

The Tree Canopy Grows in Eastmoreland

THE EASTMORELAND neighborhood had a great two days in January when 35 new street trees were planted thanks to the financial support of ENA and the volunteer work of the ENA Tree Committee.

ENA began working with residents and a local nursery four years ago to get new street trees in the ground. Since then, 83 street trees have been planted and 60 of these are large-form trees that will grow at least 40-feet tall. The others are smaller trees, better suited for smaller planting spaces or under high voltage wires.

“In the coming years we expect to see an increase in new street tree planting to replace trees lost to storms, diseases, and pests,” said Sally Campbell, member of the ENA Tree Committee. Longer term, she predicted a surge in street tree requests as residents recognize the value of the tree canopy for cooling streets and homes and mitigating climate change.

For Sarah and Scott Schurr (pictured above), the planting of a new Oregon white oak in place of their old maple had a deeper meaning; the tree was planted in the memory of Scott’s mother, Elsa. Sarah, who is a minister,



The Schurrs look on as a new street is planted in memory of a loved one.

conducted a short ceremony and read a poem Elsa had written as the crew that had dug the hole respectfully waited for the ceremony to be completed.

To encourage the preservation of the neighborhood’s tree canopy, ENA contracted with a local nursery and funded the purchase and planting of the recent round of large-form street trees. Homeowners, in turn, are requested to make a financial donation to the association.

The next round of planting will happen next winter. Interested homeowners are encouraged to contact the Tree Committee this summer or early fall. The committee will be sending email reminders throughout the year about ordering trees, preparing planting sites, watering, mulching, and pruning.

For any tree questions, email the committee at: eastmoreland.tree@gmail.com.

INSIDE

- Page 2 President’s Message
- Page 3 Annual Meeting May 16
- Page 3 Upcoming Events
- Page 5 Crystal Lake Restoration
- Page 7 Thanks to Our Supporters

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ENA is a nonprofit organization run by volunteers. Members of the board are elected by the residents of Eastmoreland.

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President's Farewell Message

Matthew Timberlake, ENA President

WELCOME to the Spring edition of the Eastmoreland Newsletter. This will be my last letter as president of the Eastmoreland Neighborhood Association, and I can't tell you what a privilege it has been. Serving on your local neighborhood association is a wonderfully rewarding way to volunteer on the most local level.

When I was first elected president three years ago, I had some specific goals: to change the tenor of our ENA meetings and our communication with the neighborhood; to finally move the Historic District process forward to its conclusion, whatever the result; to increase participation in neighborhood events; and to continue the work of my highly effective predecessors, who worked for years to make Eastmoreland the beautiful place we found when my family moved here twelve years ago.

District 4 Challenges

There have been plenty of challenges, but the ENA Board has achieved a great deal, and I'm so proud to have been a part of it. Currently, we are working to keep our neighborhood represented effectively in local government. Having been placed in District 4, which includes all of west Portland, the neighborhoods of Eastmoreland, SMILE (Sellwood-Moreland), Reed, and Ardenwald/Johnson Creek must fight to make sure our voices are heard.

This has been made more difficult by the City of Portland's efforts to defund neighborhood coalitions, which would severely impact their ability to provide the vital umbrella services (such as insurance) that all neighborhood associations depend on. We're meeting with the coalitions and contributing our thoughts to City listening sessions. We're fighting to maintain a workable budget for neighborhood coalitions.

The Portland neighborhood association structure has been recognized as a model nationally for the way it builds community. As Portland works through the biggest changes in its government in decades, neighborhood associations will have to speak up to make our voices heard.

In my six years on the board, including two as vice-president and three as president, I have been constantly amazed at the work this neighborhood association achieves every month, done entirely by volunteers. When people get together and pitch in to help, it's remarkable what gets done. I hope you'll consider joining the ENA Board. It's wonderful to volunteer for an organization that makes a difference not just to your city, but to your neighbors down the street.

We couldn't do it without your support, and I want to thank everyone who volunteers their time and effort and funds to our neighborhood. This work doesn't happen without you.

With all best wishes,

Matthew Timberlake
President, Eastmoreland Neighborhood Association

ENA Annual Meeting and Board Election May 16

THE ENA Annual Meeting and Board of Directors Election is scheduled for Thursday, May 16, at 7 p.m. As many as eight members of the ENA Board of Directors, which has a maximum of 21 members, could be elected. Eastmoreland residents can vote online before and during the meeting.

The deadline for nominating candidates to the board is April 25, although candidates can also be nominated during the Annual Meeting with the support of three ENA members. If you would like to nominate someone (including yourself), you can find nomination forms and more information at: <https://bit.ly/3ISx09b>.

The ENA Bylaws require the board to nominate the officers (President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer) normally within a week following Board elections at the Annual Meeting. This year, the board will elect four new members to fill these positions.

The agenda for the meeting, the location and a link to attend via Zoom, along with names of known candidates, will be distributed via email and posted on the ENA website, eastmorelandpdx.org, at least seven days in advance of the meeting.

Who Can Be a Board Member?

Anyone who lives within the boundaries of the neighborhood, or who has title to real property within the neighborhood, and who is at least 18 years old, can serve on the board. In addition, a person representing a business, nonprofit organization, school or church within the neighborhood can also serve.

Questions?

Email: contact@eastmorelandpdx.org

Upcoming Events: Earth Day and More

MARK YOUR calendar for these neighborhood events. More details about them will be posted as they become available on the ENA website at: eastmorelandpdx.org/events. Register at eastmorelandpdx.org/contact-us to get emails about these events.

Earth Day Celebration, April 21: Join your Eastmoreland neighbors for an Earth Day celebration on the afternoon of April 21st. This new ENA event will be for the whole family and will combine fun for kids of all ages with old-fashioned games and green crafts projects. There will also be presentations and information about gardening and recycling. Volunteers from ENA, as well as from a local Boys Scout troop, will orchestrate the games and crafts. Cookies and lemonade will be served.

We will also partner with charitable organizations to collect donations. This celebration is free to attend and is one of the many ENA events following the Winter Celebration that are intended to bring neighbors together and build community.

The fun afternoon, from 2 – 4 p.m., is planned to take place at Duniway Elementary School, on the blacktop at the corner of SE Rex and SE Reed College Place. New volunteers are always welcomed, please contact us through the website (above) if you want to help.

Gathering in the Garden, May 18: This annual event gives everyone a chance to enjoy live music while shopping for organic tomato starts, perennials, native plants,

house plants, ceramics, garden art and unique new and used garden accessories.

In addition to many vendors, the Portland Rose Society will be on hand to sharpen hand pruners (one per customer) and several nonprofits will be present with information about gardening and caring for our environment.

The event is presented by the Eastmoreland Garden Club and co-sponsored by ENA with support from Southeast Uplift. Join us from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the Eastmoreland Garden Park, SE Bybee Blvd. and SE 27th Ave.

Eastmoreland Garage Sale, June 22 – 23:

Portland's largest and most popular garage sale returns to the neighborhood. Consult the ENA website for times and how you can have your home's location listed on the official garage sale map.

Fourth of July Parade: The annual July 4th Parade returns this year and everyone is invited to join the parade down Reed College Place. Check the ENA website for details as we get nearer to this fun parade.

Summer Clean Up, TBD: ENA is working to host its 24th annual neighborhood clean-up event this summer. Residents will be able to drop off items destined for the dump at a neighborhood location. Details and costs will be posted on the website as they become available. Email comments and questions to the organizer, Derek Blum, Zderekb@stanfordalumni.org.

When a Tree Falls... Who Pays?

DISEASE AND STORMY weather have recently brought down many majestic street trees in Eastmoreland and have cost residents thousands of dollars in removal fees. That's because when a tree is planted in the median strip next to the street, the city says it's the homeowner's responsibility to care for the tree.

A recently formed ENA task force is looking into that policy in light of the city's (and ENA's) efforts to plant more street trees. "We're in the initial phase of exploring this issue, trying to determine how other localities handle this and what our options might be, and we're asking neighbors to help us in this effort" said Nianna Bray, a member of the task force.

In the early 1980's, for example, Portland had a city crew that planted and maintained street trees at the request of homeowners. When city budgets grew tight, that policy was abandoned. "Everyone loves the idea of having more street trees, but we need a city-wide solution to help residents who eventually have to pay thousands of dollars to remove a tree."

Anyone interested in contributing to the work of the new task force is encouraged to email Nianna Bray at NiannabrayENA@gmail.com

Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers Banned

STARTING IN 2026, the use of gasoline-powered leaf blowers on public and private property in Portland will be prohibited. The new policy is a major victory for environmentalists and homeowners concerned about the large amount of air and noise pollution generated by the machines.

Under the ordinance unanimously passed by the Portland City Council, there will be a phase in period that allows gas blowers to be used from October through December during 2026 and 2027.

Starting in 2028, the ban will be in place year-round. The three-month exception was included because today's electric leaf blowers are not yet powerful enough to move wet leaves.

"The city also recognizes that upfront costs of electric leaf blowers are higher than gas leaf blowers. To address this, a program will be developed to offset costs for small businesses that experience a disproportionate hardship," said a statement by Commissioner Carmen Rubio, who introduced the ordinance.

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Major Crystal Springs Lake Restoration Planned

DID YOU KNOW that Crystal Springs Lake owes its existence to an earthen dam constructed decades ago? Without the dam, visitors to the Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden would be looking at acres of mudflats and wetlands.

The dam also contributes to a major environmental headache—rising water temperature—that threatens salmon and other native fish. The threat is so serious that government agencies began planning a restoration project years ago.

If funding is secured, a host of regulatory agencies will be involved (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, NOAA Fisheries, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, City of Portland, and others) with construction not expected to begin before 2028.

Officials emphasize that doing nothing about the problem of rising water temperature would be devastating to fish that are already listed under the federal Endangered Species Act.

Portland Parks & Recreation Department, along with Portland's Environmental Services Department, are currently designing the project and asking for public input. There are some big questions to resolve. Should the dam be removed or repaired? How can the lake surface area be reduced (and thus reduce overheating) and/or shade increased? How will the adjacent Eastmoreland Golf Course be affected? What will happen to the cherished views enjoyed by visitors to the rhododendron garden?

Millions of dollars have already been spent on restoring the Crystal Springs watershed to improve water quality and the environment for salmon. But the lake remains a major issue. The artificially created lake is fed by cold water from natural springs, but the water doesn't stay cold for long. The shallow, slow moving lake water is heated up



Are big changes in store for Crystal Springs Lake?

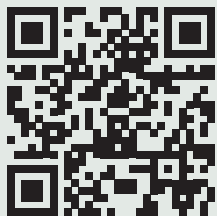
dramatically by the sun, and then discharged into Crystal Springs Creek.

Much of the discharge occurs at a fish passage and at an earthen dam located near the golf course's 14th hole. Water can overflow the top of the dam and can also leak through the dam. The water from both sources flows into a nearby pond on the golf course that is part of Crystal Springs Creek (which flows into Johnson Creek).

ENA is working with city officials to keep informed and urges neighbors to learn about what is planned and make their opinions known.

To learn more about the project and get updates, visit: <https://bit.ly/3IQWP9B>

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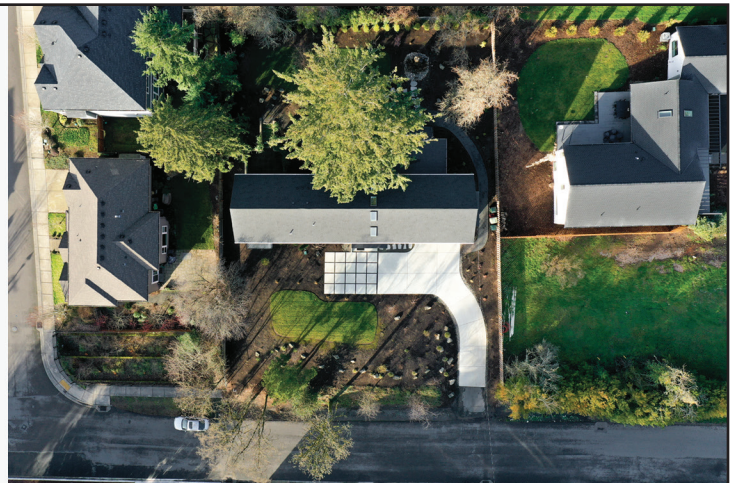
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ENA THANKS everyone who has generously donated to the association. Individual donations make up the largest single source of funds for ENA's activities. To make a gift, visit eastmorelandpdx.org/take-action.

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