



# Grant Park Neighborhood Association

P.O. Box 13102, Portland, OR 97213

Summer 2016

## Tree Inventory in Grant Park

You may have seen volunteers around Grant Park this summer, measuring and documenting trees. What is going on? Through the Tree Inventory Project, Urban Forestry is helping Portlanders take action to improve their community's street trees, one neighborhood at a time. The project began in 2010 and many neighborhoods have inventoried their street trees and even created neighborhood tree management plans. Volunteers have identified, measured, and mapped over 150,000 street trees! This summer the project has come to Grant Park.

Street trees are the ones located between the street and an adjacent tax lot. They are an important public asset, and serve as a buffer between street and home. Among other benefits, they filter stormwater, increase property values, calm traffic, and regulate summer temperatures.

In Portland, street trees are managed in partnership. PP&R Urban Forestry regulates street tree removal, planting, and maintenance through a permitting process, and home owners are responsible for the care and maintenance of trees. A healthy urban forest depends on the active engagement of all parties. Empowering neighborhood groups to care for their urban canopy is what the Tree Inventory Project is all about.

Active neighborhood groups begin by gathering volunteers. They are guided by Urban Forestry staff, who provide training, tools, and event organization. Working together, they collect information on tree species, size, health, site conditions, and available planting spaces.

Once an inventory of neighborhood street trees is complete the data is analyzed, and findings are presented to neighborhood stakeholders at an annual Tree Summit in November. At the summit, the data will be used to create a management plan with concrete action items to improve neighborhood tree canopy. Urban Forestry helps neighborhoods implement the action items they choose to move forward with.

Neighborhoods can form a working group and set achievable strategies to improve existing trees, expand tree canopy, and connect the neighborhood with city and nonprofit resources.

More than just producing data and developing a tree plan, this project brings communities together. Participating in the tree inventory project is a great way to meet your neighbors and connect with others who value our green resources!

For more information go to [www.portlandoregon.gov/parks/53181](http://www.portlandoregon.gov/parks/53181).

[www.grantpark-na.org](http://www.grantpark-na.org)

### STAY IN TOUCH

Find us at Facebook:  
[GrantParkNeighborhood](https://www.facebook.com/GrantParkNeighborhood);  
Tweet us at [@GPNAPortland](https://twitter.com/GPNAPortland)  
Join our discussion group at: [groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/gpna-forum](https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/gpna-forum)

### GPNA MEETINGS

Meetings are held quarterly on the third Tuesday of the month. Our annual meeting, when elections are held is in April. Special meetings, when needed, may be scheduled at any time. Meetings are open.

Grant Park Neighborhood Association is open to ALL persons living or working within its boundaries. If you need special accommodations, please contact a Board member.

### NEXT MEETING & AGENDA

Board Meeting Sept 20, 2016  
Regular Meeting Nov 15, 2016  
Board Meeting Jan 17, 2017  
Board Meeting Mar 21, 2017  
Annual Meeting Apr 18, 2017 Board Meeting Jun 20, 2017  
Board Meeting Sept 19, 2017  
Regular Meeting Nov 21, 2017

To check the meeting schedule and agenda, or to suggest an agenda topic, please go to: [grantpark-na.org/thehood/meetings.html](http://grantpark-na.org/thehood/meetings.html)

### GPNA EXECUTIVE BOARD

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Contact the board at:

[GrantPark@necoalition.org](mailto:GrantPark@necoalition.org)

## The Story of Harry and What We Discovered

By Kate Davenport

Harry was a neighbor of mine who lived a quiet life, mostly alone. He had many casual friends in the area, but no close ones, and no family that we knew of. As he grew older, and his health began to fail, the whole neighborhood helped as much as he would allow, mowing his lawn and such. But Harry liked to do for himself. We all worried, and tried to keep an eye on him, while still respecting his privacy.

Then one day, just by chance, I saw Harry was sitting on his front steps with a woman hovering over him. She had seen Harry struggling, brought him home from the store, and called 911. When the EMTs arrived, they said Harry needed to go to the hospital and asked if either of us was his contact person. I said I would be, and Harry said OK.

Because of that authorization, I was able to know what hospital, hospice, and funeral home Harry eventually went to. Without it, HIPPA rules would not have allowed his neighbors, as non-family, to find out anything. Without that one thing, Harry would have simply disappeared into the ambulance and we would not have known what was going on.

Our next concern was his house, which was not secured, and was now unoccupied. (Luckily, no pets were involved). We checked with the City police, the State police, and the County sheriff to see what we could do. We found out that nobody knew for sure, and nobody knew who we SHOULD contact.

The official consensus was, since no imminent risk was involved – don't go into the house. However, one neighbor was a contractor, and was able to at least secure the doors. We continued to mow the lawn, care for the outside and keep an eye on the place.

After a month in limbo, and much diligent research we discovered that the Oregon Department of State Lands (ODSL) administers estates where there is no will and no known heirs. They came out, took possession of the keys and began the official process of looking for Harry's heirs. We asked them to leave Harry's car so the house would not look empty, and they complied.

In this kind of situation, ODSL agency staff will search for heirs with resources not readily available to the public. If none can be identified, or if they refuse the estate, then ODSL will perform the duties of a personal representative according to state probate laws. Property will be sold, creditors paid, and then the ODSL will hold the estate in trust for 10 years. If no proven heirs make a claim, the estate permanently reverts to the Common School fund.

It took months but, in our case, ODSL was eventually able to find a cousin that Harry had lost touch with, who is taking over the estate. We don't yet know what that means for our neighborhood, but it does not mean a deteriorating house, or squatters. (Harry also owned his parent's house in SE Portland which had been used by squatters as a drug house.)

What we learned:

- Encourage a person who has no family or support to designate a neighbor as their contact person, so someone can stay in the loop. Without such authorization, a hospital or other care facility can confirm the presence of a neighbor and advise whether visitors are welcome, but not much more.
- Concerned neighbors can maintain the exterior and grounds of a home, but should not enter it without appropriate authorization.
- If there are pets involved, contact the local police.
- Let the police know the home is empty. They will monitor the property.
- If a person without family dies, you can contact ODSL yourself to start the estate process.

ODSL Estates Program staff have increased their efforts to contact funeral homes, medical examiners and others to educate them about ODSL's responsibilities, but many still don't know. For more information, go to: [www.oregon.gov/dsl/ESTATES/Pages/index.aspx](http://www.oregon.gov/dsl/ESTATES/Pages/index.aspx)

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## Changes Coming to TriMet

According to the TriMet North/Central Service Enhancement Plan there are some big changes coming to the bus service in Grant Park. The plan was developed using public input, and data about existing and future population growth, employment trends and transportation patterns. The result is a vision that calls for two new bus lines and multiple changes to existing bus routes.

In the Grant Park area:

- 17-Holgate/Broadway will shift from NE 24th to NE 33rd Avenue and run to and from downtown via the Broadway bridge.
- A new bus line will provide service on NE 24th and NE 27th Ave and will create a new continuous north-south transit connection between NE Portland and Sellwood.
- 4-Fremont will extend from its existing route across the Fremont Bridge connecting to Providence Park in NW Portland.
- Line 77 connecting Troutdale to downtown Portland will operate more frequently.

TriMet currently provides no timeline for completion of these changes and additions. To find out more or comment, go to: [future.trimet.org/northcentral](http://future.trimet.org/northcentral).

## Grant Pool Reopens!

Closed since March, the Grant Park pool reopened in mid-August. Much of the infrastructure at the pool was crumbling and had been in place since the pool opened in the 1920s. It needed to be replaced, along with: plumbing, pumps, motors, pipes, chemical controllers, sanitation systems, gutters, deck drains, and more. The work also included ADA accessibility improvements. So check it out!

## Grant Park Church

Sunday Worship at 11 am  
 Serving Grant Park and Portland for 90 years  
 Home for 4 churches and 2 pre-schools.  
 2728 NE 34th Ave • 503-282-5596  
 More at [GrantParkChurch.com](http://GrantParkChurch.com)

*All are Welcome!*

## Getting to Know Our Neighbors

Mighty Oaks Preschool begins its 5th year in the Grant Park neighborhood. Children engage in a student-interest led, play-based curriculum that encourages creativity, independence, and problem solving strategies while incorporating academic skills. The inspiration comes from a variety of constructivist theorists including Maria Montessori and John Dewey. Mighty Oaks believes that children learn best by doing and experiencing life first-hand.

Students have the opportunity to create art, engage in dramatic play, get dirty, get inspired, discover favorite books, explore, learn, laugh, and grow together. Children have the opportunity to explore their natural environment. They benefit from the stability of a schedule while having the flexibility necessary to thrive with a play and discovery-based curriculum.

Mighty Oaks' Founder & Director, Brittany Smith, is a licensed teacher with over a decade of experience with young children, and a Masters in Early Childhood and Elementary Education. Smith is passionate about providing quality education to a diverse population of learners.

As a non-profit, Mighty Oaks has the opportunity to delve more deeply into supporting the community and the whole family, and to refine and focus its holistic educational goals.

The Mighty Oaks board of directors includes: an AMI certified Montessori school teacher/director and owner of Montessori Children's House, a Reading and Math Intervention Specialist, who serves on a committee to advise the Department of Education, among others.

Smith collaborates with local elementary school teachers to ensure that Mighty Oaks offers an educational environment that fosters kindergarten readiness and instills a lifelong love of learning.

Mighty Oaks is currently accepting applications for students aged 2-5 years. To schedule an informational tour contact Mighty Oaks at 503-922-2869 or visit [www.mightyoakspreschool.com](http://www.mightyoakspreschool.com).

### Grant H.S. Construction

The start of major reconstruction at Grant High School is less than a year away. Grant will be closed during the two-year construction period and the school will move to Marshall Campus at 3905 SE 91st Ave in SE Portland. Decisions about student transportation are still in process. The construction itself is expected to have a large impact on the neighborhood, and GPNA will try to provide useful information as it becomes available.

What is the timeline for the construction?

- **Summer of 2017** - Construction begins
- **Summer 2019** - Construction of Grant H.S. ends
- **Fall 2019** - Students return to a modernized Grant

For the latest information about school building improvements, go to: <http://www.pps.net/Page/474>; contact: 503-916-2222; or email [schoolmodernization@pps.net](mailto:schoolmodernization@pps.net). To receive updates and events notices, join the Grant project mailing list at [GHSmod@pps.net](mailto:GHSmod@pps.net)

### FREE EMSWCD Fall Workshops

Attend one of the East Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District FREE workshops this fall! Discover simple steps to create an attractive, low-maintenance landscape that conserves water, reduces pollution, and can increase your home value.

Learn about native plants; beneficial insects; naturoscaping; raingardens; providing healthy habitat; and more! These classes are for all levels and will help you bring your garden visions to life.

Find out more or register at: [emswcd.org/workshops-and-events/upcoming-workshops/](http://emswcd.org/workshops-and-events/upcoming-workshops/).

## LEARN SPANISH!

- Small-groups - All Levels - For Adults
- Conversation and Cultural Immersion
- Daytime and Evening Schedule Options

\*Also, Children's Spanish classes & Private Lessons!\*



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### School is in Session Again

Schools are in session again, so be careful and watch out for kids travelling to and from school.

- **Grant High School** | 2245 NE 36th  
*8am - 3pm | Lunch 11:37am - 12:19pm (open campus)*
- **Beverly Cleary Schools:**  
Fernwood Site | 1915 NE 33rd  
*8:30am - 3pm | Lunch (closed campus)*  
Hollywood Site | 3560 NE Hollywood Ct.  
*8:30am - 2:45pm | Lunch (closed campus)*
- **Portland International Community School (PICS)** | 2728 NE 34th  
*9am - 3:30pm | 5-9pm | Lunch (closed campus)*

### Grant Park Village Phase II

The Design Commission has approved Grant Park Village Phase II, a new 5-story building by LRS Architects and Lango Hansen landscape architects for developer Capstone Partners. The project will include 167 residential units and 100 underground parking spaces.

The building will be the second phase in the development of Grant Park Village, located on the former site of the Albina Fuel Co in the Sullivan's Gulch neighborhood.

The site is adjacent to the future Sullivan's Gulch Trail, and the project will include an access easement that connects NE 32nd Ave to the trail alignment.

The first phase was approved in 2013 and completed in late 2014. Construction is set to begin on phase II later this year and will be complete in 2018. Building permits need to be obtained before work can begin.

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