



GROUNDSWELL

NORTHWEST

SAVE Our School Surplus for Open Space and Recreation

For many years Groundswell NW has maintained a strong interest in the disposition of local school sites and of public property in general. Keeping public lands in public hands is a key element of our vision and mission.

During 2006, Groundswell NW organized a public forum about this process including participation by School Board Director Michael DeBell and City Council member David Della. At this time the Seattle School District is looking at the disposition of several sites, including two in our near neighborhood— Webster Elementary at 30th Ave NW and NW 67th St, and Crown Hill Elementary at 9250 14th Ave. NW, off Holman Road. These properties are slated for sale, with the current tenants being given time to purchase the sites.

Groundswell NW was founded as the result of the long effort to create the Webster Playground on a portion of the Webster School site. While Parks has a long-term lease for this very popular neighborhood amenity, there isn't current funding for its purchase, and raising funds could take several years. Groundswell NW also has an interest in community use of the school building, and has begun discussions with neighborhood organizations about partnering in an effort to keep the building in community use.

Groundswell NW also has a keen interest in the Crown Hill School site. We worked hard on the Crown Hill/Ballard Neighborhood Plan to include the grounds of this site as a key improvement to the Crown Hill Urban Village, and lobbied for the nearly \$1 million allocation for improvements here in the ProParks levy. We support the master tenant, Small Faces, and the newly formed Crown Hill Neighborhood Association in their efforts to preserve both the school and the open space as community assets. Again, the effort to raise funds for purchase of this site could take years. According to published reports, Lynn B. Wirta, executive director and building manager for Small Faces, said the organization wants to remain. It is exploring all the ways it can to purchase the property — which she

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The Ballard Corners design includes innovative features developed through neighbor involvement.

Ballard Corners Park Takes Shape

BY DAVID FOLWEILER

The Friends of Ballard Corners Park is proud to partner with Groundswell NW on the development of Ballard's newest park. We're working with Groundswell NW to create a fun place to gather, play, and relax on two lots on the west side of 17th Ave NW between NW 62nd and 63rd Streets. Ballard, in the face of skyrocketing density increases, lacks suitable green and open space. A new neighborhood park is being built on a vacant lot with an adjoining unoccupied house in the middle of an arterial quadrant.

The design for Ballard Corners Park includes a children's climbing structure, homage to the old corner store on the lot, and open space for play and relaxation. Environmental sustainability is incorporated through the use of rain gardens (bio-swales), retention of the existing fruit and nut trees, and a community garden featuring native plants. Visitors will have a chance to relax in the "living room" with stone furniture, on the seat wall adjacent to the children's play structure, and on the swiveling stools at the "store front". *CONTINUED ON PAGE 3*

CO-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Neighbors:

Since our last annual report, Groundswell NW has been incredibly busy—enhancing our community and expanding our influence. We finished the Salmon Bay Concept Plan, reaching out across the water to our surrounding neighborhoods and identifying new opportunities for habitat and public access along our common shoreline, while working to maintain our maritime heritage. The project that started it all, Salmon Bay Natural Area, will finally begin construction this year, in part thanks to a new Neighborhood Matching Fund award.

Our newest neighborhood park, Ballard Corners, also won an award and moves closer to construction due to the creative efforts of a dedicated group of neighbors, showing how the seed of an open space acquisition can grow into a community working together to build a park. Likewise, the 14th Avenue Vision Project took a seed of an idea and is building community around improvements to the public right-of-way, promising to create a neighborhood amenity in a part of Ballard sorely lacking in open space.

Under the leadership of our Director Sam Star, Groundswell NW increased its presence in the community. Sadly, Sam will be moving on to other, hopefully equally fulfilling endeavors, and

Groundswell will return to its grassroots as an all-volunteer organization, at least for the time being. Fortunately, we have a very strong board to lead us through this transition, and equally strong membership to continue building community through parks and habitat in NW Seattle and beyond.

Some exciting new initiatives are in the works. With Ballard continuing to boom, and continuing to have the least open space per capita of any Seattle neighborhood outside of downtown, we are launching a voluntary “% for Green” campaign to get local developers to contribute a portion of their construction budget to creating new parks for their residents and patrons. And with the ProParks Levy expiring next year, we are working with a coalition of parks advocates throughout Seattle to explore a new parks levy, hopefully with surplus schools like Crown Hill and Webster Elementary as key elements.

Stay tuned, and thank you for your continued support to make NW Seattle a greener, more vibrant place.

Sincerely,

Dave Boyd and Andrea Faste,
Co-President(s)

2006 LOCAL HERO – SHEILA ROE

At Groundswell NW's annual meeting this spring we recognized our local hero for the year. Sheila Roe served as Groundswell NW's treasurer for the past 2 years. Sheila is the kind of quiet, steady, tidy volunteer that every organization craves. Sheila has pitched in to keep books for neighborhood organizations for the last 20 years. First it was the Whittier Heights Community Council, then the local PTA, and as her daughters moved to different schools, the next PTA and the next. Her willingness to ply her accounting skills beyond her own business is remarkable, and her logical, detailed approach to group finances has kept many projects on track. She has cheerfully helped Groundswell NW transition to a new treasurer, managed multiple matching grant funds at the same time, and made helpful suggestions for keeping the organization solid financially. The board and members of Groundswell NW appreciate the valuable service Sheila provided us and wish her the best in her future endeavors.

BOARD WELCOMES NEW DIRECTORS

Groundswell NW is operated for the benefit of the members and the community by its Board of Directors. The directors do an amazing amount of work in the community for parks and habitat and for many other issues as well. The board developed nicely in 2006, adding several new directors.

Catherine Darley returned to the board after a personal break. Catherine has a keen interest in making more people in Ballard and Crown Hill aware of Groundswell NW and developing the group's membership. She has taken the lead on the development of the “% for Green” program, encouraging local developers to contribute toward our goals for more parks and open space.

Dawn Hemminger first learned about Groundswell NW when she was just beginning to get involved in her neighborhood with the 14th Ave NW Visioning Project. The members of the Groundswell Board were instrumental in helping this fledgling

group get their feet off the ground. Dawn later joined the Groundswell NW board, because she wanted to be able to provide the same kind of support to other groups in her neighborhood who have the enthusiasm for building community and green spaces, but just need some guidance to turn their visions into reality.

Lydia Marshall is the most recent addition to the board. As a lifelong Seattle resident, and one who needs big trees, open green places and casual gathering spots, the efforts of Groundswell to create and maintain parks and habitat struck Lydia as indispensable work. This is her first non-profit experience. In her words, “I'm constantly learning what I can offer from my background as an architect and devotee of natural places.”

Making Connections

Yes, I would like to join Groundswell NW!

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP

PHONE

EMAIL

Your membership provides the clout Groundswell NW needs to secure open space and funding for the Ballard Community. Please complete and mail this form to:

Groundswell NW • PO Box 17163 • Seattle, WA 98127

I would like to volunteer with Groundswell NW on the following types of projects:

- Outreach Weeding/Plantings Phone Calling
 Grantwriting Fundraising Education Events
 Other Talents/Interests:

Contribution Level:

- \$20 \$35 \$50 \$100

Gift of: _____

My employer will match my Donation

EMPLOYER NAME

ARTICLES CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



BALLARD CORNER PARK CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

We have completed the initial design and are working hard to raise money to build the park. We have approximately 85% of the funding and are applying for grants and asking neighbors for contributions to fully fund the construction. We plan to finish fundraising by the end of 2007. Construction will begin in the spring of 2008 and be completed by the fall of 2008.

We hope all of you will enjoy Ballard's newest park. We need volunteers and tax-deductible donations to help make this park a reality. For more information on the park's progress, to join our email list, or to find out how you can help, visit www.BallardCornersPark.org, email ParkIt@BallardCornersPark.org, or call 714-4271.

Help build a park: shop at <http://BallardCornersPark.org/Shop> (A percentage of proceeds will be contributed to the park.)

SAVE OUR SCHOOL SURPLUS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

said could sell for about \$4 million. "We are a small organization and we can't possibly raise \$4 million by ourselves," she said. The non-profit Small Faces provides early learning for pre-school and school-age children. It subleases space to a yoga studio, dance studios and caterer.

"We hope that these tenants will succeed at buying the properties," said Ron English, deputy general counsel and district property manager. "They all provide important community service and we'd like to see that continue." Groundswell NW continues to urge the School Board to allow community groups adequate time to develop strategic plans and funding to retain these valuable public assets for community use.

Photo: Gordon Darrow



GROUNDSWELL NW BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dave Boyd, *Co-President*

Catherine Darley

Andrea Faste, *Co-President*

Jim Jensen

Thor Tyson, *Vice President*

Lydia Marshall

Dawn Hemminger, *Treasurer*

Davidya Kasperzyk

Dan Corcoran

Sam Star



GROUNDSWELL NORTHWEST

VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE www.groundswellnw.org

PO Box 17163 • Seattle, WA 98127

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

2006 VOLUNTEER ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Groundswell NW volunteers supported many projects in the area. All together they tallied hundreds of hours in 2006. Many thanks to everyone who joined us and gave their time. Special thanks to: Salmon Bay Middle School, the Ballard Garden Club, Mars Hill Church, Starbucks employees, and park neighbors for joining regular work parties.

- **14th Avenue Visioning Project:**

Design scheme was developed with Carlson Architects to define the final "Vision Plan" for the boulevard. Neighbors gathered for street cleanups and a successful "August Night Out" party.

- **Ballard Corners Park:** Fundraising in many forms—grantwriting, state lobbying, and neighborhood plant sales—has secured 85% of the budgeted construction cost. Neighbors and supporters have gathered to clean up the Park site and hunt for Easter Eggs too!

- **Fremont Canal Park plantings:**

Supported by Starbucks, volunteers from local businesses and clubs helped to plant hundreds of native plants along the south bank of the Fremont Ship Canal.

- **Cleanups** were also held at many Groundswell supported projects including:

- Salmon Bay School
- Crown Hill Glen
- Baker Park
- 14th Avenue
- Sound View Playground

2007 VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

- **Ballard Corners Park** at 17th NW and NW 63rd. Contact David Folweiler at david.folweiler@ballardcornerspark.org or Rebecca Carr at rebecca.carr@ballardcornerspark.org
- **14th Avenue Visioning Project**, between the Ship Canal and NW 65th St. on 14th Ave. Contact Dawn Hemminger at dawn_hemminger@yahoo.com
- **Salmon Bay Natural Area** on the ship canal east of Hiram's. Contact Dave Boyd dave.boyd1@comcast.net
- **Thyme Patch Park** at 2853 NW 58th St. Contact Joe Cloud at cloudj@edaw.com
- **Friends of the Burke Gilman Trail.** Contact Kevin Carrabine at kcarrab@comcast.net

