

Jan 2016 SWNI News article for Collins View.

You don't need Zombie Apocalypse or Cascadia Quake scenarios to remind ourselves it is just prudent to be prepared by having working flashlights, fresh batteries, water and ready-to eat foods available. The Pineapple Express/Atmospheric River ran through Collins View, dumping over twelve inches of rain during the first two weeks of December. (see the Hydra Project <http://or.water.usgs.gov/precip/> for up-to-date local rainfall amounts.) With plenty of rain, wind, trees, and above ground power lines, spotty power outages were, and will be, common. Second Avenue's inadequate drainage gullies, repeatedly and ineffectually reported to the city, dug themselves deeper with the torrents. It is sensible not to depend upon the city to bail us out of difficulties.

While basements flooded and manhole covers spouted geysers of storm water, neighbors worked to keep the street storm gutters free of debris. Perhaps this is yet another example of the transfer of government's responsibilities to private sectors. This disturbing trend is illustrated by neighbors working to clear their streets; by Portland Parks' maintenance and "improvements" being transferred to corporate entities (see Dunway Park) with the resulting opacity of financial tracking and restriction of public access; by no funding for signs or enforcement of park rules (see River View Natural Area); by shifting the city's responsibility to supply basic amenities (sheets, towels, soaps etc.) for shelters (for examples see the drives to supply the newly established shelter at the Sears Armory, and the continual appeals of sheltering organizations city-wide).

We take pride in our civic responsibilities, in our community-building efforts like the Neighborhood Emergency Teams, in the "Can-Do" attitude of our neighbors, churches and service organizations. Maybe not so much in the track record and troubling trends of city bureaus.

The scheduled hearing for The River View Natural Area Master Plan (RVNA-MP) has been moved to January 14, 2016. Biking organizations, such as NW Trails Association, almost certainly would prefer to have the RVNA-MP implementation delayed until the Off Road Cycling Master Plan (ORC-MP) is completed a year or so from now, with at least the "Trails" portion of the plan deferred. So there is no shortage of discussion points. People are encouraged to attend the hearing and testify.