



# GRESHAM



INSIDE THIS EDITION

Fall recreation classes, page 6

FALL 2023

A NEWSLETTER FOR RESIDENTS

## Fall for parks all over again



Explore new amenities and cheer more on the way!

Grab your pumpkin spice latte, your kids, grandkids, the dog, and head out to play in Gresham's parks and trails system.

The City has made several park upgrades worth checking out this fall.

"We can't say enough that we're able to do this thanks to our local elected leaders and the state," said Joe Walsh, Director of Strategic Initiatives and Partnerships.

### New sports courts

It's a slam dunk for Red Sunset Park and Yamhill Park. The City renovated the basketball courts by applying a new acrylic surface for better play and adding more hoops.

Now a fast break won't jar your joints and friendly pickup games add positive play in the parks.

"Thank you all and everyone in the City for updating our community park!" wrote a resident to Parks staff about Yamhill Park. "Thank you for helping us take pride in our community."

These are the first of several park improvements made possible with \$634,000 in federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds allocated to the City of Gresham through the offices of Sen. Chris Gorsek and Rep. Ricki Ruiz.

More sports court projects, including basketball and pickleball and a new community garden, are in the planning stages for other Gresham parks. [See the sidebar, Coming Soon.](#)

### Nadaka play structure

Yell "Timber!" while climbing Nadaka Nature Park's new wooden timber stacks play equipment. It's made with sustainable black locust wood that is naturally rot- and insect-resistant for year-round play.

**Fun fact:** Parks Operations installed the Nadaka play equipment, saving the City more than \$27,000 by doing the work in house.

Nadaka Nature Park's 12 acres have something for everyone, including a nature-based play area for kids and the Nadaka Loop Trail.



Gresham-Fairview Trail new section celebration and group ride. A wide choice of activities and opportunities to enjoy recreation and nature is part of Gresham's Strategic Plan. [See Page 2.](#)

### Gresham-Fairview Trail link

You can wind through urban wetlands and neighborhoods while exploring nature in the city.

Walking, biking, in-line skating, skateboarding, wheelchairs and battery-powered scooters are a few ways to enjoy the 3.29-mile paved trail.

The City filled in a 120-foot gap on the Gresham-Fairview Trail at Burnside and 197th Avenue, where it connects to the Wy'East Way path.

It provides a more direct connection between the trails, so users can avoid traveling on the street.

This new section is grant-funded and is part of the 40-Mile Loop system.

### Parks Ambassadors

A welcome addition to parks are our friendly ambassadors!

Gresham Police's seasonal Parks Ambassadors make sure parks are a safe place

for all community members. Look for their red shirts and come say hello.

"It's been overwhelmingly positive building relationships with parkgoers and their families," said Ami Minor, Parks Ambassador and newly sworn Gresham Police Officer.

"We're seeing a lot of full parks," she added. "There's not a day I go to the park and don't hear laughter or see kids running around."

**Fun fact:** Gresham has 33 parks to explore.

"Our parks are vastly different in scenery and environments," Officer Minor said. "Bella Vista is an outdoor oasis with lots of trees and open land for kids to run around. And on the west side of town are disc golf courses; it's always busy when I drive by."

The City used pandemic funding to hire three seasonal Park Ambassadors to assist Police.

For more information about Gresham Parks and Recreation, visit [GreshamOregon.gov/Parks](http://GreshamOregon.gov/Parks) or call 503-618-2300.

### Coming to a park near you

We're excited to add to your parks and recreation experience!

#### Walking paths

Coming to Columbia View Park and North Gresham Park in 2024. Staff secured two grants worth over \$1.3 million through Oregon Department of Transportation's Community Paths Program. The funds will help develop walking paths in Columbia View and North Gresham parks.

#### Pickleball

Coming to Aspen Highlands Park in 2024. The first pickleball courts in Gresham's park system! Two new courts will nestle up beside the futsal court to fully utilize the park's plaza space.

#### Community gardens, sports court

Coming to Rockwood Central Park in 2024. Adding community garden plots and renovating the basketball court with a new, wider surface.

#### Soccer and softball fields

Coming to Gradin Sports Park in 2025. The City is adding two new softball and baseball fields and two new soccer fields to complete the vision of the sports park that began more than two decades ago.

#### Pickleball, dog park

More good news for Gradin! The City won a \$467,950 Oregon State Parks grant in September to build an amenity plaza with pickleball and sports courts, a restroom and a dog park.

The money for Gradin comes from three grants. Capital funding of \$2 million through Oregon's lottery bonds program. Federal funding of \$2 million, thanks to Rep. Earl Blumenauer. And \$467,950 from the Oregon State Parks Local Government Grant Program.

### Find a Gresham park

Looking for a park with picnic tables and a basketball court? The City's website has a mobile-friendly "amenity search" to make finding local recreation options a virtual picnic in the park.

Go to [GreshamOregon.gov/Parks](http://GreshamOregon.gov/Parks).

Easily choose the amenities you're looking for, from picnic tables and restrooms to playgrounds and a disc golf course, and a list of parks with matching features will pop up at your fingertips, complete with general park information, photos, a map, and rules and safety information.

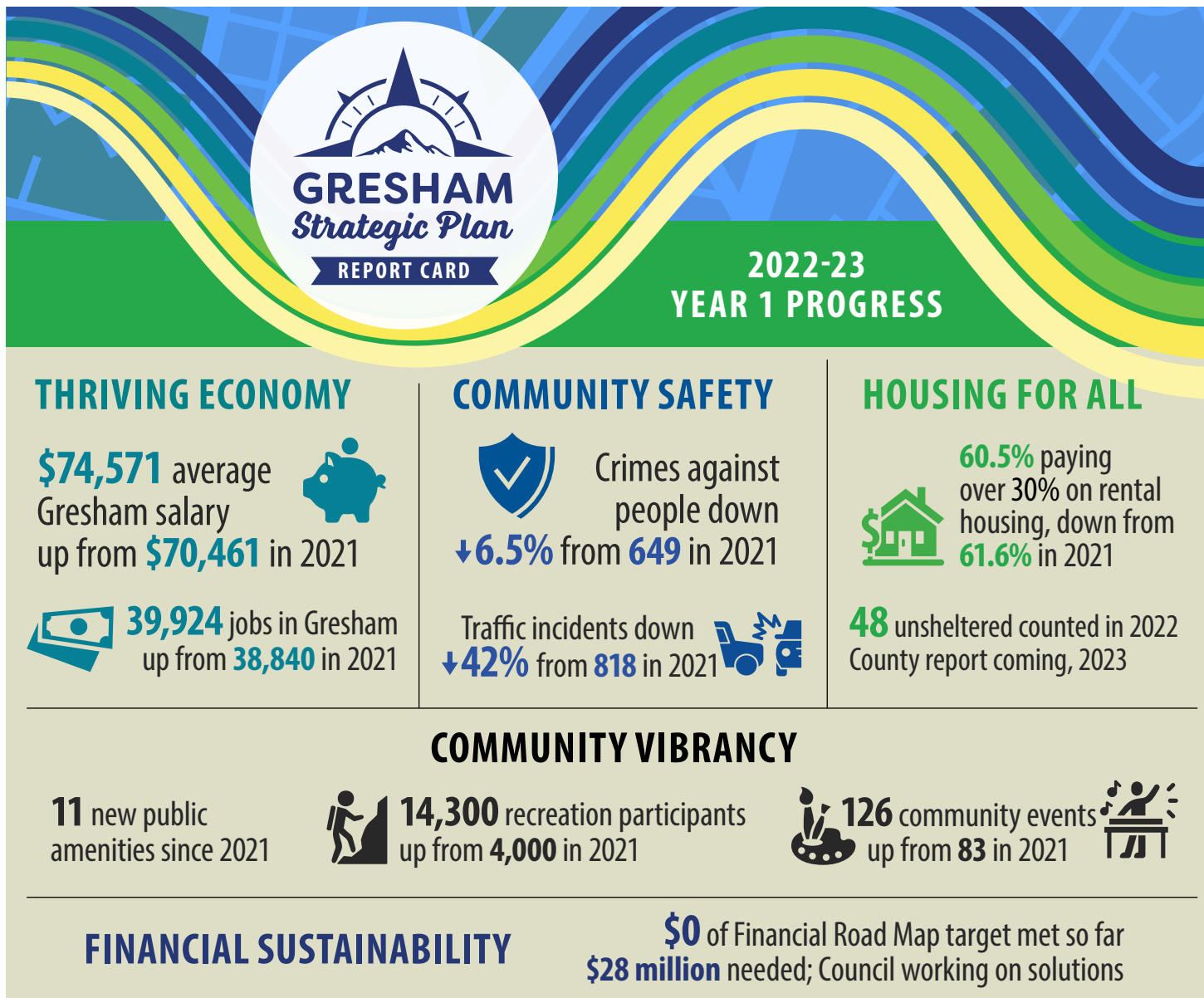
Gresham's park system includes more than 1,103 acres of park land, natural areas and trails.

- GreshamOregon.gov
- Facebook.com/CityofGresham
- Instagram.com/CityofGresham
- Twitter.com/CityofGresham
- Youtube.com/CityofGreshamOregon

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Gresham Police Officer John Sayson flies a drone from City Hall to a call in progress.

## Police take flight

The City has taken community safety to new heights. The Gresham Police Department is the second law enforcement agency in Oregon to start a Drone as First Responder program and the 16th nationally.

The drones launch from City Hall and deploy for circumstances such as searching for lost or missing people and crimes in progress.

Using drones as first responders allows Police to respond faster to our community's needs while keeping officers safe. Drones can arrive on scene within a couple of minutes. This allows officers to have their eyes on an incident in record time and can reduce the amount of personnel needed.

"Without the extra staffing the Gresham Safety Levy would have provided our department, we are having to find innovative ways to be more efficient while keeping our community safe," said Gresham Police Chief Travis Gullberg.

The drones do not record video unless it is necessary for the collection of evidence.

To learn more, visit [GreshamOregon.gov/Safe-Gresham](https://GreshamOregon.gov/Safe-Gresham).

**Meet Dro-9, the K-9 of the skies**

- Height:** 8.5 inches
- Weight:** 8.3 pounds
- Mission:** Airborne support
- Hobbies:** Flying, Google maps trivia
- Enjoys:** Gresham fall colors, recharging batteries

## Building momentum: Gresham's vision takes shape

The City is proud to announce the first year of Strategic Plan work is complete, moving Gresham toward the vision of a safe, thriving and welcoming community for all.

Adopted in August 2022, the three-year Gresham Strategic Plan is the blueprint that defines the community's desires for the future.

The plan focuses the City's resources on the community's top priorities: Community Safety, Thriving Economy, Financial Sustainability, Housing for All and Community Vibrancy.

See highlights from the first year in the Strategic Plan Report Card, above.

### Track our progress

Community members can follow the City's work.

- **Explore** the new Strategic Plan Performance Dashboard.
- **Read** the Year-End Report and Year-Two Action Plan.

To learn more, visit [GreshamOregon.gov/Strategic-Plan](https://GreshamOregon.gov/Strategic-Plan)

For more information, call the City Manager's Office at 503-618-2346.



### Watch this video!

**Strategic Plan in action:** connecting people through trails. Scan the code with a phone camera.

## Gresham Safety Levy update

The City Council continues to work toward a more sustainable financial situation for our community.

This includes conversations about when to return the Gresham Safety Levy to voters for a second consideration, fees, and other funding options.

On Sept. 19, the City Council

directed staff to return with a proposal for a May 2024 ballot measure. Staff will be working over the next few weeks to incorporate the feedback of Council, our community and the focus groups conducted by DHM Consulting into a revised Gresham Safety ballot measure to present to Council later this fall.

### Money issues remain

Because the May levy didn't pass, the City faces a budget shortfall. The City used American Rescue Plan Act funds to pass this year's budget, a temporary solution.

Learn more at [GreshamOregon.gov/Financial-Road-Map](https://GreshamOregon.gov/Financial-Road-Map) or call 503-618-2247.

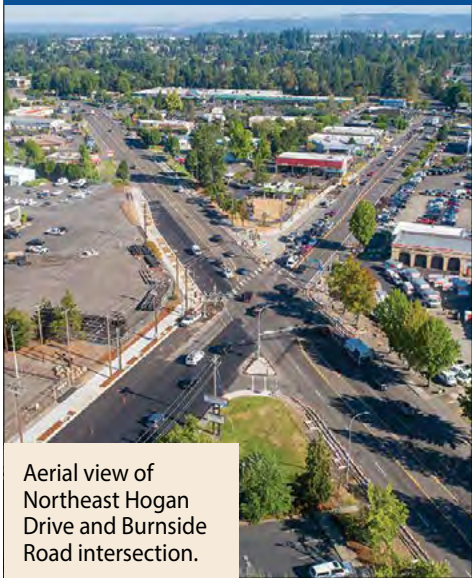


# Hey, what's that? We bet you're wondering!

Around town, four large construction projects are underway. Good things are taking shape in the areas of transportation, urban renewal, economic development and libraries.

## Here's the scoop on what's building up in Gresham

### Northeast Hogan Drive safety improvements



Aerial view of Northeast Hogan Drive and Burnside Road intersection.



**Location:** NE Hogan Drive from NE Burnside to East Powell Boulevard

**Project description:** Adding a southbound lane on NE Hogan Drive between Burnside and Powell.

Safety improvements include new sidewalks and a multi-use pathway for pedestrian travel.

Stormwater facilities will collect and filter road pollutants.

**Why it's good for Gresham:** "This will help to relieve congestion at two of our busiest intersections and give our bicyclists and pedestrians a safer, more comfortable way to travel along this stretch of Hogan," said Chris Strong, Transportation Division Manager.

**Interesting fact:** This is one of Gresham's busiest intersections. The average daily traffic count is 45,000 vehicles passing through in a 24-hour period.

**Construction timeline:** October 2022-October 2023

Learn more at [GreshamOregon.gov/Public-Works](http://GreshamOregon.gov/Public-Works) or call Environmental Services at 503-618-2525.

### Grainger distribution center



Mayor Travis Stovall at the Grainger distribution center groundbreaking.



**Location:** Gresham Vista Business Park, NE Hogan Drive and NE 38th Drive, next to the Subaru Distribution Center

**Project description:** Grainger distributes industrial supply products, from office supplies and plumbing parts to building maintenance tools. The company is building a 500,000-square-foot distribution center. Grainger will hire 80 to start and increase to over 150 employees.

**Why it's good for Gresham:** "We are thrilled to welcome Grainger to the city of Gresham," said Gresham Mayor Travis Stovall. "Their new facility not only brings the promise of new jobs but also an economic impact that will undoubtedly be felt throughout our community."

**Interesting fact:** The distribution center is expected to house 135,000 industrial supply items.

**Construction timeline:** through 2024; opening in 2025

Learn more at [GreshamOregon.gov/Economic-Development](http://GreshamOregon.gov/Economic-Development) or call Economic and Development Services at 503-618-2640.

### East County Library



Rendering of the new East County Library interior. Submitted design.



**Location:** 1297 NW Eastman Parkway

**Project description:** Multnomah County Library is building a new, approximately \$147 million, 95,000-square-foot library. The City of Gresham and TriMet are working with Multnomah County Library.

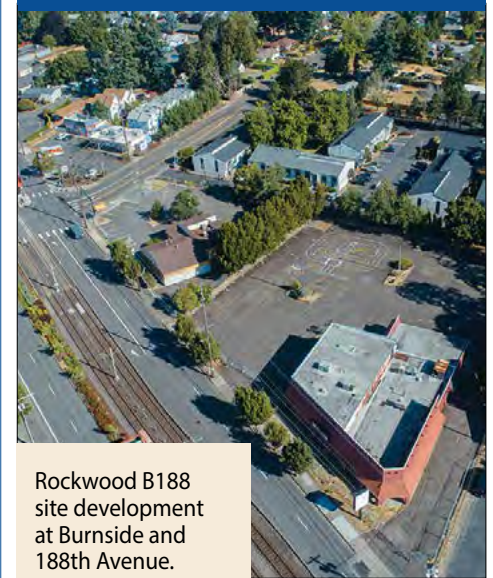
**Why it's good for Gresham:** "We're dreaming big, and the new East County Library is going to be something unique and meaningful," said Vailey Oehlke, Director of Libraries. "From an incredible auditorium for cultural celebrations to spaces for making, learning, doing, and playing, this library will be beautiful, accessible and representative of the people of East County."

**Interesting fact:** The new library will be just steps from TriMet's City Hall MAX station, allowing people to get to it easily.

**Construction timeline:** started in August. East County Library is scheduled to be complete in fall 2025

Learn more at [multcolib.org/eastcounty](http://multcolib.org/eastcounty) or call Multnomah County Library at 503-988-5123.

### Rockwood B188



Rockwood B188 site development at Burnside and 188th Avenue.



**Location:** Corner of Burnside Road and SE 188th Avenue, across from the 188th MAX station and Downtown Rockwood

**Project description:** A redevelopment project in the heart of Rockwood, this community-focused investment proposes a new school, gym, public plaza for sports and events, workforce training, housing, and small business retail spaces.

**Why it's good for Gresham:** "This project will be a tremendous community asset," said Brian Monberg, Director of Urban Renewal, Gresham Redevelopment Commission. "It will create new opportunities for education, recreation and job development in our community."

**Interesting fact:** The City is honoring the history of the site by photographing architectural details of Asia Kitchen and the Sunrise Center.

**Construction timeline:** demolition of current buildings, fall 2023; construction is proposed for 2025-2026

Learn more at [GreshamOregon.gov/Urban-Renewal](http://GreshamOregon.gov/Urban-Renewal) or call Urban Renewal at 503-618-2545.





## INSIDE CITY HALL

**Mayor**  
Travis Stovall 503-618-2584

**City Council Office** 503-618-2871

**City Council**  
Sue Piazza, Council President

Dina DiNucci

Janine Gladfelter

Jerry Hinton

Vince Jones-Dixon

Eddy Morales

**Abandoned Vehicle Reporting** 503-618-2248

**Animal Services (Multnomah County)** 503-988-7387

**Building Permits** 503-618-2845

**Business Licenses** 503-618-2370

**Code Compliance** 503-618-2248

**East County Resolutions** 503-618-3247

**Fire/Police Non-Emergency** 503-823-3333

**Garbage/Recycling** 503-618-2525

**Housing Resources Coordinator** 503-618-2721

**Parks** 503-618-2626

**Planner on Duty** 503-618-2780

**Small Business Center** 503-618-2872

**Utility Billing** 503-618-2373

**City of Gresham** 503-618-3000

1333 NW Eastman Parkway  
Gresham, OR 97030

**Pay a City bill online**  
GreshamOregon.gov/Pay-Your-Bill-Online

### In-person customer service hours

**Building on Duty**  
8 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Thursday

**Business Licenses**  
8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Thursday

**Permit Services**  
8 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Thursday

**Planner on Duty (closed noon-1 p.m.)**  
8 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Thursday

**Utility Billing**  
8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Thursday

City Hall is virtually open for all services, online or by phone, from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday.

**GRESHAM** is produced quarterly by the City of Gresham for its residents.

Questions, comments and suggestions should be directed to Sarah Cagann at 503-793-4167, or Sarah.Cagann@GreshamOregon.gov.

Issues are available for viewing at GreshamOregon.gov/City-Publications

The information in this newsletter is current as of the publication date. Call the City at 503-618-3000 to verify meeting dates and status of events, or visit GreshamOregon.gov/Events

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# Upcoming Events: Fall into fun



## National Walk + Roll to School Day

Wednesday, Oct. 4 • To and from school  
Free, all ages

▶ Youth and families are encouraged to walk, bike, and roll to school, and to stay active and healthy.

▶ Schools are welcome to celebrate any day in October that best fits their schedules.

▶ Interested in hosting a Walk + Roll at your school? Contact Carly.Rice@GreshamOregon.gov or call 503-618-2818.

Learn more at

[GreshamOregon.gov/Safe-Routes-to-School](http://GreshamOregon.gov/Safe-Routes-to-School).



## Police, Fire Statues Unveiling and Station Storytime

Saturday, Oct. 7

Storytime 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Statues unveiling, 11:45 a.m.

Gresham City Hall

Free, all ages

▶ Enjoy refreshments, activities and Station Storytime with Fire and Police at Fire Station 71.

▶ Come experience the reveal of the new bronze statue "Little Heroes." We hear one has a tail!

▶ Thank you Gresham Outdoor Public Art (GOPA) and Joan Albertson for commissioning this community art honoring public safety heroes.

Learn more at [GreshamOregon.gov/Events](http://GreshamOregon.gov/Events).



## Fall Recycling and Shredding Day

Saturday, Oct. 14 • 9 a.m. - noon

Gresham City Hall • Free, Gresham and Wood Village residents

### What we're collecting

▶ Sensitive documents and papers for shredding. Limit two grocery-size paper bags per vehicle.

▶ Plastic bags and wrap. Clean, dry, no food residue. Dry cleaning and produce bags. Plastic overwrap (plastic around cases of water bottles or paper towels, etc.); plastic bag air pillows.

▶ Rigid Styrofoam™. Block only, coolers accepted. **Not accepted:** items with tape, packing peanuts, paper-padded envelopes, food-soiled or dirty materials, squishy foam.

Learn more at [GreshamOregon.gov/Shred](http://GreshamOregon.gov/Shred) or call 503-618-2525.



## Repair Cafe and Clothing Swap

at Habitat ReStore • Saturday, Oct. 21  
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

\*Check in repair items by noon

Free, all ages

### What we're fixing and swapping

▶ Torn clothing, fabric repairs, broken lamps, vacuums, fans, clocks, small kitchen appliances, fine jewelry, jewelry clasps. **Not repairable:** bikes, sewing machines, TVs, electronics, microwaves, small engines.

▶ Coats and winter gear swap. "Shop" for previously loved clothes and bring some to share with others. Clothing donation or Repair Cafe participation isn't required to shop. Bring your own bag.

▶ Fixers wanted. Help others fix broken items. If you'd like to share your skills, email [repaircafegresham@gmail.com](mailto:repaircafegresham@gmail.com). Hosted by the Neighborhood Coalition, Gresham Free Swaps, and City of Gresham.

Learn more at [GreshamOregon.gov/Recycling-Programs](http://GreshamOregon.gov/Recycling-Programs) or call 503-618-2525.



## Safe Trick or Treat

Tuesday, Oct. 31 • 4 - 6 p.m.

Historic Downtown • Free, all ages

▶ A fun event on Halloween for families.

▶ Many business owners hand out candy for trick-or-treaters in costume.

▶ Safe trick or treating along Main Avenue, rain or shine.

▶ Harvest Party, 5-8 p.m., at East Hill Church Family. Free hot dogs, carnival games, etc.

Learn more about activities downtown at [historicdowntowngresham.org](http://historicdowntowngresham.org).



## Spirit of Gresham

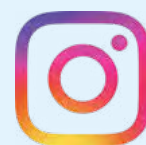
Community tree lighting event • Saturday, Dec. 2  
Gresham Arts Plaza • Free, all ages

▶ Gresham Holiday Light Cruise, 4:30 - 5 p.m.

▶ Spirit of Gresham starts at 5 p.m.

▶ Tree Lighting, 6 p.m.

Learn more at [GreshamOregon.gov/Spirit-of-Gresham](http://GreshamOregon.gov/Spirit-of-Gresham) or call 971-438-6478.



## Follow us on Instagram

Follow @CityofGresham on Instagram, share us with your friends, and let's celebrate the beauty and diversity of Gresham together. We feature upcoming

City events, videos, news and photos of the people and places that make up the heart of our city.

Follow us at [@Instagram.com/CityofGresham](https://www.instagram.com/CityofGresham).





## FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

# 'Cooking safety starts with you'

Cooking brings family and friends together, provides an outlet for creativity, and can be relaxing. But did you know that cooking fires are the number one cause of home fires and injuries?

"Distraction is the biggest failure in cooking," said Gresham Firefighter Michael Stuck, Station 71. "We'll see people put something on the stove, then leave or fall asleep. A lot of times it smokes up bad, but it can extend to cabinetry, and then you have a full-on cooking fire."

Gresham Fire Marshal Shawn Durham said, nationally, cooking caused 49% of all reported home fires. "Please use the following tips to cook safely," Durham said.

### Cook with caution

- Keep anything that can catch fire – oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, towels or curtains – away from your stovetop.

- Stay in the kitchen while you are frying, boiling, grilling or broiling food. If you leave the kitchen, even for a short period of time, turn off the stove.
- If you are sleepy or have consumed alcohol, don't use the stove or stovetop.

### If you have a small grease fire

- On the stovetop, smother the flames by sliding a lid over the pan and turning off the burner. Leave the pan covered until it's completely cooled.
- For an oven fire, turn off the heat and keep the door closed.

### If you have any doubt ...

- Just get out! When you leave, close the door behind you to contain the fire.
- Call 911 or the local emergency number from outside the home.



Gresham Firefighter Michael Stuck practices safe cooking at Station 71.

For more life-saving tips, visit [GreshamOregon.gov/Safety-Tips](http://GreshamOregon.gov/Safety-Tips).

# There's no time like the Pleasant (Valley)

The City continues its project to take a fresh look at Pleasant Valley

The original vision for Pleasant Valley in 2004 looked at creating a 1,532-acre "complete community" with a mix of land uses, transportation and natural spaces.

To date, there has been a mismatch between what was envisioned and what has been built. The project team is wrapping up our analysis of what has, and hasn't, been built and what's happening in the economic market.

We're starting to draft recommendations that will focus on strategies to better guide future growth.

Thanks to everyone who came to our community meeting in July. How to get involved this fall:

### ► Pleasant Valley Community Meeting

Monday, Oct. 30, 5:30-7:30 p.m.  
Pleasant Valley Elementary School  
17625 SE Foster Road



**Affordable housing for people with limited incomes is rated as the community's highest priority.**

### ► City Council presentation (planned for Dec. 12)

Staff will present community feedback and its recommended draft strategies for Pleasant Valley to the City Council.

Sign up for updates at [GreshamOregon.gov/Pleasant-Valley-Plan-Update](http://GreshamOregon.gov/Pleasant-Valley-Plan-Update). For more information, contact Carly.Rice@GreshamOregon.gov or call 503-618-2818.



### My Gresham: Report an issue

If you see something amiss, whether it's a pothole, graffiti, or an abandoned car, easily tell us using My Gresham, our reporting tool. Ask Police a non-emergency question. It allows community members to quickly ask a question or send a non-urgent request by mobile app, website, or phone.

The City has managed over 49,500 requests and more than 8,500 residents have used the service at least once.

Abandoned vehicles continue to be the most reported issue.

Download the mobile app for free from the Apple App Store and Google Play or report an issue online at [GreshamOregon.gov/My-Gresham](http://GreshamOregon.gov/My-Gresham).







Your Utility Team is here to help.

## City utility bill help, more funds this fall!

People who need help paying their City of Gresham utility bills may apply for a new round of assistance. The City Council approved \$100,000 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding for the community.

The new program may cover up to three bills — two with ARPA funding and one paid by the City's utilities assistance program.

"We continue to see people struggling post-COVID; the need is still there," said Ann Travers, Financial Operations Manager.

"People who qualified before are welcome to reapply again and will be individually reviewed," Travers said.

And the income levels are more generous. A family of four earning less than \$67,000 may qualify. A single person earning less than \$43,000 a year may qualify.

▶ **Apply for the new program now.**

### Qualifications

- Customer must have a Gresham utility bill account.
- Customer must verify income.
- Help applies to various housing types.

### How to apply

- Apply online at [GreshamOregon.gov/Utility-Financial-Assistance](https://GreshamOregon.gov/Utility-Financial-Assistance).
- Pick up an application at the City Hall Utilities counter, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Thursday.
- Spanish and Russian are available.

Your Utility Team is here to help. If you are experiencing or expect hardships with your utility bill, call us for payment options at 503-618-2373.

### Automate utility billing and go green



Sign up to manage your utility account online, anywhere, anytime.

- Go paperless for fast notifications when your bill is ready.
- Choose AutoPay to pay your bill, and never write or mail a check again.
- Look up payment status and history.
- Schedule payments.
- Pay online or by text.

Learn more at [GreshamOregon.gov/Utilities](https://GreshamOregon.gov/Utilities).

## FALL RECREATION CLASSES

# Build it, kick it, swish it, leap it

Gresham Parks and Recreation's partnership with PlayEast offers youth extra fee-based fall recreation activities at locations in Gresham



### Lego Classes

**Dates:** Sept. 26-Oct. 31

**Ages:** 5-9

**Time:** 5-6:30 p.m., Tuesdays

**Cost:** \$139

**Place:** Gresham City Hall

**Details:** Kids are already naturally gifted creators. A safe environment where students can create without fear of mistakes under the guidance of instructors. The possibilities are endless!



### Skyhawks Basketball

**Dates:** Sept. 29-Oct. 27

**Age Groups:** 3-5; 6-9; 10-13

**Time:** Varies per age group; afternoon and evening, Fridays

**Cost:** \$65; \$79 for older groups

**Place:** East Gresham Elementary School gym

**Details:** For beginning to intermediate players. Coaches teach respect, teamwork and responsibility. An active class of passing, shooting, dribbling and rebounding.



### Just 4 Kicks Soccer

**Dates:** Sept. 19-Oct. 31

**Age Groups:** 2-3; 4-6; 7-11

**Time:** Varies per age group; afternoon and evening, Tuesdays

**Cost:** \$65; \$70 for older groups

**Place:** Red Sunset Park

**Details:** The perfect introduction to soccer. The goal is to make sure your player has a positive introduction to the sport. We teach fundamentals and will advance as the weeks go on.

### Parkour – youth and adult classes

**Dates:** Sept. 25-Nov. 3, varies by age group

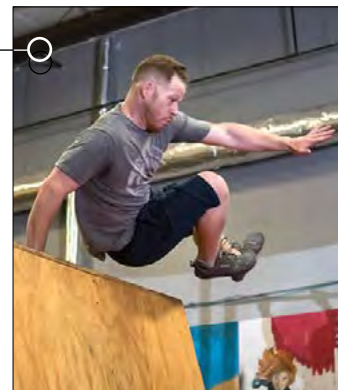
**Age Groups:** 3-5; 5-7; 8- to adult (beginner); 13-to adult

**Time:** Weekly, varies per age group; afternoon and evening, M-TH-F

**Cost:** \$85

**Place:** Revolution Parkour Gresham

**Details:** Come and learn parkour in a safe and fun environment. Learn various parkour basics, movements and practice obstacle courses while growing confident.



## Register for fall classes

For a complete list of activities classes, descriptions and updates, visit [playeast.org](https://playeast.org).

Gresham residents may register for any class or activity.

Classes are fee-based, but scholarships are available for those in need.

Questions? Call PlayEast at 503-674-6202.

Find Gresham Parks and Recreation info at [GreshamOregon.gov/Recreation](https://GreshamOregon.gov/Recreation) or call 503-618-2300.

**FREE** Fall recreation events on **Page 8**

- Community Climbing Days
- Wag-N-Walk in the parks
- Saturday Night Basketball

## Council sends two City Charter amendments to voters

The City Council approved putting two City Charter amendments before voters on the May 2024 ballot.

▶ **Amend the Charter's "yes votes" threshold.** If approved, it would amend the number of required "yes" votes (to change the City Charter) from 60% to a majority of the votes cast. This is consistent with the Oregon Constitution and other Oregon cities.

▶ **Amend the Charter's urban renewal language to make it consistent with state law.** The current Charter language on urban

renewal is the most restrictive in Oregon. Virtually any change, other than a typo, must be approved by voters.

Gresham voters will decide whether to amend the Charter to allow the City Council flexibility to make decisions on existing urban renewal projects while preserving the requirement to involve residents in new urban renewal decision-making.

The City Charter is the constitution of the City of Gresham. Adopted in 1978, the Charter requires the City

Council to appoint a Charter Review Committee every eight years.

The City is grateful for the Charter Review Committee's volunteer time and dedication on behalf of all residents.

Read the committee's report and recommendations to City Council at [GreshamOregon.gov/Charter-Review-Committee](https://GreshamOregon.gov/Charter-Review-Committee). For more information, call the City Attorney's Office at 503-618-2506.



# Fall clean-up

Along with pumpkin pie comes leaves, rain and summer yard debris. Follow City guidelines to keep your neighborhood safe and livable.

## Leaves and City code

Leaf blowing or raking leaves onto the street is a violation of City code. Leaves dumped in the street clog the City's stormwater drainage system.

## Weeds, yes. Pet poop, no



Only green vegetation that grows in your yard goes in the yard debris cart. No pet poop, cat litter, plastic, painted or treated wood, stumps, large limbs, sod, rocks, glass, or garbage.

## Avoid flooding

Rake your storm drains free of leaves and debris. Watch for blocked drains in your neighborhood and help keep them clear.

## Fall storm drain cleaning for parking lots

Parking lot drains need regular cleaning to prevent flooding and keep pollution out of our streams. Have your drains cleaned for \$60 each. Sign up by Oct. 31 at [GreshamOregon.gov/SCAP](http://GreshamOregon.gov/SCAP) or call 503-618-2522.



You can help this fall: lawn care, leaf disposal, yard debris, storm drain cleaning.

## Inspect your trees

Look for dead wood, poorly attached or storm-damaged limbs before they become a problem during winter storms. Tree questions? Visit [GreshamOregon.gov/Trees](http://GreshamOregon.gov/Trees) or call 503-618-2780.

## Trim branches over sidewalks

Nobody wants a tree limb to the face, especially when the winds start. Trim any low, dangling branches to at least

8 feet above the sidewalk and 12 feet above the street.

## Fall lawn care

Fall is the best time to invest in your lawn's health. Consider aerating and removing thatch, if needed. Apply grass seed over your entire lawn to create a density that keeps out weeds without harmful chemicals. Learn more at [whatsyourlawnstyle.org](http://whatsyourlawnstyle.org).

## Master Recycler training

Hey, Gresham: Curious how recycling works? Become a Master Recycler volunteer.

You'll take a seven-week training course for the latest information on repair, reuse, compost, toxics, equity, climate, and, of course, recycling. Then, volunteer 30 hours to inspire action in our community. ¡Bienvenidos a los voluntarios bilingües!

Master Recycler volunteer training is offered once a year in Gresham/Multnomah County. Applications are open for the winter training in January and February 2024.

Sign up at [masterrecycler.org](http://masterrecycler.org) and apply for new course notifications.



# Safer greener cleaners

We all want a clean home, but cleaning well doesn't have to mean using the harsh chemicals found in many cleaners.

The average person in the U.S. uses some 40 pounds of household cleaners each year, and many of those products have harmful ingredients that can affect our health and damage our waterways.

Homemade natural cleaners are safe to use around kids and pets while being just as effective at getting rid of dirt and grime. And some store-bought cleaners are safer to use than others.

## Making safer cleaners at home

You can make non-toxic cleaners at home that are safe for your family and more affordable than many store-bought products. Find recipes and more at [oregonmetro.gov/greencleaners](http://oregonmetro.gov/greencleaners).



## Buying safer cleaners at the store

To buy safer cleaners, read the label for the signal word. Avoid products labeled "danger," "poison" or "warning." When in doubt, stick to products with no signal words or those labeled "caution." Learn more at [oregonmetro.gov/buying-safer-cleaners](http://oregonmetro.gov/buying-safer-cleaners).

## Disposing of unwanted cleaners

Unused cleaning products should never be disposed of in household garbage, poured down a drain, or emptied outdoors. Take them to a household hazardous waste facility or Metro neighborhood collection event for safe disposal. Learn more at [oregonmetro.gov/hazardousproducts](http://oregonmetro.gov/hazardousproducts).

Ask an expert. Call Metro at 503-234-3000.

## Don't blow it ...

Leaves left in the street create slip hazards, flooding, blocked drains and deteriorated pavement. Help us avoid these leafy problems by doing a few simple things at home.

- **Place leaves in the weekly yard debris cart** included with your garbage service.
- **Compost leaves** at home.
- **Set an extra bag** out at the curb for an extra \$4.18 each.
- **Mulch leaves** with a lawnmower or leaf blower and spread the mixture over flowerbeds and gardens for winter.
- **Self-haul** to Allwood Recyclers, 22800 NE Marine Drive. Other facilities? Call Metro, 503-234-3000.





# GET INVOLVED IN GRESHAM CITY CALENDAR

## OCTOBER

- 7 Police/Fire Bronze Statue Unveiling and Station Storytime,** 10:30-11:45 a.m., City Hall, GreshamOregon.gov/Events
- 7 Gresham Farmers' Market** (Saturdays through October), 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m., Arts Plaza, greshamfarmersmarket.com
- 8 The People's Market** (Sundays through October), 1-5 p.m., Downtown Rockwood Plaza, peoplesmarketpgl.com
- 13 Friday Night Basketball,** Grades 6-8, 6-8 p.m.; Grades 9-12, 8-10 p.m., H.B. Lee Middle School, GreshamOregon.gov/Basketball
- 14 Fall Recycling and Shredding Day,** 9 a.m.-noon, City Hall, GreshamOregon.gov/Shred
- 14 Historic Cemeteries Tour,** noon-1 p.m., Gresham Pioneer Cemetery, greshamhistorical.org
- 19 Third Thursday,** 5:30-8:30 p.m., historic downtown, activities, historicdowntowngresham.org
- 21 Wag-N-Walk,** 10 a.m., Nadaka Nature Park, GreshamOregon.gov/Wag-N-Walk
- 21 Repair Cafe and Clothing Swap,** 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Habitat ReStore, GreshamOregon.gov/Events

- 22 Rockwood Market Hall Music Series,** 4-7 p.m., Downtown Rockwood, rockwoodmarkethall.com
- 31 Safe Trick or Treat,** 4-6 p.m., Main Avenue, Halloween activities, Historic Downtown Gresham Business Association, historicdowntowngresham.org

## NOVEMBER

- 1 Wag-N-Walk,** 4 p.m., Bella Vista Park, GreshamOregon.gov/Wag-N-Walk
- 3 Friday Night Basketball,** Grades 6-8, 6-8 p.m.; Grades 9-12, 8-10 p.m., H.B. Lee Middle School, GreshamOregon.gov/Basketball
- 6-8 Gresham Senior Center,** Holiday Bazaar, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., 503-988-4870, greshamseniorcenter.com
- 10 Veterans Day observed,** City Hall closed
- 16 Third Thursday,** 5:30-8:30 p.m., historic downtown, activities, historicdowntowngresham.org
- 18 Wag-N-Walk,** 10 a.m., Pat Pfeifer Park, GreshamOregon.gov/Wag-N-Walk

- 18 Teen Climbing Night,** 7-10 p.m., Rock Haven Climbing Gym, GreshamOregon.gov/Recreation
- 23 Thanksgiving,** City Hall closed

## DECEMBER

- 2 Spirit of Gresham Holiday Light Cruise,** 4:30-5 p.m., City Hall to Arts Plaza, GreshamOregon.gov/Spirit-of-Gresham
- 2 Spirit of Gresham Tree Lighting,** 5-6:30 p.m., Arts Plaza, GreshamOregon.gov/Spirit-of-Gresham
- 8 Friday Night Basketball,** Grades 6-8, 6-8 p.m.; Grades 9-12, 8-10 p.m., H.B. Lee Middle School, GreshamOregon.gov/Basketball
- 17 Rockwood Market Hall Music Series,** 4-7 p.m., Downtown Rockwood, rockwoodmarkethall.com
- 21 Third Thursday,** 5:30-8:30 p.m., historic downtown, activities, historicdowntowngresham.org
- 24 Metro Free Parks Day,** oregonmetro.gov

For a complete list visit [GreshamOregon.gov/Events](http://GreshamOregon.gov/Events).

## Neighborhood Association Information

- Meetings may be virtual or in-person. See neighborhood meeting agendas posted at [GreshamOregon.gov/Neighborhoods](http://GreshamOregon.gov/Neighborhoods).
- CENTENNIAL**  
Mary Edmeades, President  
centennialhood@gmail.com
  - CENTRAL CITY**  
For more information:  
Michael Gonzales, 503-618-2482
  - GRESHAM BUTTE**  
Jim Buck, President  
503-830-2344 or  
jimbuck22@comcast.net  
Oct. 11, 7 p.m.  
  
Resource Center,  
Gresham Japanese Garden  
Main City Park  
219 S. Main Ave.
  - GRESHAM PLEASANT VALLEY**  
For more information:  
Michael Gonzales, 503-618-2482  
Oct. 4, 6:30 p.m.  
Pleasant Valley Grange,  
17115 SE Foster Road
  - HISTORIC SOUTHEAST**  
Phil Svabik-Seror, President  
HistoricSoutheast@gmail.com
  - HOLLYBROOK**  
Mark Cage, President  
Cagefam97080@gmail.com

- HOGAN CEDARS**  
Kelsey Smalley, Vice President  
hogancedarsna@gmail.com
- KELLY CREEK**  
Charles Teem, President  
503-663-5066 or  
KellyCreekNA@gmail.com  
Nov. 8, 7 p.m.
- NORTH CENTRAL**  
Mary Gossett, Interim President  
503-341-3167  
gossettmmary@hotmail.com
- NORTHEAST**  
For more information:  
Michael Gonzales  
503-618-2482
- NORTH GRESHAM**  
For more information:  
Michael Gonzales  
503-618-2482
- NORTHWEST**  
Kat Todd, President  
trekvat@hotmail.com or  
President@nwnaGresham.org  
Oct. 30, 7 p.m., hybrid meeting  
Kyoudou Center, Gresham  
Japanese Garden, 219 S. Main Ave.
- POWELL VALLEY**  
Nancy Inglehart, President  
powellvalleyna@gmail.com

- ROCKWOOD**  
Catherine Nicewood, President  
503-285-6587 or  
rockwoodpresident@gmail.com  
Third Mondays of November,  
March, June  
Nov. 20, 6 p.m., Rockwood Village  
Community Center  
783 SE 185th Ave.
- SOUTHWEST**  
Julie Miller, Vice President  
juliesadultcare@comcast.net  
Oct. 19, 7 p.m.
- WILKES EAST**  
Kris Freiermuth, President  
503-709-9564 or  
lkfreiermuth@gmail.com  
wilkeseastna.org  
Second Mondays of November,  
March, Aug.  
Nov. 13, 7 p.m., Moose Lodge  
16411 NE Halsey St.

- COALITION OF GRESHAM NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS**  
Carol Rulla, Co-President, 503-663-1466  
Jim Buck, Co-President, 503-830-2344  
GreshamNeighborhoodCoalition@gmail.com  
Monthly, every second Tuesday, 7 p.m.

Interested in what's happening in your neighborhood? Call the Neighborhoods office at 503-618-2482 or visit [GreshamOregon.gov/Neighborhoods](http://GreshamOregon.gov/Neighborhoods).

## Saturday Night Basketball

**Free! Game play for youth**  
Saturday nights  
8 p.m.-midnight  
Friends of the Children gym  
Attend free basketball practice, learn new skills, make new friends and play ball. Adult supervision is provided.  
Boys and girls in grades 6-8 play from 8-10 p.m. Grades 9-12 play from 10 p.m.-midnight.  
A signed waiver is required. To print a registration form, visit [GreshamOregon.gov/Basketball](http://GreshamOregon.gov/Basketball). Sponsored by Gresham Parks and Recreation.



## Wag-N-Walk

**Free! Walks for dog owners**  
Take a twice-monthly Wag-N-Walk in Gresham parks with fellow dog lovers while learning training tips along the way.  
Oct. 21: Nadaka Nature Park, 10 a.m.  
Nov. 1: Bella Vista Park, 4 p.m.  
Nov. 18: Pat Pfeifer Park, 10 a.m.  
Walks led by Hounding Around's local dog trainer/walker, Avery. Sponsored by Gresham Parks and Recreation.  
Sign the waiver at [GreshamOregon.gov/Wag-N-Walk](http://GreshamOregon.gov/Wag-N-Walk)

## Community Climbing Days

**Free! Scale new heights**  
Wednesdays, Oct. 4, Nov. 1, Dec. 6, Jan. 3, 2024  
6 a.m.-10 p.m.  
Gresham residents of all ages can learn a new skill, for free, at Rock Haven Climbing Gym on the first Wednesday of the month.  
Free Teen Climbing Nights are the first and third Saturdays of the month from 7-10 p.m.  
Includes a day pass and climbing shoes. All participants must sign a waiver. Children under 18 need a guardian's signature.  
Sponsored by Gresham Parks and Recreation.  
Register at [rockhavenclimbing.com/first-visit](http://rockhavenclimbing.com/first-visit)

