

Grant Park Neighborhood Association

P.O. Box 13102, Portland, OR 97213

Fall 2017

Grant Park—

A Great Place To Live, But Not By Accident

by Stacey Tipp

In 2012 my husband got a new job in the Portland area. He moved here ahead of me, as I had to stay home in Illinois to try to sell our house there. The company agreed to pay for a rental home in Portland while we found a new, permanent home. A house in Grant Park, on NE 37th close to Broadway, was available for rent and in the right price range.

In summer, 2012 I came out to visit, and immediately fell in love with the place. What a contrast to the sterile northwest suburbs of Chicago! Super-friendly people who actually walk places, a jewel of a park, little free libraries and poetry posts, and folks planting and working in their own gardens (as opposed to the ubiquitous lawn crews where we used to live).

While we looked at a few homes in Laurelhurst and other nearby neighborhoods, we knew we really wanted to be in Grant Park. Despite huge buyer competition for any available home, even back then, we finally purchased a house at 32nd and Knott. Every day, especially as I walk my little dog around the neighborhood, I am thankful for ending up here.

Last year I joined the Grant Park Neighborhood Association (GPNA) as an at-large member. This means I don't have any specific responsibilities, but show up to meetings and jump in on projects or committees wherever my interests and availability coincide. During my tenure on the association, I have become convinced that one of the reasons Grant Park is a great place to live, is the enormous commitment, hard work, and civic-mindedness of the relatively small group of volunteers who serve or have served on the GPNA.

- Exhibit A: Ron Laster, who has served on the GPNA for 23 years (!), including seven years as president, eleven years as vice president, and five years as treasurer.
- Exhibit B: Kate Davenport, who served on the association from 2003 to 2016, and has served as the editor of the neighborhood association newsletter from 2007 to the present.
- Exhibit C: MaryCal Hanson, who has been on the board for eleven years, first as an at-large member for one year, then board secretary for ten years. MaryCal has also worked on or helped coordinate the association's main fund raiser, the annual Spring clean-up, for nine years.

These are only some of the folks who have put in years of service to making our community such a wonderful place to live. And if you want a partial list of some of the work done by the GPNA, go to grantpark-na.org and pull up the

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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

Or join us at: grantparkor.nextdoor.com

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 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

GPNA EXECUTIVE BOARD

President:

Ken Peterson

Vice Presidents:

Ron Laster

Treasurer:

Ron Laster

Secretary:

Mary Cal Hanson

Communications:

Brian Cefola - Webmaster

KC Davenport - Newsletter

At Large:

Jane Comeault

John Prell

Stacey Tipp

Olive Louise

Patrick Schmidt

Land Use Chair:

Ken Peterson

Contact the board at:

general@grantpark-na.org

Sewer Work Almost Done

Environmental Services is nearing completion of work on the Hollywood-Grant Park Sewer and Stormwater Project to repair or replace about 7 miles of public sewer pipes that were between 75 and 110 years old and in poor condition. The work included constructing 12 green street planters and six sumps to remove more than 1.2 million gallons of stormwater from the sewer system annually.

This was a major construction project and meant significant inconvenience for many people living in the area. Now that the work is completed in our area, Environmental Services asks for your help to measure how they did with their public involvement and community outreach efforts.

If you did not get a printed survey to fill out, please take some time to complete the survey online available at: www.portlandoregon.gov/bes/74007

Your response will help identify what worked and what needs improvement. If you have questions or suggestions, please contact Aaron Abrams at Aaron.Abrams@portlandoregon.gov or 503-823-2827.

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Grant Park—A Great Place To Live, But Not By Accident

Spring 2017 GPNA newsletter. There you will find an article by Ken Peterson, the current GPNA president and an eight-year board member, entitled, "What Has GPNA Done for You Lately?" It's pretty impressive.

So, what's my point? Well, my point is that we are fortunate to live in such an awesome neighborhood. There are lots of reasons for this, but undoubtedly, the work of the GPNA is right up there. While the GPNA has successfully recruited three new at-large members in the last year, we need more volunteers, energy, and ideas. Membership is open to anyone over the age of eighteen (this age limit does not apply to a school representative) who lives, owns property, operates a licensed business, or who is the designated representative of any of the following located within the neighborhood: a business, non-profit, school, or church.

But, you say, I'm too busy! Well, the GPNA Board meets only quarterly, usually on the third Tuesday of the month, our annual meeting (when elections are held) is in April, and special meetings, when needed, can be scheduled any time.

The meetings are also super-convenient to get to, as they're all held right here in the neighborhood at Grant Park Church on the corner of NE 34th Ave. and Knott St. Also, it's understood that not everyone can make every meeting. Children get sick, we go on vacation or travel for work, life interferes.

At-large members can be appointed at any time. That's a great place for a newbie to start out. So, what're you waiting for? For more information: e-mail general@grantpark-na.org or come to a meeting, as they are always open to the public.

A COMMUNITY CENTER FOR YOU!



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Please join us

Changes at NE 33rd & Broadway

The intersection at NE 33rd & Broadway is our neighborhood's major and most visible crossroad, handling an average of 30,000 cars per day. It is also poised for big changes, some known and others still to be determined.

Work on Phase 2 of Grant Park Village is progressing mostly out of sight, with Walsh Construction Co. doing the work for Capstone Partners. When finished in early 2018, the new U-shaped, five story building will be behind the visible street front of Phase 1. That phase opened in 2014, and houses New Seasons Market, and other businesses, as well as 211 apartments. The new complex will add 167 apartments and will feature an outdoor community space with a fire pit, a bike repair shop, a pet spa with a grooming station and underground parking.

Also at that intersection, many have speculated about the future use of the former Gordon's Fireplace store and the diagonally vacant Jacksons convenience store. Both have been empty for many months now, and considerable wishful thinking among Grant Park residents has ensued. Will there be more apartments, perhaps a mini version of Grant Park Village at the old Gordon's site? Perhaps a coffee shop or bakery where Jacksons was?

While no one can be sure of what will eventually happen at these prominently located commercial venues, rumor has it that both are in escrow to confidential buyers with possible fall of 2017 closing dates. Think you have the inside scoop? Cast your vote for either or both at general@grantpark-na.org and the GPNA board may reward the closest guesses with a component of that emergency preparedness kit you have been working to assemble.

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Crime Prevention Reminder

As the warm dry weather continues we want to remind people that many crimes in our area are crimes of opportunity. Homeowners forget that thieves can access unlocked or open second story windows using ladders or other climbing devices left on the property, or enter unlocked gates so they are out of sight from the street.

When gardening and working outside, people often take breaks leaving garages open and tools and other items out and unattended. Thieves may simply steal things that can be easily taken with little risk of being caught. Even though some of the reminders below may not be convenient, please do what you can to reduce vulnerabilities to these types of crimes.

If you are not able to monitor a particular area:

- Lock up ladders and other items that can be used to reach vulnerable windows and access points.
- Close garage doors, lock doors and gates, and secure open windows.
- Secure equipment, bicycles, and tools that can be used to pry open doors and windows.
- Secure air conditioners on accessible windows.
- Install locks on gates to your backyard.

Neighbors who know one another, communicate, and watch out for each other can help make the community safer.

- Know your neighbors and your neighborhood routines so you can identify suspicious activity.
- If your neighbors forget to close their garage door, gate or other access point please let them know.
- Inform neighbors that you will be out of town so that they can keep an eye out for your home.
- Provide your contact info for emergencies and communicate who will be visiting your home while you are away, so neighbors can tell if there is a problem and call the police when necessary.
- Most burglars target homes that look unoccupied,

For a contact list of Public Safety Resources:
www.portlandoregon.gov/oni/safetyresources

If you have a general crime prevention question, you can email onicpa@portlandoregon.gov or submit an online request at www.portlandoregon.gov/32302.

Getting to Know Our Neighbors

Rooks Barber Shop

By Ken Peterson

Justin King had a vision in 2009 when he founded Rooks in a small space next to Blind Onion pizza: to create an old fashioned neighborhood barber shop that provided traditional barbering services and offered a place for customers to relax, have a drink if they wanted, and talk politics. The Rooks name emanated from an old gentlemen's district in London, where a variety of services for men were available in the 1930's, some legitimate and some a bit less so.

The modern Rooks has thrived, moving to its current Grant Park location at 30th and Broadway in 2011, adding shops in downtown Portland, in SE on Division, and recently in Hood River. From its start as a one-chair operation, Rooks now has 22 barbers. All continue to offer the same traditional services, including straight razor shaves and a hot towel neck shave with each cut. Customers have a choice of complimentary beverages ranging from beer, bourbon, tequila or scotch, to coffee or an assortment of non-alcoholic drinks. Politics are freely discussed, and Rooks welcomes all opinions so long as the competing views of others are not infringed upon. King confesses to having a progressive bent, and his shops have distributed the familiar all-welcoming lawn signs that are fixtures in many parts of Portland.

Although the barbering services Rooks provides may be traditional, the barbers are definitely not. Several are women, some originally hail from different countries, and each has a distinctive personal look that reflects the diversity of Portland.

When asked to describe the strangest barbering request he has received, King mentioned a father who brought his young son in for a head shave. The visit was to punish the boy for inflicting an unwelcome scissoring of his sister's hair that did not turn out well. King politely declined the job, preferring not to become involved in a family disciplinary dispute.

Always entrepreneurial, King recently formulated the first of several planned hair care products, Double Dagger Pomade, with shampoo soon to follow. Next time you require tonsorial services, support local Grant Park businesses and give Rooks a try.

Orchard Supply Sponsorship

By Ken Peterson

A few months ago, Orchard Supply Hardware (OSH) offered to sponsor a project in our neighborhood. As OSH put it, "We would love to help your community spruce up a small, public space and help it shine a little brighter. Whether it be giving an old fence a touch-up on paint, planting or tending to a communal garden, cutting vegetation around a local building or telephone poles, any "human-sized" project it may be – Orchard would like to be there to lend a hand or twenty all at no cost to you and your community!

The offer from OSH came just as many volunteer organizations took a summer recess, GPNA included. One suggestion received from longtime Grant Park resident and horticulturist, Laurene Mullen, is to resurrect a "flower circle" surrounding the wooden Grant Park lawn sign at the corner of US Grant Place and NE 33rd (a new coat of paint for the sign couldn't hurt, either!). If anyone has a photo of the old flower circle, GPNA would love a copy. Many agree it existed and that it was popular among residents, but no one seems to have a picture to use as a model.

In years past, volunteers tended flowers that brightened that corner, which many see as they travel the neighborhood. The Parks bureau used to supply the plants, and volunteers made sure they thrived. But budget cutbacks prevented Parks from continuing to offer the seasonally changing floribunda and the flower circle eventually disappeared. According to Parks spokesman Mike Grosso, water to nurture plants can be supplied if the circle reappears.

Although the idea above seems appealing, ultimately soliciting broader public input seems like a good idea to GPNA before responding to OSH. Have an idea? Please let us know at general@grantpark-na.org.

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Revision of Bylaws

By Ken Peterson

As required by the City of Portland Office of Neighborhood Involvement (ONI), GPNA is in the process of revising its bylaws to designate membership in Central Northeast Neighbors (CNN) in place of Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods.

The actual neighborhood coalition change occurred almost a year ago, but proposed bylaw changes must be presented at two consecutive public meetings before final adoption. Amendment of the bylaws to reflect this purely procedural change will occur at the next GPNA meeting on September 19, 2017.

Are you on NextDoor?

We are hearing from people more and more online through NextDoor.com and other social networks. Are you on NextDoor? Would you like us to communicate with you more this way?

For those who aren't already members: Nextdoor is a free private online social network for you, your neighbors and your community. It's a way for you and your neighbors to talk online and perhaps connect in the real world. It is a way for people to buy, sell, connect and stay current about things happening in this neighborhood.

So let us know. Is NextDoor a good way to reach you? Is it where you would look for us? What would you like us to tell you about here?

Or is there some other communication tool we are missing? Something we are not covering that you care about? Let us know what you think at: general@grantpark-na.org.



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Grant Park Welcomes Our Neighborhood Emergency Team

Neighborhood Emergency Teams (NETs) are Portland residents trained by the Portland Bureau of Emergency Management and Portland Fire & Rescue to provide emergency disaster assistance within their own neighborhoods. NET members are trained to save lives and property until professional responders can arrive. These volunteers are specially trained to help others without putting themselves in harm's way.

As reported in the last Grant Park newsletter, Grant Park now has its own NET in place. 13 Grant Park residents have finished their NET training and will begin local training exercises and formulating a Grant Park-specific disaster response plan.

The members are: Elisabeth Cooper –Team Leader, Linda Bebernes, Erik Bodegom, Doug Couch, John D'Avolio, Catalina Gonzalez, Steve Haber, Debra Haines, Steve Haines, Molly Hamill, Nathen Havner, Irene Hecht, Jason Hieggelke, Peter Maxfield, Ron Saroff and Mitch Schaub

The GPNA Board welcomes the NET members and looks forward to working together to provide support for their efforts to inform and engage our community in effective disaster planning and survival.

If you are interested in becoming a NET member, go to: www.portlandoregon.gov/pbem/31667?

Love your garden, all year 'round!

It can be easy to create the yard you want. Discover simple steps to creating an attractive, low-maintenance landscape that conserves water, reduces pollution, and attracts beneficial wildlife. The East Multnomah County Soil & Water Conservation District weekend and evening classes will help you realize your vision and bring it to life.

All classes are FREE, and everyone is welcome! Offerings include classes on urban weeds, beneficial insects, native plants, nature-scaping, rain gardens and more.

Check out the full list of events and workshops at: emswcd.org/workshops-and-events/

Is HomeShare for you?

Metro HomeShare is a program matching individuals who need housing with those who have housing. As a community program of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, Metro HomeShare seeks to serve individuals facing housing instability and houselessness, and facilitate arrangements that meet the needs of both Home Providers and Home Seekers.

Homesharing is a unique arrangement made between two people; one with housing to offer (Home Provider) and the other in need of housing (Home Seeker). The home provider and seeker enter a shared housing arrangement where the Home Provider charges an affordable monthly rent and the Home Seeker provides services like cleaning, grocery shopping or pet care.

Metro HomeShare aids in comprehensive screening of candidates, facilitating rental agreements and offers continued case management once a match has been made. It addresses the need for safe and stable housing in a way that is immediate and encourages the preservation of community. HomeShare is an additional alternative to those seeking housing, services or simply do not wish to live alone.

The program launches in October of 2017. At that time, Metro HomeShare staff will begin accepting applications and facilitating matches. Learn more about how MHS works. There are hundreds of households unaware they may qualify for services like HomeShare and this is a way for them to get more information and get plugged in.

Learn more about Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon and Metro HomeShare at www.metrohomeshare.org, or call (503) 221-1054, ext. 212.

Tutor: writing skills, reading support

My students are all ages: high schoolers needing extra support with writing, test preparation, and study skills; college students; adults writing job application cover letters; and elementary students learning to read and write.

I hold an MFA and teach at PSU. I have taught extensively throughout the region, at universities, through Literary Arts, and with all grade levels. I also work with non-native speakers through Multnomah County Library. I am the author of several books and work prolifically as a freelance writer.

Kirsten Rian: 503.348.5249, riankirsten@gmail.com

East West 20s Bikeway

According to U.S. Census data more than 7 percent of Portlanders commute by bicycle, which is one of the highest rates in the country. The Portland Bureau of Transportation's (PBOT) ultimate goal is to grow that share and reduce car trips.

North-south routes for cyclists have been hard to come by because of offset street grids, limited crossings over Interstate 84, and difficult-to-cross east-west arterial streets. A \$4.5 million project, paid for in part with a grant from Metro, connects NE Lombard Street to the Springwater Corridor in Southeast Portland. It roughly follows 28th Avenue, but jogs to parallel streets for stretches.

PBOT has declared this new 9-mile bikeway on Portland's eastside mostly finished, unlocking a rare north-south thoroughfare for bicycle riders. Some work remains unfinished, but the Portland Bureau of Transportation says the bikeway is ready for riders.

The bikeway is intended to serve would-be cyclists who are "interested but concerned" by addressing their safety questions.

The Portland Bureau of Transportation installed new, bike-friendly crossing signals at some of those tricky intersections, including the intersection at 24th & Broadway. It also created two-way bike lanes to guide riders toward neighborhood greenways -- streets where the speed limit is 20 mph and stop signs are limited. You can see one of these two-way lanes on NE 28th Ave just south of Fred Meyer where it crosses I-84.

In this area, the bikeway goes through Irvington and Sullivan's Gulch. However, the route jogs frequently between parallel streets to follow the street grid and avoid commercial streets where businesses wanted to preserve parking. That took it away from the direct routes longtime cyclists might prefer.

"It's not really for them," said Andrew Sullivan, a bureau engineer on the project. "The whole purpose of the project is to try to put in a facility that's more comfortable to a broader spectrum of people."

For more information on the whole project go to: www.portlandoregon.gov/transportation/62816

Fall Workshops

Urban Forestry workshops are back! Learn about general tree care, identifying common trees, pruning trees, which tree to plant, and more! Workshops are organized by neighborhood Tree Teams or Tree Stewards and are located throughout the city. All skill levels, ages, and abilities are welcome. Fall workshops begin September 16th, check out the workshop calendar for details and to register at: www.portlandoregon.gov/parks/64539

Oregon Pest Detector Training

Would you like to help protect our trees and forests?

Oregon State University (OSU) is offering a free training for this important work. You will learn how to identify the pests, their host trees, and their signs and symptoms; and what to do if you find an infested tree.

The next training in Portland will take place on Saturday, October 21st (9am – 12:30pm), at the Water Pollution Control Lab near Cathedral Park. Visit the OSU website to register or learn more. pestdetector.forestry.oregonstate.edu/

Grant High School Campus Closed

In case you've been living under a rock for the last couple of years, the Grant High School campus is now closed for renovations. Grant students will attend school at the vacant Marshall building at 3905 SE 91st Avenue, in SE Portland during construction. Students are expected to return to the completely renovated Grant campus in Fall 2019. To see a virtual walkthrough of the new school you can go to: www.youtube.com/watch?v=RHc3ITps3kM

Meanwhile, construction has begun at Grant. The neighborhood has been warned that "It's going to be messy, . . . It's going to be about construction traffic. There's going to be an impact on the neighbors."

We have even heard that construction traffic of a magnitude "not seen in 100 years" will likely revolve around each school as it is remodeled, and will likely draw complaints, because these schools are located in the heart of Portland's residential areas.

So we want to hear from you. Has the construction traffic affected you? What are your concerns? Please let us know at general@grantpark-na.org.

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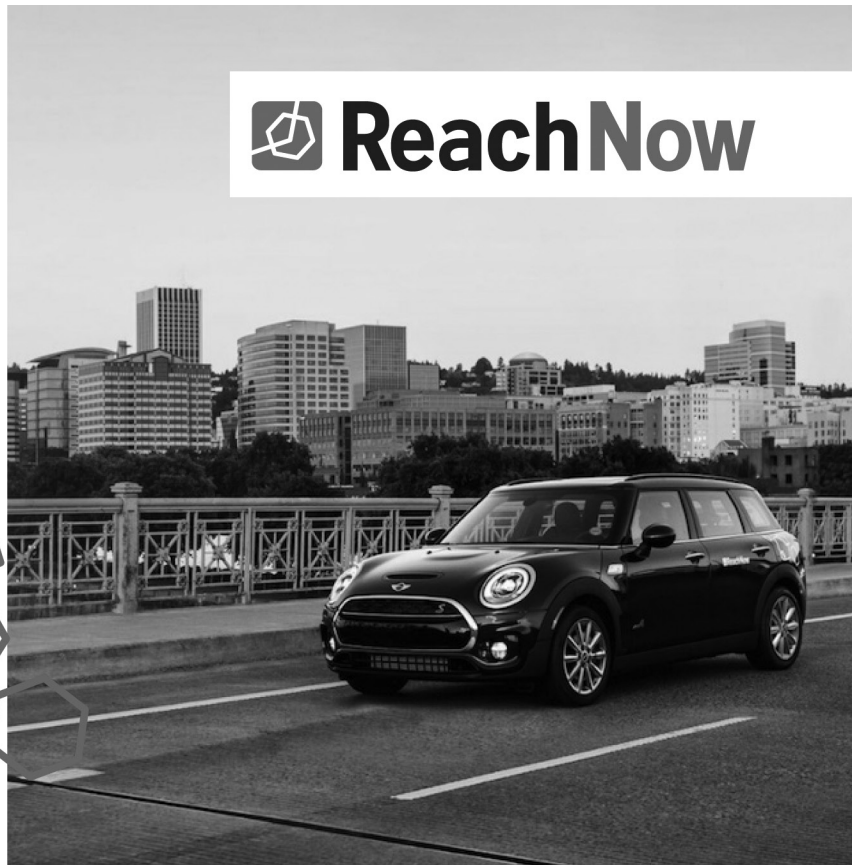
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Small Changes - Big Difference

by Ken Peterson

Coinciding with installation of the traffic signal at NE 32nd and Broadway as part of Grant Park Village was the addition of a “sharrow” emblem on the street inviting bicyclists to cross Broadway safely. There was just one problem: 32nd ended in a dead end cul-de-sac with no outlet. True, after one or two trips, most cyclists learned to use a driveway awning near the end of the cul-de-sac to navigate to the sidewalk and then back onto the street to cross Schuyler. However, that access created safety issues for both cyclists and pedestrians alike because it required cyclists to travel on the sidewalk for a significant distance, was inefficient because it required back tracking, and did not effectively encourage active transportation.

GPNA lobbied Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT) to add bicycle “cut-throughs” at the end of the cul-de-sac. After initially advising that there was no funding for such a project, PBOT recently made the necessary changes. The end result was worth waiting for. Access is far better, easier, more direct, and safer than using NE 28th Avenue, which was formerly the logical alternative route.

PBOT took the time to design access that resulted in improved landscaping and that now also affords handicap access on both sides of the street. Stop signs were reoriented so east-west traffic on Schuyler must now stop for pedestrians and cyclists using 32nd. As Jeff Smith of PBOT’s Active Transportation & Safety Division put it in a letter to nearby homeowners and businesses:

The new design will:

- Provide a more convenient pass through for bicyclists,
- Minimize any conflicts between bicyclists and pedestrians,
- Build improved pedestrian ramps,
- Avoid removal of any of the trees, and
- NOT create a tempting cut-through for autos.

Additionally, we will improve the “dead end” signing at Broadway, and add pavement markings to guide bicyclists to the new curb ramps. With the new traffic signal, commercial destinations on Broadway (New Seasons, Fred Meyer, and many small businesses), and the nearby Tillamook neighborhood greenway,



Local residents Linda Peterson, Sam the Dog, Skye, John, and Heather Prell, Everett, Jane, and Carver Comeault enjoy the new bike/pedestrian access at NE 32nd and Schuyler Streets. John and Jane are GPNA board members at large.

we feel this project will enhance the safety and convenience of people bicycling and walking.”

If you haven’t yet discovered the new traffic improvements on 32nd, check them out on your next walking or cycling trip to go shopping on the south side of Broadway.

Bike Safety Information

Portland's streets see more and more people riding bikes every year, yet the rate of crashes has actually gone down significantly since the 1990s. We would like to keep it that way and help you be a good citizen on the road.

The City of Portland has gathered some online resources for traveling by bicycle. Learn the rules of the road and about bike parking. Find bike/walk maps and guides to help plan your ride. Check out bicycle news and local bike events. Find out how to cycle confidently and comfortably. Connect with advocates for safer streets and other available biking resources.

You can even report bike route maintenance issues and hazards.

To find these links and more go to:
www.portlandoregon.gov/transportation/34772