



GROUNDSWELL

NORTHWEST

Ballard Corners Park Grand Opening

By David Folweiler, co-chair, Friends of Ballard Corners Park

On October 10th, 2009, we celebrated the Grand Opening of Ballard Corners Park. Groundswell joined us to celebrate 20 years of creating community parks and habitat in Northwest Seattle. We honored founder Lillian Riley for her role in creating and nurturing Groundswell NW. Neighbor Errin Byrd Jett brought her family and crew from Ballard's Veraci Pizza to make more than 75 pies to satisfy the happy and hungry crowd.

State Senator Jeanne Kohl-Welles, State Representative Mary Lou Dickerson, King County Councilmember Larry Phillips, Seattle Parks Superintendent Tim Gallagher, and Seattle Dept. of Neighborhoods Director Stella Chou all took turns speaking about the importance of creating new park space in a dense urban neighborhood. They also stressed the importance of citizen involvement.

Groundswell NW first identified the vacant lot and adjacent empty house along the west side of 17th Ave NW between NW 62nd and 63rd streets in 1996 as a potential site for a neighborhood park. Groundswell NW joined us at the Grand Opening for Ballard Corners Park to celebrate their 20th year of creating and maintaining open space and habitat in the Ballard and Crown Hill neighborhoods. They honored their founder Lillian Riley for her help in creating and stewarding Groundswell NW. Lillian held the large scissors for the ribbon cutting.

In 2005, Groundswell NW Board member and neighbor Davidya Kasperzyk applied for a Seattle Department of Neighborhoods Matching Fund Grant to begin the design and development of Ballard Corners Park. Throughout the design and development process Groundswell NW provided guidance and served as a fiscal sponsor for the project.

Seattle Parks and Recreation through its Pro Parks Levy worked to acquire the property. The Friends of Ballard Corners Park steering committee, with the help of neighbors, sought additional



Photo: Courtesy of Seattle Parks and Recreation

Lillian Riley, Parks Deputy Superintendent Christopher Williams and Parks Superintendent Tim Gallagher at the Denny Awards

Groundswell Celebrates 20th, Honors Founder

By Dave Boyd

In honor of our 20th Anniversary, the Groundswell board nominated Lillian Riley for a Denny Award, Seattle Parks & Recreation's annual recognition of outstanding volunteers. Of course she was selected, receiving their Lifetime Achievement award at a December ceremony at the Northwest African American Museum. The venue was appropriate, as it was one of many publicly owned properties that Lillian has advocated retaining for public use over the years.

That advocacy, and Groundswell NW itself, started with the old Webster Elementary School, now housing the Nordic Heritage Museum. When Seattle Public Schools floated plans to sell the school in the late '80s, Lillian quickly organized to keep the property public, then to create Webster Park out of the northwest corner of the school's old blacktop and museum's parking lot. The effort led to the formation of Groundswell NW in 1989 to advocate for keeping public lands in public hands, to create parks and open spaces (especially play areas for children), and to educate the public on the value of parks and environmental stewardship.

Lillian was Groundswell's founding President and served on the board for many years. She has been a mentor to many board members and other park advocates over the years. At our recent board retreat, she said creating Groundswell is her proudest achievement. The Denny Award is a fitting tribute to her persistent advocacy and the organization she founded.

Dear Groundswell supporters:

We are entering Groundswell's third decade of existence, with an impressive list of accomplishments to our credit. It amazes me to think that what began as a gleam in Lillian Riley's eye in 1989 has resulted in 14 new parks and open spaces in Ballard. We were very proud when Lillian received the Parks Department's Denny Award for lifetime achievement last November, as it couldn't have been more deserving. But when all is said and done, it is your desire to continue the "greening" of our community with thoughtful input at planning meetings, financial contributions that give us the extra edge to make things happen, and your shared enthusiasm for public outdoor spaces that makes Groundswell NW successful.

As a child, I played in the woods behind my house until the fateful day I came home from Girl Scout camp and the woods were completely gone, mowed down for housing development. From then on I was acutely aware of my loss, which may explain why when I see a father and child playing ball in Baker Park, or hold a meeting on the benches at the Thyme Patch Park and p-patch, or trim holly in the new park on 9th that I am proud to be part of the Groundswell story. Having outdoor space for people to enjoy close to home, whether in active sports or merely watching the butterflies, is so important to our well-being.

Please help our efforts grow with your contribution today. You will see your gift in the smiles of those who are enjoying Ballard's parks and open spaces. We on the Groundswell Board thank you as well.

Sincerely,
Andrea Faste
President



2009 LOCAL HEROES

Catherine Weatbrook, Don Harris and Steve Williams

Catherine Weatbrook has been the galvanizing force behind the successful community efforts to retain the old Crown Hill Elementary School as a center for neighborhood-based activities. Not only has she tirelessly spearheaded the project to purchase the building for community uses, she helped lead the development of a plan for Greening Crown Hill. She has been a leader for the revived Crown Hill Chamber of Commerce and a very active member of the Ballard District Council, focusing on efforts to update the neighborhood plans. With community ownership of the Crown Hill School in place, Catherine continues to tackle the many challenges in managing the facility and expanding its role as a center for the community.

Donald Harris and Seattle Parks & Recreation's Open space program have worked closely with Groundswell for many years. They have facilitated acquisition of ten new parks, P-patches and habitat areas in

the Ballard area, including the most recent \$3 million, 39,000 square foot 7th Elect Church site in 2008. At our annual meeting Donald recognized the efforts of Lise Ward in negotiating that purchase, and other members of his staff including the late Bill Blair, Catherine Anstett and Chip Nevins. As anyone who has worked with Don and his program know, they are always willing to go the extra mile and consider all alternatives to make even the most challenging projects work.

Steve Williams reluctantly accepted our Local Hero award last year because he wanted to share it with the entire staff of Ballard Market. As General Manager of Ballard Market, Steve has helped out local PTA's, service clubs, the Ballard Food Bank, and numerous Groundswell projects. Grocery stores don't have huge profit margins, so we are honoring Steve's generosity and hoping it is rewarded by many loyal customers.

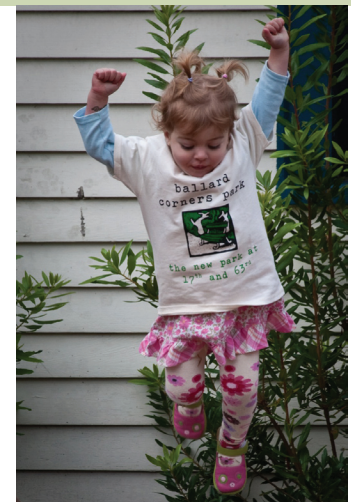


Photo: Gordon Waddell (c)

SEEKING NEW BOARD MEMBERS!

Groundswell NW is seeking new board members committed to making NW Seattle a greener, more livable community. We could use positive, creative individuals with skills in a number of areas, including law, real estate, marketing and community organizing. In particular, we are seeking people to help with our initiative to diversify our organization.

GROUNDSWELL NORTHWEST BOARD REVIVAL

At an extended Board meeting last fall, we considered these questions, "how has Ballard changed since Groundswell NW was founded 20 years ago," and "what are the current needs in Ballard that Groundswell can meet?"

Our discussion led to the following five conclusions:

- Ballard's demographic has changed to include more retirees, condo and apartment residents, and families without children. We are starting outreach to include more of these folks in Groundswell's activities, to make sure our parks meet the needs of all types of people.
- Availability of land for new parks has become scarce, and costs to have gone up. We are becoming more creative and looking at 'greening' smaller spaces. Suggestions are street ends, planting strip gardens that lead to parks, or creating public use space on private property such as sport courts on apartment rooftops.
- Since Groundswell was started in 1989, people's awareness of the limits of earth's capacity to sustain us has grown exponentially. Future Groundswell goals include increasing public education about sustainability practices and inspiring and educating citizens to take action. Towards this end we will

host our 2nd Annual Edible Garden Tour, we have involved kids in mycoremediation (planting mushroom mycelium plugs) at Greenwood Elementary School's eco-fair, and we will work with Seattle Public Utilities on storm water and bioswale demonstration projects.

- Over time, the need to maintain parks and their ecological health has become evident. There is a need for more support of 'Friends of Parks' groups, and a need to preserve our neighborhood urban forest : the Sunset Hill Greenbelt.
- Groundswell has had a good relationship with city, county and state officials. We need to systematically maintain those connections as Groundswell NW leaders and city officials change.

All this activity could benefit from more community involvement. If you see a role for yourself, or if you see something we have overlooked, please let us know.

You may email me at: amfaste@comcast.net, or call: 783-6963 before 9 PM.

Sincerely,
Andrea Faste

SUCCESSFUL HAZEL HEIGHTS FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN!

Groundswell Northwest teamed up with the P-Patch Trust on a successful Fall 2009 fundraising campaign to support the new Hazel Heights P-Patch Community Garden on the west side of Seattle's Fremont neighborhood. Groundswell matched the first \$5,000 of contributions received through the end of the year, and the Trust then matched the combined amount again, so even those donors who were able to make only a small contribution could have a big impact.

As of mid-December, the \$5,000 goal had already been met, so the Groundswell match alone was able to leverage over \$10,000 for Hazel Heights. Finishing touches on the construction of the 19-plot garden will be wrapped up in time for early spring planting. A grand opening celebration and ribbon cutting are slated for the Spring Equinox, at noon on Sunday, March 21, 2010.

Building neighborhood gardens is central to Groundswell's mission, and Hazel Heights opens new territory for public use in an underserved area. Although Fremont ranks as the ninth most densely populated neighborhood in Seattle, they lacked any community garden west of Aurora Avenue. Hazel Heights provides a rare opportunity to meet this need.

Many other features make Hazel Heights a great project for Groundswell. These include a demonstration project that harvests rainwater from nearby roofs to supply an 8,000 gallon irrigation

cistern on the site, reducing sewer storm water overflow pollution into Puget Sound.

"Groundswell's support came at a critical time for us," Hazel Heights Co-Chair Toby Thaler notes. "Because our site includes an area so steep that it required SEPA review and a master use permit, we faced a lot more obstacles in terms of cost and construction challenges than the typical P-Patch. Our many volunteers and supporters had gotten a bit burnt out by the time we received your generous matching grant, which really helped energize us for that last push to completion."

More information go to: www.groundswellnw.org, or contact:

Toby Thaler at 206/783-6443.



WELCOME FIGURE TO GRACE EXPANDED SALMON BAY NATURAL AREA

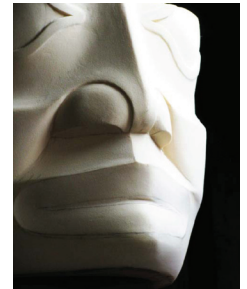
By Dave Boyd & Elizabeth Dunigan

Marvin Oliver, a renowned artist of Quinalt heritage, is creating a welcome figure for the Salmon Bay Natural Area (SBNA) to celebrate the transformative powers of the salmon life cycle and to remind us of the stories, history, and creativity inherent in local indigenous cultures. Groundswell NW, in partnership with Seattle Public Utilities, Department of Neighborhoods and the Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs, commissioned the artwork to reflect local indigenous cultures and the rich tribal history of the site, uniting a vision for beautification & ecological enhancement.

The welcome figure will be draped in Salish ceremonial garb, holding a large aluminum and glass disk depicting the salmon cycle. A variety of textures carved in the sculpture with clay and wax recall weaving techniques in textiles and basketry. Once the sculpture is fully formed, it will be molded and cast in bronze. Oliver will work to finish the sculpture with a bold geometric patterning on the tunic.

The welcome figure is oriented to face upstream, giving thanks to the juvenile salmon as they migrate out to sea from Lake Washington, while offering an aesthetic reminder that it is our community responsibility to protect vulnerable watersheds. Groundswell NW is working to further support the salmon life cycle by expanding the shoreline habitat at the SBNA East Expansion project. Native vegetated cover will provide shade and protection as young salmon make a critical transformation from a freshwater to saltwater environment. The project will also feature an innovative treatment using mushroom mycelium to stabilize the steep slope. The SBNA East Expansion project began January 2010.

Groundswell NW expects the sculpture to be installed by April and will celebrate this beautiful gift to the community this Spring at the Dedication Ceremony. We invite you to celebrate with us by giving thanks to the salmon returning to Puget Sound and welcoming them to come back next year!



Photos:
Elizabeth Dunigan

TRANSFORMING STREETS INTO ECOLOGICAL GREEN SPACES

By Elizabeth Dunigan & Dawn Hemminger

Groundswell NW has been participating with the Ballard community and the City of Seattle to explore how innovative landscaping along street edges may improve water quality while supporting the community's vision for green space. Excavated rain gardens along street edges allow storm water runoff from impervious urban surfaces, like streets, driveways, and roofs to be soaked into the ground instead of overburdening the storm sewer system and flooding our watersheds.

The ecological function of the rain garden is augmented with natural bioretention systems that allow storm water to infiltrate and interact with plants and soil that help remove contaminants from the water. Interwoven mushroom mycelium microfiltration mats planted within rain gardens further enhance water quality by converting petroleum based contaminants into beneficial fungal sugars.

In an effort to support long-term livability in Ballard, the east ballard community association has proposed a "green street" project that would transform 14th Avenue NW into a landscaped park boulevard. Rain gardens designed along the street edge would divert diesel-contaminated storm water from flowing directly into the watershed.

How can YOU be involved?

Groundswell NW invites YOU to improve the water quality at your home while creating beautiful natural spaces that attract birds and wildlife. Stay tuned for our upcoming spring lecture series and hands-on garden demonstration to explore how you can unite elements of ecological function at your home!

development funds through grants, King County, and the State of Washington.

The final master plan was the result of a public design process. Neighborhood volunteers worked closely with Barker Landscape Architects and Seattle Parks Department to determine the primary park elements. Through a series of public meetings, neighbors in the community expressed a strong desire to include a children's play structure, an open lawn, a rain garden, an artful 'living room,' and an homage to the corner store that once stood on the north end of the park site. Neighbors were also strongly in favor of preserving the existing fruit trees.

Construction was broken into three phases. 2009 saw completion of phases two and three. During the second phase, Dariotis Construction created the meandering sidewalks and the rain gardens. Nathan Arnold created the whimsical concrete 'living room' furniture. Neighbors again came out to help plant the rain gardens and parking strips. For the last phase, Nathan Arnold worked with Barker Landscape Architects to create the "corner store".

We are pleased to have partnered with Groundswell NW to make their vision a reality, and the park would never have been so beautiful and magical without the help of the park's neighbors. Our hat is off to Groundswell NW and Ballard's energetic residents. Here's to 20 more years of creating parks and open space in Ballard!

David Folweiler at david.folweiler@ballardcornerspark.org



Photos: Catherine Anstett

Lillian Riley wields the big scissors at the ribbon-cutting



Current and former board members hold timeline displaying 20 years of Groundswell activity.

WHEN TIMES ARE HARD, EAT YOUR YARD!

This past summer, Groundswell NW teamed up with Sustainable Ballard to offer the 1st Annual Ballard Edible Garden Tour. Attendees had the opportunity to tour 14 edible gardens. Many wonderful garden styles were featured, from mixed edibles and ornamentals to a 'Belgian Fence' espalier latticework using 18 apple trees. Our purpose in providing the tour was to inspire folks to begin their own edible garden, and to provide sophisticated ideas for those who already garden.

Call to action: Soon we will begin planning the next Edible Garden Tour, and we'll need volunteers. If you'd like to help organize this event, or would like to volunteer your edible garden, please contact Catherine Darley at drdarley@naturalsleepmedicine.net or 293-2899.

the ballard 2009 walking/biking
Edible Garden Tour
"When Times Are Hard, Eat Your Yard!"



THE NEW PARK ON 9TH

By Alyssa Smith, Friends of the New Park on 9th

2009 saw many developments at Ballard's future park on 9th Ave NW just north of 70th Street. The Friends of the Park had a large number of volunteers at five work parties to keep up the future park site's appearance. We were happy for the help of the Whittier Heights Community Council and for their great movie night this summer, in conjunction with our second Ice Cream Social. The movie night/ice cream social event gave neighbors a chance to meet and talk about their visions for the park even before the official development meetings started in November. We look forward to having more events like this in the future to engage neighbors and supporters of the project.

The development meetings brought our community together to work through their ideas for the park. Site Workshop was chosen as design consultant, and it was great to see so many opinions coalescing into a common vision with their expertise. The details of the design will be worked out by the final community meeting on January 28th. We look forward to enjoying a great relaxing park at the end of the process.

For 2010, the Friends of the Park are excited to continue working with our neighbors, the community, the design team and the Parks Department to move forward in implementing the design. If you would like to help us in our efforts please go to the Groundswell website <http://www.groundswellnw.org/new-park-on-9th.html> or contact: Alyssa Smith at alyssabsmith@gmail.com

GROUNDSWELL NW BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Andrea Faste, President

Dave Boyd

Catherine Darley, Vice President

Elizabeth Dunigan

Dawn Hemminger, Treasurer

Lydia Marshall, Secretary



GROUNDSWELL NORTHWEST

VISIT OUR WEBSITE www.groundswellnw.org

PO Box 17163 • Seattle, WA 98127

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

ADDITIONAL 2009 ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Neighborhood Matching Fund Grants were received in 2009 for:

- Troll Knoll tree planting project
- Sunset Hill Substation Feasibility Study
- Planting Partnerships on 14th Ave NW.

Fiscal Sponsorship continues for Sustainable Ballard and GNW participated in their Sustainable Ballard Festival.

Fiscal Sponsorship began for the Bike Share Group.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

The east ballard community association is seeking Parks and Green Spaces Levy funds to transform 14th Ave NW into a park boulevard. Contact: Dawn Hemminger at: eastballard@gmail.com 206-953-3940 and see website at: <http://www.eastballard.wordpress.com>

Friends of the Troll's Knoll, are making the area on each side of the Aurora Bridge on N. 36th St. and Troll Way a safe and more interactive space for the Fremont community. Contact Kimberly Scrivner at: Kscrivner@psrc.org or 253-732-0885.

Friends of the Sunset Substation, are undertaking a feasibility study for the abandoned Substation at 32nd Ave NW between NW 64th and Nw 65th. Contact: Robert Drucker, robert.drucker@gmail.com

Check our newsletter or our website for ongoing opportunities!

SAVE THE DATE! MARCH 14, 2010

ANNUAL MEETING AND DESSERT POTLUCK

Location: Loyal Heights Community Center

2101 NW 77th St, Seattle, WA 98117

Time: 7-9pm

Come join us for a conversation with our new Mayor, Mike McGinn. We will have the opportunity to learn what his goals are for stewardship and development of Seattle's neighborhood green infrastructure and open spaces.

