islands, preventing the neighborhood from cooling off, and exacerbating the effects of climate change. Rockwood's lack of tree cover leads to a disproportionately high and life-threatening heat index in the summer. During the 2021 heat dome event, East Multnomah County reached 125 degrees while Northwest Portland was 99 degrees. *-D'Andria Ornee's email, Rockwood Greenspace Now Neighborhood Coalition.*

#### Emotional reasons to retain this property as a park

I moved into the neighborhood two and a half years ago. I walk out my door every day to see those beautiful old-growth pine trees on the lot at 270 NE 188th Ave. Selfishly, I enjoy that view, and it's one of the many reasons I chose to buy my home here. Altruistically though, I think that lot would serve the neighborhood beautifully as a public "pocket park." *--Tyler Harpster's testimony, Proposing a New Pocket Park at 270 NE 188th Ave., to City Council on 1-16-24.*

The size of the development is out of character with the surrounding neighborhood. The vast majority of the lots in this neighborhood are roughly 7000 square foot lots with single-family homes. *-Trevor Koch's testimony, given to City Council on 1-16-24.*

We are a collective of dedicated homeowners that call Rockwood home and see ourselves being invested in this community for many years to come. We have dug in our roots with pride. That being said, we want to make sure we protect a place that is precious to us and to everyone else who resides here. *-D'Andria Ornee's testimony, given to City Council on 1-16-24.*

#### The petition

The [Rockwood Greenspace Now](#) group launched a petition on 02-03-2024 to ask the City of Gresham to buy the property and make it into a pocket park. As of 7 PM on 02-24-2024, the petition has 1200 signatures! Please see: <https://www.change.org/p/save-the-trees-in-rockwood>

#### Conclusion

Fortunately, it seems that SGS Development is not moving quickly to fulfill application requirements. The neighbors that comprise Rockwood Greenspace Now hope to win the race to see their beloved little piece of nature established as a city park.

*Did you know? The letter Q doesn't appear in any US state name*



## 2024 Street Sweeping Schedule

### Wilkes East Neighborhood

## 4th Wednesday, March - November

Please move vehicles, boats, campers, garbage cans, basketball hoops and other objects into your driveway

Mar 27, 2024	Jun 26, 2024	Sep 25, 2024
Apr 24, 2024	Jul 24, 2024	Oct 23, 2024
May 22, 2024	Aug 20, 2024	Nov 27, 2024

## LAND USE (Page 1)

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

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. 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: Construction has begun with the removal of the existing structures and site grading. Watch for heavy equipment, workers, street improvements and sidewalk restrictions during the construction along Burnside and NE 165th Street

**Plan Number [LF-23-00507](#)**, Wilkes East NA, Location: Crystal Clean 17186 NE Sandy Blvd Gresham Or 97230: Land Use Compatibility Statement quoted: "Crystal Clean operates within a leased warehouse space that is approximately 80-foot by 100-foot area (7,368 square feet) at this location. The facility receives and temporarily stores containerized nonhazardous solid waste for transport to other Crystal Clean facilities for processing and disposal. The warehouse is also used for the storage and customer distribution of various products such as antifreeze and aqueous chemistries equipment such as parts cleaners, and supplies, such as absorbent material. The facility also operates as a transport facility for closed drums and totes of hazardous waste that is directly transferred from the transport truck to a trailer. These containers are never opened or processed at this facility and are shipped to another Crystal Clean hub location within 10 days. The transfer operations are completed outside the warehouse space in a specially designed stationary trailer 55-foot by 8.5-foot (748 square feet) that is parked at one loading dock of the warehouse."

For these and other public records, you can visit this web link: <https://greshamor-energovweb.tylerhost.net>

**You do not need to create or register an account with online services to access project files.**

To search for project files and public records:

- Click on the search icon.
- In the screen that loads, type in the Plan case number in the search field and click on the search button.
- The page will reload with the results of the search, including highlighted direct links to cases.
- Click on the highlighted link for the Plan case.
- In the page that loads, click on the Attachments tab to view project files.

You can also view detailed instructions on how to search for public records at the link below:

<https://greshamoregon.gov/workarea/DownloadAsset.aspx?id=13448>

If you have any questions about accessing the files online or any projects, contact [PlanningTech@GreshamOregon.gov](mailto:PlanningTech@GreshamOregon.gov) ■

**Free Street Trees!****Order by March 4, Receive Mar 16**

Friends of Trees will be planting **FREE** Street Trees in our neighborhood. You need to place your order by 4 March 2024. The planting date is 16 March 2024 if you wish to volunteer your time. They will be meeting at our own Nadaka Nature Park at 8:30AM. For info Winnie at Friends of Trees 503-568-1425, [friendsoftrees.org](http://friendsoftrees.org).

## OUTDOOR (Page 1)

The overnight camp experience can seem foreign to lots of families that aren't originally from the area. Lots of planning and consideration goes into making sure any student can thrive at outdoor school. Staff at all of the outdoor school sites often need to consider things like allergies, religious restrictions, and other dietary needs when serving meals at all of the sites. The program also provides one-on-one supports for students with specific needs, and provides resources for students that are non-native english speakers.

This April, 6th grade students at H.B. Lee Middle School in the Wilkes East neighborhood will be spending a week putting down their normal textbooks and putting on a "wood cookie" name tag and live with other Portland area students at one of the 5 MESD Outdoor School sites:

- Camp Collins in Gresham
- Camp Kuratli in Boring
- Camp Angelos in Corbett
- Camp Namanu in Sandy
- Camp Westwind near Lincoln City

Many former H.B. Lee students now have roles working in the program, either as full time staff members or high school volunteers. Gardner "Eco" Hartung teaches the Plants curriculum at Collins, and Joey "Falco" Mata is the Site Supervisor for the Westwind site, both of which are former H.B. Lee students. The staff at outdoor school takes pride in serving communities that they grew up in, and always encourages students to take lessons they learned and implement them back at home. With the outdoor school program, there is an ongoing cycle of former 6th graders who become high school volunteers who later become staff members in the program, so lots of traditions and inherited knowledge about the program carries over year after year.

If your family is sending out a 6th grader this spring and would like more information about the outdoor school program, you can find information like camp maps and dates for the open house at [mesdoutdoorschool.org](http://mesdoutdoorschool.org).

**Save the Date!**  
**Wilkes East Neighborhood**  
**Spring 2024 Meeting**  
**Monday, March 11th, 7PM**  
**Moose Lodge • 16411 NE Halsey**

- Chief Scott Lewis  
Gresham Fire
- Janet Unruh  
Rockwood Greenspace Now
- Neighborhood news and more

**See you there!**

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

