

Brooklyn NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

March/April, 2025



**Brooklyn Neighborhood
General Meeting**
Wednesday, March 26, 2025
Meeting at 7 pm Sacred Heart Villa
(Corner of SE Milwaukie & Center)

Agenda

Updates from the BCAT and LUTC Committees

Go to www.brooklyn-neighborhood.org
for the latest updates and this newsletter in full color.

For the weekly online news update,
go to the website or
scan this QR code.



Check out the New Business Ads

Once a year, we redo the Brooklyn Business ads and extend a big thanks to all the Brooklyn businesses that support this newsletter. The BAC board decided to include 2 additional pages in order to feature our neighborhood businesses even more. We SO appreciate them and urge our neighbors to support our own Brooklyn businesses.

Ideas from the January 2025 Visioning Session

by Myong O

“The BAC Board will hold an annual focusing session to garner recommendations to pursue for the following year.” BAC Bylaws

The first General Meeting of the year held on January 22nd, was a big success! About 25 neighbors gathered for our annual Visioning Survey and we enjoyed varieties of pizzas provided by Meta Pizza and a delicious Caesar Salad made by the Brooklyn Grocery Co-op! During the meeting, we shared about the many accomplishments from last year’s Visioning Survey (both new events like the Movie in the Park as well as the old favorites like the Ice Cream Social and many clean-up activities).

We tried something new this year by breaking out into interest groups so that people could have a chance to meet and make plans for next steps together. LUTC (Land Use and Transportation Committee) had a great turn out and it was exciting to see them in a lively conversation. So far, 32 neighbors have responded to the Visioning Survey and we will keep it open for people to keep adding to it. The following activities were the most popular so far.



For all those who took the time and joined the meeting,

THANKS!

1. Clean-up and beautification (20 votes)
2. Ongoing activities such as Ice Cream Social, Neighborhood Clean-up (19 votes)
3. Have a thriving grocery store
Brooklyn Grocery Co-op (15 votes)
4. Mutual aid among neighbors (13 votes)
5. Better road signage; More bikeable & walkable access to the river (13 votes)
6. Fruit/Veggie/Plant Share (11 votes)
7. Address the Trimet lot (Holgate & 17th) 11 votes

Calendar of Events

BAC Board Meeting
Wednesday, March 12, 2025
Sacred Heart Villa, 7 pm

Neighborhood General Meeting
Wednesday, March 26, 2025
Sacred Heart Villa, 7 pm

BAC Board Meeting
Wednesday, April 9, 2025
Sacred Heart Villa, 7 pm

Celebrate Earth Day
Saturday, April 19th, 10 am - 2 pm
Brooklyn Park-top of the hill

Brooklyn Photo Scavenger Hunt
Saturday, March 15, 2 - 3:30 pm
Brooklyn Park

Climate Action Team Meetings
Thursday, March 13, 6 pm
Brooklyn Grocery Co-op
March 27, The Chomp, 6 pm
April 10 & 24, 6 pm

Land Use & Transportation Meeting
Wednesdays, March 5 & April 2
The Chomp, 7 pm

Community Connections Meeting
Tuesdays, March 11 & April 8, 5 pm
Brooklyn Grocery Co-op

Volunteer Appreciation Event
Saturday, April 5
Away Days Brewing

Eggstravaganza Egg Hunt
Saturday, April 19, 10 am
Brooklyn Park

Brooklyn Litter Pickup & Plant Swap
Saturday, April 19, 10 am - 2 pm
Meet at Brooklyn Park

Welcome New Block Adopters!

We have added 6 folks to Adopt a Block, thanks to: Nastacia Voisin, Hannah Bradley, Patrick Tarrants, Katie Dinkle, Elissa Dingus and Thomas Adkisson. There are still some sites in 'New Brooklyn' (south of Holgate) and in East Brooklyn. Check out the map at the next BAC meeting in March or contact Kathy Orton: kt_orton@hotmail.com.

Come Celebrate Earth Day, 2025

by Kathy Orton

WHEN: Saturday, April 19th, **TIME:** 10 am - 2 pm
WHERE: Brooklyn Park Table at the Top of the Hill
All equipment and snacks are provided.
WHAT TO BRING: YOU and a pair of gloves!
See You There!

Update on the Community Connections Committee

by Cheryl Crowe

Spring is springing and the Community Connections Committee is buzzing around to bring more fun your way!

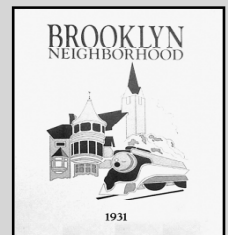
1. March 15th is the annual Brooklyn Scavenger Hunt, where teams spread out across the neighborhood looking for obscure and fun things. Bring a phone or camera to document your finds. Meet at Brooklyn Park at 2 pm.
2. The annual EGGSTRAVAGANZA takes place the morning of April 19th at 10 am. Our little Brooklynites scout Brooklyn Park, scooping up eggs. The hunt starts promptly at 10, bring a basket.
3. If you are a neighborhood volunteer, be sure to attend the Appreciation Event on Saturday, April 5.
4. Looking ahead to May, the neighborhood Haul Away event will take place, so start cleaning out your garages, basements etc.
5. If you like music and want to bring a music series or event to Brooklyn this year, reach out to the CCC to be a part of the music working group. Email: CCC@brooklyn-neighborhood.org

Brooklyn Historic Plaques

If you have admired the Brooklyn historical plaques on homes and businesses throughout the neighborhood, you can order your own! The plaques are identical in design and color to those already in existence, except for the date, a custom script if desired, and a new coating. Plaques are \$32 each.

Ordering details are online at brooklyn-neighborhood.org/historic-plaques.

Questions? Contact treasurer@brooklyn-neighborhood.org



Honoring a Legacy of Dedication: The Above & Beyond Award for Liz Daly

by Konstantinos Chrysovergis

In the heart of our Brooklyn Community Garden (BCG), amidst the rustling leaves and the hum of nature's quiet symphony, there are individuals whose presence is woven into the very fabric of our shared space. This year, in our First General BCG Meeting on January 22, 2025, we had the distinct honor of recognizing one such pillar of our community—Liz Daly, our beloved garden member, tireless volunteer, and master of native plants.

With deep appreciation, BAC Member and BCG Manager, Konstantinos Chrysovergis, presented the Above & Beyond Award to Liz, celebrating her 10 years of unwavering dedication to the garden's growth, sustainability, and ecological preservation. Liz's contributions stretch far beyond her own plot. She has been a guiding force in introducing and nurturing native plants, ensuring that our garden not only thrives with beauty but also respects the land, fosters biodiversity, and provides an educational resource for all who walk its paths.

From the quiet work of planting and tending to the passionate education she shares with fellow members, Liz has embodied the true spirit of the BCG—a place not just to grow food, but to grow knowledge, connection, and a shared responsibility for the land we cultivate together. Her influence can be seen in every flourishing native plant bed, in the deep roots of the friendships she has cultivated within our garden, and in the many hands she has inspired to dig, nurture, and care for our space with purpose.

Liz, your dedication is a gift to us all, and we are endlessly grateful for the wisdom and heart you bring to our community. Thank you for making BCG not just a garden, but a home for nature, learning, and togetherness.

May your legacy continue to bloom with every season!



Update on Brooklyn Climate Action Team

by Myong O

BCAT (Brooklyn Climate Action Team) reached their goal of identifying over 100 neighbors in Brooklyn (and near-by) who are concerned about the climate and want to take action. We had a celebration on January 30 at the Brooklyn Grocery Co-op and it was a great success! Around 25 people came by to enjoy a “Build your own Taco Bar” as well as writing postcards to the electeds regarding Zenith. We also screen printed T-shirts celebrating BCAT 100. We still have the screen (designed by a local artist) if you want a t-shirt and/or want to join BCAT! Email at: climate@brooklyn-neighborhood.org

Update on Cargo Bike Coop

by John Karabaic

The Brooklyn Cargo Bike Coop started off 2025 by adding another bike to its inventory. The new bike, a donated Public brand bike with a Bionix motor, has been serviced by TomCat Bikes and is ready for borrowing. This bike includes a set of pannier bags, perfect for carrying groceries home from the Brooklyn Grocery Coop. It doesn't include a child and pet carrier, like our other electric cargo bike, a Tern Quickhaul P9.

The Brooklyn Cargo Bike Coop started operations in 2024 as a project of the Brooklyn Action Corps and Southeast Uplift through a Portland Clean Energy Fund grant. Think of us as your “other cargo bike.” If you'd like to live life with fewer car trips, but don't own an electric cargo bike for those big shopping errands or getting the kid to school, the BCBC is there to help. You can join the BCBC, get trained, and reserve one of our bikes. When you make a reservation, we lock the bike in a known location and give you the combination. You come to the location at the time of your reservation, and the bike is waiting for you. You unlock the bike, run your errand, and lock it back up where you got it. It's that easy. We can work with you for other scenarios. We offer volunteer opportunities, as well. We're currently looking for board members and help with operations. Email hello@brooklynbikes.org to get started as a member.

Brooklyn Neighborhood News is published bi-monthly by the BAC. To contact the Brooklyn News, email the newsletter at brooknews@brooklyn-neighborhood.org

Community announcements, local events and press releases are accepted on a space available basis. Closing date for the newsletter is on the 15th of even-numbered months.
This newsletter is designed and edited by Marie Phillippi.

What is Going On with Ross Island Sand and Gravel?

by Steve Bachhuber

Did you ever wonder why Brooklyn residents need to go a mile north or south to get to the Springwater Trail and the Willamette River? Our neighborhood was cut off from the river by the construction of McLoughlin Boulevard in the 1930s. The city has broken several promises to reconnect us to the river, but neighborhood activism and current events may be changing that.

Park designation for Ross Island has been part of city plans for over a century, but never included a path to the Brooklyn neighborhood where it is located. In 2020 the BAC and the Land Use and Transportation Committee managed to get Brooklyn access to the river in a very long-term plan: The River Plan, South Reach.

Meanwhile Ross Island Sand and Gravel Company closed its operations on McLoughlin amid financial difficulties. Fortunately, Portland Parks leased the property with right of first refusal, that is an option to buy. It was planned as a truck storage and maintenance facility until 2032. A Multnomah County court judge advanced this timeline to sell unpaid liens on the property, and ordered immediate sale of 3 of the lots critical to Brooklyn's access to the river.

By then we had established a relationship with Portland Park Planners, who recognized how fortunate it would be to have a property with an established road down the bluff, and an existing rail crossing to the Springwater Trail and Brooklyn Waterfront Park. Parks can't talk about confidential negotiations, but we are confident that Ross Island Sand and Gravel will become public property in the near future.

Crossing McLoughlin Boulevard remains a problem. It is state highway 99E operated by ODOT, the Oregon Department of Transportation. They are cash strapped, and ignored our requests for a safe pedestrian crossing to the Ross Island Sand and Gravel site. We turned to Representative Nosse, who sponsored a bill to be considered this session, requiring a safe crossing at Center Street which links to city and neighborhood bike and pedestrian transportation plans. We will see what develops.

Our vision is a Ross Island Nature Park that is the centerpiece of the city. It will be accessed through the Ross Island Sand and Gravel site, allowing watercraft, pedestrians, and active transport access to the river, and once again linking Brooklyn to its waterfront park.

Brooklyn Community Garden: A New Season Blooms in February

Nestled high above the Willamette River, where the bridges of Portland weave their stories of connection and resilience, the Brooklyn Community Garden quietly waits for spring's embrace. February marks a turning point—not just for the garden but for all of us who find joy in the promise of new beginnings, shared dreams, and the magic of a community, united by the soil beneath our feet.

The Brooklyn Community Garden is more than rows of vegetables and flowers. It's a place where neighbors become friends, where seeds of hope are planted, and where the energy of collaboration transforms into something tangible, beautiful, and lasting.

This past year, the Brooklyn Community Garden flourished in ways we never thought possible. Together, we cleared pathways, built a stronger retaining wall, and introduced new native plants and shared berry bushes that now thrive under the care of our gardeners. We shared meals, stories, and laughter. We welcomed new faces into our fold and learned from one another with every turn of the seasons.

But the true growth wasn't just in the garden beds; it was in the bonds we built. Under the sun and the occasional Portland drizzle, we came together to create something much greater than any one of us could achieve alone.

This February, we're excited to welcome new members to the Brooklyn Community Garden. If you're someone who feels the call of the earth, who dreams of working side by side with neighbors, and who wants to be part of something vibrant and meaningful, this is your moment. There's a saying we hold dear at the BCG: "Many hands make light work." Every bit of effort counts, and every hand leaves its mark. Whether it's hauling soil, building benches, or planting for pollinators, it all comes together to create one of the most extraordinary green spaces in Portland.

We also know that not everyone can pick up a shovel, but there are so many ways to help. Small donations fuel our projects, from improving infrastructure to supporting shared resources like tools and composting areas. Your generosity, no matter how big or small, ensures that the Brooklyn Community Garden continues to grow stronger for years to come.

As February unfolds, the soil beneath us begins to stir, eager for the touch of seeds and the promise of new growth. Together, we'll welcome fresh faces and fresh ideas. Together, we'll transform the Brooklyn Community Garden into an even brighter, more inspiring place. Together, we'll continue to bridge the gap between nature and community, building something remarkable, one plot at a time.

So, whether you're a seasoned gardener or someone dreaming of their first harvest, we invite you to join us. Come, be part of this story, this place, this community. The Brooklyn Community Garden is waiting—for you.

With hope, gratitude, and excitement,

Konstantinos, Brooklyn Community Garden Manager