



Spencer Butte Neighborhood Association

Newsletter, February 2025

www.sbna.net SBNA Facebook P.O. Box 5801 Eugene, OR 97405

SBNA Mission Statement

The purpose of the Spencer Butte Neighborhood Association is to share common concerns of our rural neighborhood such as safety and logistical issues and preserve our environmental resources. The association seeks to foster the historic tradition of social connections and provide information of common interest to the community.

Annual Dues: Our annual dues are \$15. Dues help our association provide services, organize activities, and foster connection within our neighborhood. They pay the maintenance and insurance for our park, development and upkeep of our website, mailings, and other activities. Please fill out the enclosed survey and send it with your check in the envelope included with this newsletter. It's easy to forget, so please send your dues in as soon as possible!

Calendar of Meetings and Events:

Walk the Land	TBA An opportunity to walk and learn about the plans for the new McKenzie River Trust property (283 acres) on South Willamette next to our SBNA park.
SBNA Picnic and Potluck	June 1st, Sunday, 12:00-3:00; alternate rain date, Sunday June 15th at our Lois Barton Park on South Willamette
Wine Tasting	August, date TBA at Spencer Shadow Ranch, hosts Doug and Sookjae McCarty
Annual Meeting	October, date and location TBA

Other suggestions for events?? We are always looking for new board members, who are elected for 3 year terms at the annual meeting. If you are interested in becoming more involved, contact a current board member.

Native Plant Adoption Series Rachel Ruckman and Steve Northway are leading a year-long course in our neighborhood on propagating and adopting rare, native Oregon plant species. Many natives require special conditions to germinate and thrive. They will meet at least once a quarter, times coordinated among participants, for learning and doing the needed activities of that season. Rachel is the main organizer, Steve is mainly teaching. Contact them to learn more or participate. There is no tuition; donations accepted for equipment and other costs.

Please be in touch by around the end of February if interested!

Rachel Ruckman rachel.nfc@gmail.com and Steve Northway delphwhite@yahoo.com

South Fork Spencer Creek - McKenzie River Trust - new owners!

West of Willamette Street, south of Spencer Butte and adjacent to our SBNA neighborhood park is the new conservation area protected property; 40 acres in 2022 with McKenzie River Trust operational dollars and an additional 243 acres in 2024 with funding provided through the Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Program and a generous contribution by the previous landowner, Adam Novick.

Today oak woodlands are generally found in small, isolated pockets surrounded by other land uses. At South Fork Spencer Creek, this historic mosaic pattern is beginning to be restored. Oak woodlands throughout the property consist mainly of Oregon white oak (*Quercus garryana*), Willamette valley pine (*Pinus ponderosa* var. *willamettensis*) and Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*). At higher elevations, oak woodlands open into savanna grassland habitat. These thin soiled areas are dominated by grasses, forbs and wildflowers.

This property is not open to the public or neighbors at this time as restoration work is in progress. McKenzie River Trust staff have offered to “Walk the Land” with interested neighbors as soon as this spring. Watch for notifications via email, SBNA Bulletin Board and our SBNA website.

See longer article on this McKenzie River Trust acquisition at www.sbna.net for more detailed descriptions of Willamette Valley mosaic habitat characteristics of oak savannah, oak woodlands and riparian zones. (link in “SBNA Annual Meeting notes”)

Local Neighborhood Groups: SBNA is divided into 10 local groups to facilitate contact with nearby neighbors (e.g., your dog is at my house; a cougar is headed for your chickens), help make properties more fire resistant, prepare for disasters (such as wildfires, earthquakes, ice storms, a tree falling on your house), or just to find help getting groceries or a ride. They are a pleasant way to get to know your neighbors. Some groups are more active than others and each group decides on its own interests and activities. If you are not already part of your local group and wish to join one, please contact Maureen McClain mcclainm@teleport.com.

SBNA Website: The SBNA website has been up and running for a few months. Right now we have the welcome page to let neighbors know about the association. The front page also has helpful links to other resources like the Lane Electric outage map, the latest updated Oregon wildfire risk map, the Lane Alert signup link and much more. We will be opening a “**members only**” link by early spring where we, as neighbors, can contact our Neighborhood Watch coordinator or board members, read board minutes and have a bulletin board where neighbors can post about things happening in the neighborhood such as road blockages, contact info for a “handy” person, repair services and more. Though we have a very active Facebook page, which is so helpful in emergencies, we learned at our October Annual meeting that the majority of the folks at the meeting do not use Facebook. We realize we may be missing a large population of neighbors during emergencies and we are hoping that our “**members only**” page will fill that gap. We will send out an email when that page is up and active and hope that many of you will sign in.

SBNA Facebook Page: SBNA has always had a group page on Facebook. Find Spencer Butte Neighborhood Association and click to join. You will need to provide your street address so it can be verified that you live in our neighborhood before you are invited in. This page is for information about the neighborhood only; it is not a place to sell items or services. If you have asked to join in the last few months and did not hear back please try again. We have had some changes; and please include your address.

SBNA Monthly Bulletin Board: A notice board for community members to advertise or inquire about basic services in our neighborhood. One can list goods or services for sale here. It is also a good venue for inviting neighbors to join in fun outings or to meet for activities of common interest. Sarah MacArthur sarah@macarthur.com currently sends out the bulletin at the beginning of each month.

Neighborhood Security: If you see something, say something ... but also use your cell phone to notify neighbors and photograph it; whether it is a speeding car or a car or person that seems out of place, especially try and get the license plate number. This will aid the sheriff if a criminal incident needs to be reported.

SBNA Officers & Board Members

Maureen McClain, President
Michelle DeKlyen, Vice-President
Bob Reeves, Secretary
Rachel Ruckman, Treasurer and ex-officio member.

Other Board Members:

John Dickinson

Chris Seubert

Rolly Thompson

Kerry Silvey

Kathy Sherwood

Mark Stapleton

Doug McCarty