

Portland's Neighborhood Associations

COMMUNITY

STEWARDSHIP

SERVICE



What are Portland Neighborhood Associations?

We are people in the places where we live, work, and play—inspired to come together to improve the physical, civic and social health of these community areas. Our unique system is nationally celebrated.

We support everyone's right to participate in the ways most meaningful to each person. We work to invite everyone to the table. We value everyone's contributions. Neighborhood associations are designed to give every willing volunteer a voice in local community and government.

Volunteer Efforts

Volunteers join together with neighbors and businesses to care for the area where they live and work. Neighborhood associations and coalitions host community events—sometimes fun, sometimes hard-working—often both—which are as varied and diverse as the needs and imagination of the people in each, unique neighborhood.

Services

Each of the seven Neighborhood/Coalition Offices offers a range of services based on the needs of their geographic area, providing assistance and advice to individual community members and the neighborhood associations within each area.

We serve as a hub for people and information. We help develop opportunities for communities to engage with each other and with government on a wide variety of issues—issues identified by volunteers and communities, who then act to address these concerns.

What We Do

For over a quarter of a century, Portland Neighborhood Associations and Coalitions have provided a critical forum on local issues, successfully engaging neighborhood association and community members. (Membership in neighborhood associations is free and open to all residents and businesses.)

Volunteers work on many projects, events and issues, engaging the community in grassroots democracy. Our work includes environmental stewardship, neighborhood fairs, crime and safety efforts, building trails and neighborhood cleanups. We organize and support public policy input addressing community and social needs, transportation issues, and proposed development projects.

From July, 2008 to June, 2009, these groups and volunteers:

- Welcomed over 33,720 community members to neighborhood or coalition meetings
- Sponsored over 1,487 community involvement projects and events
- Participated in over 8,246 efforts to engage with people from groups previously underrepresented in the civic life of Portland.

The seven Portland area Neighborhood Offices not only provide assistance to the ninety-five Neighborhood Associations, but to individuals, organizations and businesses located in our areas of the city.

We help neighbors and community members to connect with each other and to government. We provide training, information, advice and support.

We provide public notices, support websites and host discussion groups online.

We offer small grants, fiscal sponsorship to neighborhoods and their partner organizations and accounting for neighborhood associations.

We are custodians of public records—together with our elder volunteers we provide an historical memory of the communities we serve.

From June 2008 to July 2009, these offices:

- Distributed 1,142,663 individual print newsletters and e-newsletters.
- Awarded 92 community grants totaling \$192,552.
- Responded to over 46,684 requests for technical assistance.
- Provided leadership and related trainings to 835 individuals.
- Provided staff support at 1,141 neighborhood meetings.



Portland's Neighborhood Geography

The seven neighborhood offices each serve a group of neighborhoods with unique individual character and needs.

Here is a brief summary of the different types of activities which have been occurring in each area:

East Portland Neighborhood Office — www.eastportland.org

Serves 13 Neighborhood Associations: 503.823.4550

EPNO encourages residents to engage with local government and build community. An Asset Based Community Development project provides support for listening and building relationships in immediate communities. The East Portland Action Plan, an ongoing group, provides advocacy and leadership in implementation of the East Portland Action Plan, a guide for improving livability in East Portland. Both our website and our printed East Portland Neighborhood Association News highlight neighborhood events, projects and opportunities to get involved. We support neighborhood committees, activities and the Neighborhood Small Grants.

Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods — www.necoalition.org

Serves 12 Neighborhood Associations: 503.823.4575

Fostering highly inclusive civic engagement, NECN, a 501c3 nonprofit corporation, is dedicated to the livability of twelve inner North & Northeast neighborhoods, supporting a socio-economically and culturally diverse area. NECN is known as a project incubator, serving the diverse populations of inner North and Northeast Portland by offering the opportunity to affect social change with community-driven solutions and providing resources to empower volunteer leaders to achieve common objectives. Additionally, NECN serves as core support (outreach, training, organizing, etc) for neighborhoods, committees, and community members.

SE Uplift— www.southeastuplift.org

Serves 20 Neighborhood Associations: 503.232.0010

SE Uplift Neighborhood Coalition acts as a convener for our neighborhoods, business districts and community groups, bringing people together through a variety of events to encourage networking, resource sharing and collaboration. Our programs frequently change, responding to community members' needs and interests. Most recently, our Land Use Committee held a lively and well-attended workshop to help prepare our neighbors for effective participation in the upcoming Portland Plan presentations. Our program areas include Neighborhood Leadership, Communications, Land Use/Livability, Sustainability & Fiscal Sponsorship

Neighbors West-Northwest — www.nwnw.org

Serves 12 Neighborhood Associations: 503.823.4288

Neighbors West-Northwest serves neighborhoods ranging from the most densely populated to the least populated areas of Portland. Our neighborhoods advocate for public restrooms, community arts, pedestrian safety, environmental protection and more. They forge connections with local businesses and communities of interest & clean trash off the sidewalks. The anchoring community establishments include the Linnton, Hillside & Zimmerman Community Centers, the NW Community Garden, and several educational institutions. Our monthly newsletter, The Neighborhood Activist, circulation 30,000, highlights our activities.

Central Northeast Neighbors — www.cnncoalition.org

Serves 8 Neighborhood Associations: 503.823.3156

CNN supports efforts that contribute to community livability, diversity, safety, and sustainability in Central NE Portland. CNN provides a forum to empower communities to take action on issues that lead to collaborative efforts. CNN's Livable Communities Project supports Neighborhood Associations for community building projects such as the Beaumont Middle School Learning Courtyard, Hollywood Community Chess Tables, and Free Summer Concerts in Rose City Park. To engage all neighbors and to increase cultural awareness, CNN hosts the Cross-Cultural Workshop Series. Other initiatives include the Somali Outreach Project in Cully and working with PSU students to promote neighborhood-serving business districts such as the Imagine 82nd Vision Plan and the PDX International District.

North Portland Neighborhood Services — www.npnscommunity.org

Serves 11 Neighborhood Associations: 503.823.4524

North Portland Neighborhood Services mission is to foster assets based community development in North Portland. NPNS provides support and technical assistance for individuals and groups engaged in developing grass root programs, communication & cross cultural awareness, and land use & environmental issues. NPNS serves a number of programs that build community in North Portland including: 11 neighborhood associations, Frente Comun Latinos del Norte, two community centers, the North Portland Tool Library, business associations, a superfund project, a trail consortium, two farmers markets, the North Portland Land Use Group, community based art programs, neighborhood clean ups and over 30 grant funded projects. NPNS also supports & maintains the Historic Kenton Firehouse and its naturescaped green space employing sustainable technologies which provides no cost space to local community groups.

Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc — www.swni.org

Serves 17 Neighborhood Associations and 3 Business Associations: 503.823.4592

Some unique work accomplished this year includes a Bicycle Commuter workshop, outreach to schools, and community conversations with nearly 1000 residents about Halo local improvement districts. SW Trails created a strategy to improve infrastructure for bicyclists in SW Portland. Cleanup events collected over 85 tons of material (80% was recycled). We have 14 neighborhood Watershed Stewardship groups. Other community based projects included: a basketball camp for low-income children, a Community Policing Reception, holiday celebrations, food drives, candidate forums, a historic resource assessment, monthly guided trail walks, two farmer markets, and the Multnomah Days 2008 Centennial celebration. SWNI publishes a free newspaper to over 10,000 households every month to engage and inform the community .