



# Grant Park

## Neighborhood Association

P.O. Box 13102, Portland, OR 97213

Winter 2023

### Update on Gordon's

By Neon Brooks

GPNA continues to meet with city staff about the deteriorating state of the old Gordon's building at NE 33rd and NE Broadway. At a meeting on November 8th, the city told neighborhood representatives that this building is one of their top priorities for addressing public nuisance. Recently, the city reached out to the developer, Rob Brewster, to offer to pay half of the cost to remove the graffiti. In turn, Mr. Brewster would be required to address the trash, graffiti, and broken windows. Sadly, Mr. Brewster has not been receptive to this generous offer.

To address nuisance complaints, the city files a warrant with the court to enter the property and address broken and loose glass, pick up trash, and secure the building. The city will then charge the property owner for the work. When a nuisance complaint is remedied, the case is closed and has no bearing on subsequent action. This is why it is helpful for neighbors to continue to share their concerns with the city. Every complaint opens a new case and keeps this issue on the city's radar.

There are also two other cases against the property which will remain open until the building is fully repaired or demolished. One is a housing case related to falling glass and loose masonry. The city can charge fees related to this case but has no direct way to make the landowner deal with these concerns. There is also a case related to the graffiti on the property. The city is currently building a process for escalating graffiti cases that are not addressed, but the timeline for this process is not clear.

Because the property owners continue to pay fines issued by the city, the property is not a candidate for foreclosure. The best long-term scenario is to find a way to activate the property going forward. GPNA is interested in working with the city and the developer to find a path forward for this building to become an asset to the community. As always, we welcome neighborhood input on how to move this building forward. We appreciate the community's commitment to reporting code violations on the property.

To report graffiti: <https://www.portland.gov/bps/graffiti/report-graffiti>

To report code violations, such as broken glass and masonry:

Property Compliance Help Line, Bureau of Development Services  
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711 Oregon Relay Service

### GPNA Livability Survey Results

By Gian Lozano

Hello neighbors! There was quite a variety of answers given for the GPNA Livability Survey, so instead of listing rows of numbers we chose to provide some meaningful highlights instead. First, respondents thought Grant Park is a safe (21%) and pretty safe neighborhood (39%), and no one said it was very unsafe. Also, walk/bike ability was the most "liked" part of the neighborhood (62%), followed by sense of community (59%) and our local stores (41%). The three least liked aspects were crime (46%),

*continued page 2*

#### UPCOMING MEETINGS:

- January 9, 2024
- March 12, 2024
- May 14, 2024
- September 10, 2024
- November 12, 2024

#### LOCATION:

We are now holding hybrid meetings. The in-person meeting location is Grant Park Church. To obtain the agenda and the Zoom meeting link, go to the meetings page on our website, [grantpark-na.org](http://grantpark-na.org).

#### MEETINGS:

GPNA holds elections at the Annual Meeting in March. Necessary special or emergency meetings may be scheduled at any time. Meetings are open to the public. ALL adults living, working, or attending high school within its boundaries are members of Grant Park Neighborhood Association. If you need special accommodation, please contact a Board member.

#### GPNA

#### EXECUTIVE BOARD:

##### President:

*Stacey Tipp*

##### Co-Vice Presidents:

*Ramona Perrault and  
Molly Hamill*

##### Secretary:

*Kara Caselas*

##### Treasurer:

*Kara Caselas*

##### Land Use Chair:

*Neon Brooks*

##### Newsletter Editor:

*Stacey Tipp*

##### At Large:

*Mary Artz, Linda Burch,  
Jill De Rosa, Remington Evert,  
Tom Fawell, Gian Lozano,  
Veronica Lozano,  
Laurene Mullen, Jake Wicks*

##### Contact the Board at:

[general@grantpark-na.org](mailto:general@grantpark-na.org)

## Survey Results, continued

trash/beauty (43%) and homelessness/mental health issues (41%).

Looking to the future, the number one change neighbors would like to see are new businesses setting up shop here (38%). To strengthen our sense of community and have some fun, music in the park was the most requested (64%), followed by movies in the park (40%), and having a garden/home tour (36%).

When asked, (71%) thought GPNA “is doing a good job”, but some neighbors don’t know what we do (19%). For those not in the know, briefly the neighborhood association is a volunteer organization that serves as the liaison between Grant Park residents and businesses, and the city government. We try to improve the sense of community, as well as the health and livability of our neighborhood. Our efforts include keeping neighbors up to date on neighborhood news by producing this newsletter four times per year, neighborhood clean-ups, addressing neighborhood blight (e.g., Gordon’s Fireplace), and

ensuring that when controversial issues come up in the neighborhood (which are invariably land use issues), all residents can have their voices heard. We are also part of a nine-member coalition of close by neighborhoods, and work with these neighborhoods on issues of wider concern than just Grant Park.

The survey results show that neighbors are most interested in seeing projects such as trash pickup (61%), graffiti removal (54%), and street planter upkeep (29%). For a night on the town, the most visited neighborhoods taking top honors include Alberta (28%), Fremont (24%), and Hollywood (22%).

GPNA wants to thank all of you who completed the livability survey, and a special thanks to those neighbors who requested to get involved. We hope to tackle some of the fun and not so fun requests moving forward and would love a little help bringing these requests to fruition. A great place to start is by attending one of our meetings. Hope to see you there!

## Please Support Your Neighborhood Association

*Dear Neighbors,*

If you have a feel for the finer things in life, you might notice something different about this issue of the newsletter. To manage costs, we have transitioned to printing on paper of reduced quality compared to previous issues. Our neighborhood association runs on a tight budget, and this limits what we can do to improve our neighborhood’s vitality, livability, and sense of community.

If you value our work and can make a donation, it would make a big difference in helping us continue to provide updates on the neighborhood through our newsletters and website, and host community events and clean ups. Whether it’s a larger or smaller amount, every contribution counts. You can easily donate through our PayPal account at [paypal.me/GPNApdx](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?url=https://www.grantpark-na.org). If you prefer using checks, please make them out to Central Northeast Neighbors, and note “For Grant Park Neighborhood Association” in the memo line. Checks should be mailed to Central Northeast Neighbors at 4415 NE 87th Avenue, Portland, 97220. Central Northeast Neighbors will send you a thank-you letter acknowledging your donation that can be used for tax purposes.

Thank you for your consideration and for being such great neighbors!

*With gratitude,*

Stacey Tipp  
GPNA President

Kara Caselas  
Treasurer/Secretary

### Contributing to this Newsletter

For information on letters to the editor and how to submit an article to this newsletter, as well as newsletter advertising and advertising rates, please go to the newsletters page on our website:  
[www.grantpark-na.org](http://www.grantpark-na.org)



**Grant Park**  
Neighborhood Association



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## New AT&T Cell Towers Planned Near 33rd and Knott St.

By Neon Brooks

In October, representatives of Centerline Communications, a contractor with AT&T, reached out to GPNA and the Alameda Neighborhood Association to inform us of planned construction of a wireless facility within the neighborhood. In compliance with the permitting process for such a facility, the contractor arranged a neighborhood meeting that was held at Grant Park Church on November 15th. Neighbors with homes within 400 feet of the proposed facilities were informed of the event by flier. Additionally, GPNA publicized the meeting to our email subscribers and by posting on Nextdoor.

The meeting was attended by Centerline Contractors, AT&T representatives, a representative of the City of Portland Office of Community Technology, and about 20 community members. The presentation given by the contractors can be found here: <https://www.attconnects.com/att-portland-hearing/>.

At the meeting, we learned that AT&T used to have a cell tower at or near the chimney at Grant High School. The chimney was destroyed as part of the renovation of Grant, and PPS did not renew their lease to host an AT&T cell tower. Because of this, we were told that there has been poor AT&T wireless coverage in our neighborhood since that time. This affects phone and internet speeds/reliability as well as emergency response capabilities.

AT&T has contracted with Centerline to build a new cell tower in the rectangular area bounded approximately by NE 32nd Ave. and US Grant Place in the SW and NE 41st and Wysteria in the NE. The team concluded that given the highly residential area, there were no other places to put an 80-ft tower, so they have devised a solution that involves placing antennas atop two 52-55ft utility poles and hosting additional infrastructure on top of the building at 2707 NE 33rd Avenue.

The two utility poles located at Knott and 33rd Ave (NW Corner) and Knott and 35th Pl (NW Corner) would be replaced with new poles adding 9.5' in height, and antennas would be placed atop the replaced poles. The antenna at 33rd would reach a height of 55', the pole at 35th Pl. would reach a height of 52'. The presentation linked to above provides renderings of how these antennae would appear in the surrounding area.

The proposed work is in the early stages and has not yet been submitted to the Portland Office of Community Technology (OCT). After it is submitted, the OCT will review the site and specifications to ensure the plan complies with zoning and height limits. After OCT approval, the Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT) would be involved in coordinating construction in the right

of way, and the Bureau of Development Services (BDS) would be involved in permitting the development at 2707 NE 33rd. There will not be a BDS process of any kind for the towers. There is no formal requirement for further community input/approval of the project.

Andrew Speer from the Office of Community Technology was present at the meeting. He said the best way for community members to plug in on this on the city level is to reach out to the relevant city commissioners (Rubio for the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability, which houses OCT, and of BDS; Mapps for the Bureau of Transportation).

Neighbors raised concerns about possible health consequences of the Radio Frequency technology used by the antennae. Centerline and AT&T officials were clear that the plans would comply with all federal safety standards for radio transmission but provided few specific details.

Neighbors also worried about the appearance of the towers. Some neighbors reported that their own research online had found that cell towers can have meaningful effects on property values. The officials noted that the towers can be painted any color that the community chooses, and recommended that silver/plain steel may blend in best with the sky. GPNA requested renderings with the silver color and Centerline said they would provide those.

Neighbors also discussed the challenges of having the 33rd and Knott intersection closed in the past and asked for details on the construction's impact on traffic. Centerline said all contracting groups (Centerline, the power company, everyone else who uses the pole) would have to provide traffic control plans to PBOT. AT&T noted that this type of work does not usually require fully closing the intersection and could potentially preserve the right of way.

Philip Kitzes from Centerline promised a response to all community questions that they weren't adequately able to answer at the meeting, including safety concerns. As of December 1st, we expect these updates within about a week. Several neighbors have reached out to GPNA voicing opposition to this project or with interest in mitigating its impacts. GPNA hopes to serve as a resource to connect neighbors who have interest in this issue. At this point, Commissioner Rubio's office is probably the best point of contact in the Portland Government regarding this issue. We encourage feedback from all neighbors about this project and will continue to keep the community informed of updates.

## Grant Bowl Turf Repairs Underway

By Neon Brooks

As noted in our Fall newsletter, the Grant Bowl track and football field was shut down for organized sports in August due to safety concerns related to the turf. The field is owned by Portland Parks and Recreation (Parks), who had no plans to replace the turf.

Since that time, Parks and Portland Public Schools (PPS) have committed funds to replacing the Grant Bowl Turf in Winter 2023-24 and replacing the track in Summer of 2024, and Parks has permitted these repairs. Replacement of the turf is currently underway and is scheduled to be complete by the end of February (in time for Grant High School spring sports); track replacement would take place over the summer. This is a major win for our community!

In addition to the agreement to replace the turf, and in response to advocacy from the Grant Bowl Community Coalition (GBCC, a newly formed group of Grant parents and community members), PPS and Parks are in talks about a long-term lease of the Grant Bowl to PPS. The lease would allow PPS to maintain and manage the bowl, as well as to develop the bowl further (e.g., adding lights, seating, fencing, and/or auxiliary buildings as proposed in the Grant Bowl Master Plan, <https://tinyurl.com/GPMPlan>). As of early November, lease terms included priority access for PPS students but continued public access whenever not in use by PPS (park hours are from 5am to 10pm daily) and continued availability for 3rd party permitting. Ongoing points of negotiation included control of permitting revenue and whether the Grant Park Upper Field (just to the east of the bowl, co-owned by Parks and PPS) would be included in the contract, with increases in public access to this field as well.

GPNA has been active in advocating for replacement of the turf as well as preservation of casual public access to the bowl and upper field. We sent two letters to the city asking that Parks work with PPS to replace the turf while preserving casual public access to the field and the surrounding track. We also wrote a letter in March advocating for renewal of casual public access to the upper field. All three of these letters can be found on the News and Events page of our website (<http://grantpark-na.org/news-events/>).

On September 30th, GPNA hosted a community meeting to hear from neighbors, as well as from Grant High School (GHS) Principal James McGee and members of the GBCC about concerns related to the field. It was clear at that meeting that all parties greatly value the bowl as a community asset. Neighbors expressed a desire for the bowl to continue being open to the public when not in use by GHS students, and for co-use during times when it is

possible for GHS to use the field and neighbors to use the track.

Principal McGee and the GBCC expressed that the status quo prior to August 2023 was not working well for GHS students: GHS is one of only two PPS high schools that does not have its own varsity football/soccer field, and students lose a sense of community and hours of instructional time traveling to Delta Park and other fields for home games. To play home games at the Grant Bowl, Principal McGee said that the addition of lights, concrete seating, and fencing would be needed.

Neighbors attending the meeting voiced support for lighting and concrete seating in the bowl, although some raised concerns about how fencing could affect public access as well as the park environment. Some community members have noted that temporary fencing could be sufficient for varsity football games and other large events. Neighbors also voiced concern about PPS managing the Bowl based on recent experiences with the Upper Field, where historic public access has been cut off since the completion of recent field improvements.

GPNA board members Neon Brooks and Tom Fawell attended a meeting on October 16th convened by Commissioner Dan Ryan's office that included Parks, PPS, GPNA, GBCC, and the Grant Football Boosters. At the meeting, Parks shared the current proposed lease between Parks and PPS. GPNA board members expressed support for making changes so that Grant athletes can play varsity games on the field but raised concerns about preserving the maximum amount of public access to the bowl and the upper field, and our belief that co-use of the field and track can continue during most of the hours that GHS students are using the field.

At the meeting, PPS School Board members noted that they do not currently have any funds dedicated to implementation of any part of the Grant Bowl Master Plan. They suggested that such funds could be acquired as part of a bond put to voters in 2024, although members of the GBCC stated that they would like PPS to find funds for lighting sooner than that. Installation of lights, seating, or any auxiliary buildings on the site would require a full land use review process with opportunities for community input. While installation of fencing alone may not require such a process, fencing of the bowl does not appear to be a high priority independent of the full Master Plan.

PPS and Parks have been trading lease offers for the past several weeks since September. As of early November, a key area of disagreement appeared to be whether public access to the Upper Field would be included in

the agreement. Our contacts at Dan Ryan’s office have informed us that they are committed to including access to the upper field in the lease. The lease negotiation process slowed in November as PPS’s focus shifted to resolution of the teachers’ strike.

GPNA will continue monitoring developments on this issue and sharing them with the community. Our goal is to hear and represent all community viewpoints on this issue. To date, most of the feedback we have received reflects support of student athletes and their need for a

varsity field, but a strong desire to maintain/restore strong public access to Park resources. Please do not hesitate to reach out to [gplanduse@gmail.com](mailto:gplanduse@gmail.com) to share any thoughts on this issue. By sharing your perspective, you help GPNA advocate effectively for the interests of the whole community!

To receive the timeliest updates on the Grant Bowl and other neighborhood issues, please consider signing up for our email newsletter at <http://grantpark-na.org/contact-us/>



## Grant Park Church

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## Join the Technology Committee and Shape Our Digital Future!

By Kara Caselas

Are you passionate about technology and eager to contribute to our neighborhood’s digital presence? The GPNA Technology Committee invites enthusiasts of all experience levels to join our dynamic team!

In just an hour or less a month, you can play a key role in enhancing our community’s connectivity. We’re seeking individuals interested in growing our email distribution list, revamping our website, and devising efficient systems for engaging digital newsletters.

No prior experience is necessary—just bring your enthusiasm and a willingness to learn. Whether you’re a tech wizard or just starting your digital journey, your unique perspective is valuable!

By joining the Technology Committee, you’ll have the opportunity to make a lasting impact on our neighborhood’s online experience. Let’s collaborate to build a more connected and tech-savvy community. Ready to dive in? Join us today and be part of the digital transformation!

Contact us at [general@grantpark-na.org](mailto:general@grantpark-na.org) to get started!

# Be a Part of Our Community

**Attend an upcoming Grant Park Neighborhood Association meeting:**

- January 9, 2024
- March 12, 2024
- May 14, 2024
- September 10, 2024
- November 12, 2024

**LOCATION:**

We are now holding hybrid meetings. The in-person meeting location is Grant Park Church. To obtain the agenda and the Zoom meeting link, go to the meetings page on our website, [grantpark-na.org](http://grantpark-na.org).

# Jake, Superstar Dog

By Stacey Tipp



Jake, glamor shot

There are a lot of nice dog owners in Grant Park. Many of them gather with their pups in the off-leash area by the grassy soccer field north of Grant High School. One day, I was hanging out there with my ginormous dog Curly when I struck up a conversation with Scott Sanders, who was there with his even more ginormous Weimaraner, Doc.

Scott, who spins a good yarn, started to tell me about his late dog, Jake, and Jake’s miraculously successful acting career. I thought initially Scott was having me on and telling me a shady shaggy dog story. But turns out, it was all true.

Scott was a fledgling actor in New York in the eighties, trained by some of the best acting coaches like Stella Adler and Lee Strasberg. He gets his big break and is cast in Woody Allen’s Stardust Memories. When the movie wraps, Scott celebrates by buying himself a golden retriever puppy that he names Jake Baldini Sanders (Baldini is apparently a character in a Donald Sutherland cult film called Steelyard Blues. Who knew?).

Sadly, Scott’s role in the Woody Allen movie was cut, and he was back to being just one of the many struggling actors trying to make a living in New York. But things were about to take an unexpected turn. On a whim, Scott got headshots done of his dog Jake and takes them to a top animal agent. Almost immediately, Jake’s career takes off and he’s getting nonstop work. He starts off with print jobs, then TV commercials, and then a series of TV movies with Mr. T! He becomes the official campaign dog for Ralston Purina.

Jake’s career starts to seriously eclipse Scott’s, who is relegated to something of a stage mom role for Jake. But there is an upside to being outshined by your dog. Jake’s paychecks bought his human family a summer home in the Catskills on six acres of land. Jake’s shine is so bright that he even gets a gig with Cartier diamonds, although he’s obligated not to poop in public. In a billboard ad for Cartier, Jake’s seen frolicking in a sunny meadow with four women dripping with diamonds.

David Letterman even wanted to get in on the Jake phenomenon, hosting Jake and Scott on his show. There Jake and Scott get to hang out with fellow guests Farrah Fawcett and exercise guru Richard Simmons. After Letterman, Scott and Jake were both featured in the NY Post under the title, “Actor’s Dog Turns Ham, Takes All the Bows” (see picture). Shortly after this, Cartier bought a rival company, Beldon, and announces this by ringing the bell at the NY Stock Exchange. Guess who rang the bell? Not Scott.

Sadly, Jake died far too young after getting bitten at his Catskills home by a raccoon, an injury that led to infection. He is sadly missed and fondly remembered, and how his story hasn’t been made into a movie, I have no idea. But Jake lives on in Scott’s son, Jake, who was named after Jake the Dog.

These days Scott, who moved to the left coast 20 years ago, is still wrestling with cross-cultural challenges.

Scott’s told stories in multiple Moth Grandslams, Moth Mainstage events, NPR’s Snap Judgement, and storytelling/comedy venues throughout the Bay Area, NYC, LA, and now Portland. He introduced urban tagging to the Inner Mongolian Territories of China. He never considers not jaywalking. His website is: [grosslynormallife.com](http://grosslynormallife.com).

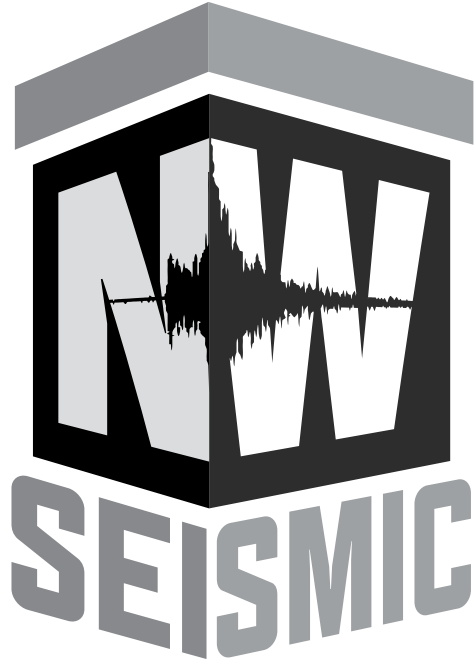
And, if you drop by on any given afternoon at the Grant Park dog park, chances are you might run into Scott and Doc. Doc might not be a superstar like Jake, but he’s a good old boy, nonetheless.



New York Post, August 9, 1984



Scott and Doc on the road again



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## Diesel Pollution in Portland

By Morgan Towle, Community Engagement Coordinator, Neighbors for Clean Air

It was nearly 13 years ago that Mary Peveto, executive director of Oregon nonprofit Neighbors for Clean Air (NCA), discovered something staggering. While researching organic school lunches, she stumbled upon a national study published in 2007 that showed her daughters' school, Chapman Elementary, to be ranked among the worst 2% in the nation for toxic industrial air pollution. In fact, Multnomah County as a whole is in the bottom 2% in the nation, resulting in ninety percent of Portland residents living in neighborhoods where the air they breathe can cause cancer, asthma, COPD, developmental issues and more.

The report in question, published by Oregon DEQ, detailed the issue of industrial air pollution in the state. Specifically, that the high concentration of diesel particulate matter in Oregon exceeds healthy benchmarks set by neighbors Washington and California by 30 times. The results are quantified in 466 premature deaths each year, 26,000 lost workdays, and \$3.5 billion in losses per year due to workdays and health care costs. These facts are even more shocking given Oregon's green reputation, and a general consensus among residents of the importance of our natural resources. Our air is one of our critical natural resources, and for too many of our fellow Portlanders, the air they breathe is killing them.

### While bad air affects everyone, black, brown, and indigenous communities face far higher risks. Why?

Majority BIPOC communities are disproportionately overburdened by dirty diesel. In fact, BIPOC residents are exposed to rates of toxic air pollution that exceed white residents by 2-3 times. One reason for this is that industrial polluters, like freeways, freight shipping warehouses, and rail yards are often sited nearer to majority BIPOC neighborhoods. In Portland, 38% of BIPOC people live next to an industrial polluter compared to 33% of white people.

For example, the neighborhoods within the Parkrose School District in East Portland experience diesel pollution 4 to 6 times above Oregon's health benchmark for diesel particulates. This is the most diverse school district in the state. Of the 3,000 students in the district, 70% are BIPOC. Yet instead of working to limit diesel emissions in the area, the city prioritizes economic development at the expense of the health and wellbeing of residents. While the city claims to use environmental justice practices in land use decisions, their actions fail to uphold that goal, as shown by siting a 260,000 square foot freight caddy corner to Parkrose High School. As stated by County Commissioner Susheela Jayapal, on the racist history of land use planning in Portland, "Where we sited industry,

highways and rail lines was directly related to who lived in those places, and the legacy of that continues."

Children suffer particularly, as they breathe at higher rates than adults and therefore breathe in more pollution. The risks are clear. Combining exposures faced by BIPOC communities to the higher risks to children means that BIPOC children are among the most harmed by diesel pollution.

### Why is diesel pollution such an issue here?

Oregon has not done enough to address air pollution. The air program in Oregon is one of the weakest in the nation, allowing industrial facilities to pollute at levels equivalent to the pre-Clean Air Act era of the 1970's with no standards to enforce and no incentives that require best available industrial emissions technology. Additionally, Oregon's lax approach to regulation has allowed it to be the dumping ground for old dirty diesel engines that are outlawed in our neighboring states. This has meant that despite a legislative mandate to reduce diesel emissions enacted in 2007, Oregon has seen stagnant and persistent levels of this dangerous pollution in our most vulnerable communities. In fact, since that legislative mandate in 2007, the state has only managed to reduce diesel emissions by 2%.

In particular, we lack legislation that regulates indirect sources of pollution. These indirect sources include construction sites, distribution centers, and shipyards, which account for 65% of emissions in the Portland metro region and 32% statewide. While many other states have enacted regulations of indirect sources, Oregon leaders have continually denied the need for such legislation. Despite the overwhelming amount of evidence showing how diesel regulation will save lives, the potential for electrification has led many climate-conscious decision makers to believe the time for diesel regulation has passed.

### Why not wait for electrification?

The advancement of electric technology is inspiring and has great promise to significantly lower emissions. Electric construction equipment, however, is only now at its infancy. If we wait until this equipment is widely available, our diesel crisis will only deepen, putting our lives and our climate at risk. We need to act now.

For more information about the fight for clean air visit our website, [neighborsforcleanair.org](http://neighborsforcleanair.org)