

Meet Your Neighbors: Southwest Hills Residential League

A Diverse Community Gathers Here

Surrounded by beautiful views and enriched with diverse viewpoints, community gathers here. Organized since 1969, the Southwest Hills Residential League (SWHRL) is a homegrown 501(c)(3) nonprofit providing public meeting spaces for people scattered throughout the hills and heights of West Portland. A free voting membership is available to home and business addresses inside the lines.

SWHRL meetings often hear from families and organizations from Ainsworth, Broadway Drive, Bridlemile, Council Crest, Davenport-Hoffman, Dosch Road, Fairmount, Gander Ridge, Green Hills, Goose Hollow, Governors Park, Healy Heights, Highlands, Humphrey Park, King's Hill, Marquam Gulch, Myrtle-Buckingham, Patton-Hewett, Portland Heights, Scholls Ferry, Strohecker's, Sunset, Sylvan, Terwilliger, Vista Bridge, Wilcox Estates, and the unincorporated parts of Multnomah and Washington counties.

Woven through an urban forest, it is not uncommon for Arlington Heights or Beaverton families to join the SW Hills NET for city-wide emergency preparedness drills and radio check-ins.

One SWHRL [Bylaws boundary description](#) occupies an entire page of text. The SWHRL map (at right), replete with intermittent solid lines, dashed lines, grayed out areas, white areas, is less than intuitive. Even magnified, the image is marked with hard-to-trace dotted red lines; so, a helpful place to start to research overlapping boundaries

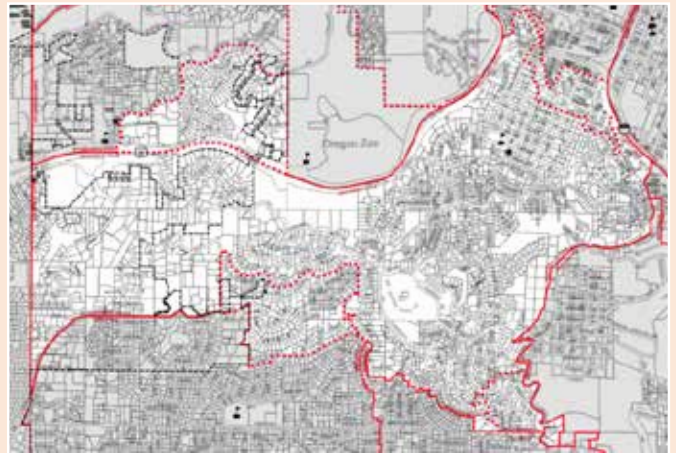
of SWHRL is Portlandmaps.com.

Inside the Dotted Lines: Shared Histories

Healy Heights:

Perhaps the oldest gathering place in the Willamette Valley, boasting a scene no other city could reproduce, Council Crest rises 1,073 feet in elevation and sets the tone at the top. Its vintage ad (see below) promotes an amusement park that offered unique entertainment to Portlanders in the early 20th century.

The long-gone roller coaster is missed, but community hospitality continues as this neighborhood team hosts a fabulous annual picnic. [Healy Heights](#) is organizing a hopping Easter Egg Hunt starting at



Overlapping boundaries of SWHRL.

Source: Portlandmaps.com

10am Sunday, April 20th, at Council Crest Park. The public is welcome to join!

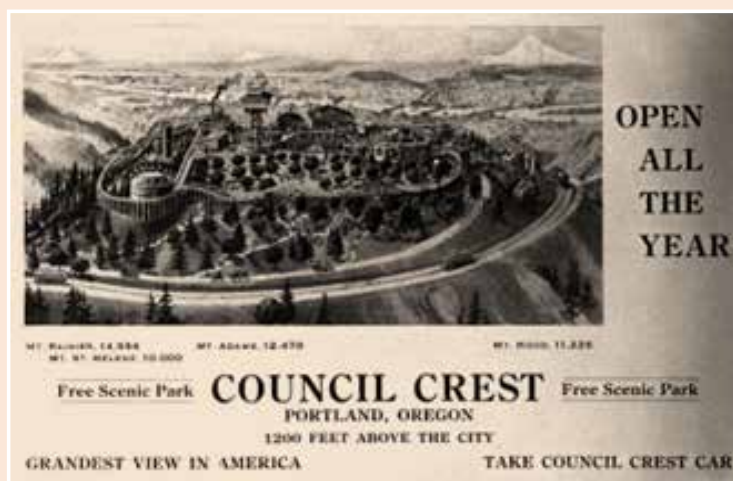
Also, SW Hills, Bridlemile and Healy Heights will join forces to support the SW Vista-Spring Street Fair next to Ainsworth Elementary in late June 2025. Again, everyone is invited up the hill to enjoy ice cream and community building.

Sylvan-Highlands: Predating development of Portland – this old 'donation claim' area was on the early list of candidates for Oregon's state capitol. Originally named "Zion Town" by Nathan B. Jones, some remnants of Old Zion Town exist on the north side of Highway 26. Pioneer Jones is buried in an old pioneer cemetery just SE of Scholls Ferry Rd. and Humphrey Boulevard crossing.

Oregon's Dept. of Transportation (ODOT) 'Sunset Highway' project sliced through SW Hills. In its wake, a jigsaw of disconnected, unincorporated neighborhoods

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"Overlapping neighborhood boundaries has allowed the pooling of resources and merging of community efforts across five Westside neighborhoods."



Meet Your Neighbors

SWHRL —

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reconnect via the Sylvan Interchange Overpass of Scholls Ferry Road.

Being a wildland and urban interface area, this historic area can be susceptible to wildfire.

[Sylvan-Highlands Neighborhood Association](#) hosted a meeting at Fire Station 16, in 2025, which was attended by a SW Hills NET (Neighborhood Emergency Team) member. Helpful tips were shared about forming [‘Firewise Communities’](#) and other fuel mitigation efforts executed by volunteers throughout the ancient Tualatin Hills of the Metro region.

Bridlemile: Many old homes are scattered across the Tualatin range, but the oldest home located in the City of Portland is the Tigard-Rogers house which stands in the heart of Bridlemile-Robert Gray Area at 4504 SW Shattuck Road.

At the historic southeast corner of SW Shattuck and SW Hamilton, the home is rumored to have been a Pony Express “way station”. The [historic-listed property](#), which boasts heritage pear trees, has a sale

pending (Mar 2025) and is currently zoned for redevelopment.

The potential-buyer is not known. However, the Friends of Tigard-Rogers House, including core volunteers from [Bridlemile Neighborhood Association](#) and SWHRL have been in ongoing discussions about [funding historic preservation](#) efforts for this important treasure of historical interest.

Goose Hollow: The iconic “Vista Bridge” connects Southwest Hills to the westernmost side of the central city. The point at which [Tanner Creek](#) goes underground (at the edge of SW Market) -- being the Vista Avenue Viaduct -- provides a critical infrastructure element in support of Portland’s Water Bureau capacity which is adjacent to the Washington Park Reservoir.

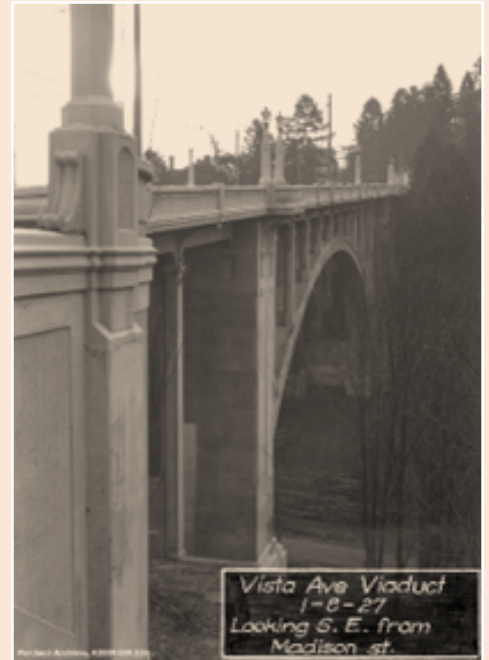
In 1984, the Portland government considered improvement to lighting of the bridge but decided historic fixture details were not worth the cost and effort. Bill Failing, who is SWHRL’s Director of Historic Preservation, later led the “Vista Bridge Light Brigade” efforts to raise interest and needed funds.

The Brigade’s efforts enabled the City to eventually purchase and install historically-appropriate bridge lighting fixtures.

SWHRL and Goose Hollow worked to get the chain-link anti-suicide fence replaced with safety netting

below; though designed by city staff – it was not funded.

[Goose Hollow Foothills League](#) and SW Hills Residential League are



Historic photo of the vista Avenue Viaduct which spans SW Jefferson Street and connects Kings Hill in the Goose Hollow neighborhood with Healy Heights and Council Crest.

growing excited to create a celebration in 2026 of the centennial year of this bridge – a bridge, the “Vista Bridge” (so aptly named), that has literally and figuratively connected our communities’ and our hillside-habitats past on forward into our present for a (now) year shy of a century.

The Southwest Hills Residential League will celebrate 60 years in 2029. Let’s keep enriching our beautiful homesteads together!

Joyce del Rosario
President, SWHRL



The historic Tigard-Rogers house sits empty while a sale is pending. Preservationists have hoped to save the structure.