

DUBOIS PARK

Neighborhood Association Newsletter

NEXT MEETING

Thursday, March 30, 2023

6:30pm to 7:30 pm

Vancouver Heights United
Methodist Church, 5701
MacArthur Blvd, Vancouver,
WA 98661

OFFICERS

President, Lucius Shields

Vice President, Kate Fernald

Secretary, Janice Ritter

Treasurer, Barbara Paulsen

City Liaison, Steve Kaspan,
steve.kaspan@cityofvancouver.us

Neighborhood Police Officer,
Sean Metevia, 360-487-7376,
sean.metevia@cityofvancouver.us

FINANCIALS

2023

Current Balance: \$3,312.36

Mailing Newsletter: \$64.31



Urban Forestry Management Plan Outreach

Urban Forestry Wants to Hear From You

To guide the future of trees in our community, the City is developing an Urban Forestry Management Plan. We are seeking community input to create a vision for the future, so that trees can continue to benefit everyone who lives, works and plays in Vancouver for generations to come. Take a moment to learn about the plan, fill out a short survey, and attend the public workshop on March 18, visit <https://www.behheardvancouver.org/ufmp>.

How to Reach Us

Email: duboispark@gmail.com

Facebook: DuBois Park Neighborhood — <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1688383734552024>



July 4th, 2023

Not too soon to Plan!

We are looking for a overall Planning Coordinator for our July 4th celebration and volunteers for some of the annual traditions, which include:

Morning Coffee Meet & Greet

Parade Bike Decorating

Leading the Parade Route

Children's Games

Cupcake Walk

BBQ Station

Set Up/Clean Up

Please email us at duboispark@gmail.com if you love to make memories for your family and others!



NEXT NeighborhoodCleanup

July 8, 2023

*A note from Liz Erickson (City of Vancouver)
about neighborhood clean up*

We are planning for next year's cleanup events, which will be similar to 2022 with neighborhoods grouped together. Northcrest neighborhood has requested to join the cleanup and the location, at United Methodist, seemed to be convenient. We are looking at a similar date for next year, July 8, 2023. Mark your calendars!

Also, we will put a call out for volunteers to take two hour shifts. If you know you can help, please email duboispark@gmail.com.

Thank you!



A Letter from Lucius

Hello Neighbors,

When Steph and I moved into the neighborhood on a foggy and cold morning the day before Thanksgiving in 2020, I never imagined that soon afterwards I'd have a leadership role in the neighborhood association! My term started in January of 2022 and in that year I enjoyed working with Kate Fernald, Barbara Paulsen, and Janice Ritter to host meetings, share updates across platforms, work within the neighborhood and work alongside other neighborhoods on community projects (e.g. Blandford Storm Water Project), contribute towards the annual 4th of July parade/celebration and most importantly to listen to and represent the neighbors of DuBois Park.

Now is a good time to share that December 2023 will not only be the end of my two year term, but also that Kate Fernald will be stepping away from her role as secretary. Starting on January 1, 2024 our neighborhood association will have a new president and secretary who will work hand-in-hand with Barbara and Janice. We're sharing this now because we'd like to start meeting with anyone who is curious about the neighborhood association and who would like to learn more about the level of involvement, ways to serve (e.g. the President has the opportunity to attend a monthly "Coffee with the Mayor" meeting) and more.

We will announce and process through formal elections at the end of this year but at this point in time, please reach out to any of us via (duboispark@gmail.com) with questions or interest.

Again, although I'm still relatively new to the neighborhood, I've greatly enjoyed my time as President and look forward to serving the rest of this year in the best way I can.... Which includes a shameless plug now for 4th of July volunteers... it's never too soon to raise your hand!

Thank you again and I hope to see you all around on one of my many many many dog walks with Benny around the neighborhood.

Kind regards,

Lucius Shields

DuBois Park Neighborhood President

Blandford Stormwater Project Update

Update: City of Vancouver Blandford Stormwater Project by Mark Masciarotte

Last July, the City of Vancouver held a neighborhood meeting, via Zoom, to present plans that were already underway for the collection and distribution of stormwater in the DuBois Park and Southcliff neighborhoods to reduce the flow into the Blandford Canyon. An integral part of the plan was the introduction of “Rain Gardens,” structures that would be added to various streets in each of the neighborhoods. In DuBois Park alone, more than thirty of these structures were planned.

During the call, which, unfortunately, included only a small fraction of residents, it became clear that while most residents appeared to agree with the overall objective of the plan—cleaner groundwater (including the water that enters the wellfields that provide us with drinking water), and cleaner water entering the Columbia River—the great majority did not like the proposed changes that would be made to the streets nor the impacts that would result in respect to pedestrian and bicycle safety, traffic flow, and property values. Without exception, residents who were to have had a rain garden constructed in front of their property objected to the installation and demanded an alternative.

As a result of several conversations among neighborhood residents during the late summer and early fall, DuBois Park resident Barbara Bersani arranged a meeting with senior City staff to discuss the plan and to voice residents’ opposition. On November 4, 2022, Lon Pluckhahn, Deputy City Manager, and Kris Olinger, a senior civil engineer at the City’s Stormwater Management Program, met at City Hall with Lucius Shields (DuBois Neighborhood Association president), Paul Pedone (Southcliff Neighborhood Association chairman) and Mark Masciarotte (DuBois Park resident). By the end of the meeting, after covering various options and expected outcomes, Mr. Pluckhahn and Ms. Olinger promised to look into alternatives to the rain gardens.

It appears that our concerns have indeed been heard and that City staff have moved away from the rain garden concept, except for one bioretention cell that will be installed in Southcliff Park. The following text was published this January on the City’s Blandford Stormwater Project page on the City’s website:

... This water quality improvement project has shifted to the use of filter cartridge catch basins that are underground treatment devices. They house rechargeable, media-filled cartridges that trap particulates and adsorb pollutants from stormwater runoff. The catch basins are generally maintained once a year which includes vacuuming out sediment and replacing the filter cartridge by City Operations crews.

A rain garden, or bioretention cell, will be installed at South Cliff Park. Rain gardens manage rain water runoff by allowing it to soak into the ground where special soil and vegetation can help filter out pollutants. This infiltration improves the quality of the water which eventually flows to rivers and streams or seeps into groundwater. Attractive streetscape planters can be designed to accommodate the diverse traffic needs of cars, pedestrians and bicycles.

When completed, these new underground treatment devices and the one neighborhood rain garden will capture stormwater runoff that currently flows untreated to the Blandford Drive stormwater drainage system.

We shall keep you apprised as the project develops. – Mark Masciarotte

MyVancouver App

<https://www.cityofvancouver.us/community/page/myvancouver>

The free MyVancouver mobile app provides smart device users who work, live or play in the city with a direct, convenient line of communication with City employees to solve non-emergency issues and stay in-the-know on City events and resources.

Download the app in the Apple App Store or Google Play today!

What can I do with the MyVancouver app?

- Report non-emergency issues, such as potholes, graffiti, sign damage or streetlight outages quickly and easily.
- Include a photo and GPS location.
- View and track the status of a request or view other reported issues in a particular area of the city.
- Access other online City services, such as paying for parking ticket, permit payments.
- Access other City information, including street sweeping schedules, a community event calendar and City job listings.
- Easily locate local parks, hospitals, community centers and more.
- Connect with the City's social media with an #IHeartVanWa widget.

Can customers still submit requests online through the web portal?

Yes. The mobile app doesn't replace any current methods (e.g. phone, web, etc.) that customers use to report issues, it just provides a new method.

Where do I report other issues not included on the app?

The City has plans to expand its service request menu to provide more request types for the community within the MyVancouver app later this year.

Here's how to report other issues not currently listed on the app.

- **Non-urgent Public Works issues** not currently available on the app, or call 360-487-8177.
- **Traffic-related complaints** call the Vancouver Police Department traffic hotline at 360-487-7402.
- **Code compliance complaints** (e.g. junk vehicles, overgrown vegetation) or call 360-487-7810.
- **Public parking issues** (e.g. an improperly parked vehicle on a City street). For downtown parking complaints in the Esther Short, Arnada or Hough neighborhoods or in any City parking garage, call 360-487-8650. For all other areas of the city, call 3-1-1.

Pedestrian Safety Tips

<https://www.cityofvancouver.us/police/page/pedestrian-safety>

On a daily basis most of us are pedestrians at some point. In addition, many people are pedestrians on a regular basis to transport themselves to or from work or school or for recreation. While walking may seem safe, there are things to keep in mind as a pedestrian to avoid becoming a statistic. While traffic safety often focuses on drivers, pedestrians play a vital role in their own safety.

- Walk on sidewalks. If sidewalks are not available, walk on the edge of the road or on the left shoulder of the road, facing the traffic flow. Use pedestrian bridges when they are available.
- Cross at marked crosswalks or intersections. Pedestrians are most often hit by cars when they cross the road at places other than intersections.
- Look left, right, and left for traffic. Stop at the curb and look left, right, and left again for traffic. Stopping at the curb signals drivers that you intend to cross. Always obey traffic signals.
- See and be seen. Drivers need to see you to avoid you.
- Stay out of the driver's blind spot.
- Make eye contact with drivers when crossing busy streets.
- Wear bright colors or reflective clothing if you are walking near traffic at night.
- Carry a flashlight when walking in the dark.
- Do not let kids play near traffic or cross the street by themselves.

- In bad weather, take care that your umbrella or raincoat does not prevent approaching vehicles from seeing you.
- Watch your kids. Small children should not cross streets by themselves or be allowed to play or walk near traffic. Kids cannot accurately judge vehicle distances and speeds and may make unpredictable movements.
- Drinking and walking? Alcohol can impair the judgment and motor skills of pedestrians just as it does for drivers. Don't take alcohol risks with walking, just as you would not with driving. Take the bus, take a cab, or have a friend drive you home. Beware of the effects of prescription and non-prescription medications and drugs, too.
- Obey traffic signals. At intersections where traffic is controlled by signals or a traffic officer, pedestrians must obey the signal and not cross against the stop signal unless specifically directed to go by a traffic officer.

Donations

Donations should be made payable to DuBois Neighborhood Association and mailed to:

Barbara Paulsen, 5004 Eureka Way, Vancouver WA 98661

Thank you!

The City of Vancouver supports the Neighborhood Associations in their effort to share vital information with residents to create a more informed public. However, the information provided and the opinions and views expressed in the Neighborhood Association newsletter or other documents do not necessarily represent the position of the City of Vancouver, nor does the City determine whether the information published is accurate or appropriate. Printed by the City of Vancouver Office of Neighborhoods.