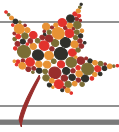


# WALNUT GROVE HOMES ASSOCIATION



## Fall 2021 Neighborhood Newsletter

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## 2022 Annual Meeting Call for Board Members to Stand for Election!

**A key function of our Annual Meeting is to elect new members to the WGHA board.**

For 2022, several board member positions are open for election. All Walnut Grove homeowners are welcome to run for a board seat or nominate a candidate.

If there are more interested candidates than available seats for the board, voting by ballot will take place.

The WGHA Annual Meeting will take place virtually again this year to continue ensuring all neighbors the ability to participate while safely distancing.

**Save the Date and Plan to Attend!**  
**Wednesday, January 26, 2022, 7:00-8:00 PM**

Zoom registration link will be shared by email prior to the meeting



## Join the Board of Directors!

We are looking for members who both have the desire to serve our neighborhood and who bring valuable skills to the table! While any WGHA homeowner is welcome to pursue any board position, below are some suggested knowledge and skill sets that correspond with the current open roles:

Board Position	Preferred Knowledge and Skills
<b>Vice President</b>	Assist president in overseeing the Board, meeting facilitation skills, strong leadership presence to liaise with community organizations and stakeholders
<b>Secretary</b>	Active listening for detail, excellent notetaking and record keeping, organizational skills, clear written email communications
<b>Treasurer</b>	Knowledge of accounting and financial management, meticulous and detail-oriented, clear record keeping, ability to maintain transparency with board members and homeowners as well as confidentiality regarding delinquencies
<b>Architectural Control Committee (ACC) Chair</b>	Understanding of WGHA architectural guidelines as defined in the Covenants, knowledge of common home architecture and/or construction components, ability to: enforce standards as written in the WGHA Covenants; review homeowner applications for ACC approval in a fair and consistent manner; educate homeowners on the architectural guidelines and application/approval process; make recommendations to the WGHA Board
<b>Community Events Chair</b> (social, civic, and philanthropic)	Promote benefits of neighbors coming together to strengthen community, develop events that attract neighborhood members of all ages and interests, ability to form subcommittees and recruit volunteers, knowledge of social media and email marketing strategies to promote events

Board Support Role	Description of Responsibilities
<b>Greenways Volunteer Coordinator</b>	Work with Greenways Committee and neighbors to organize volunteer work days and oversee hands-on greenway projects
<b>Pathway Maintenance Coordinator</b>	Form a subcommittee to research available options for pathway repair and replacement

If you are interested in running or nominating an individual for a Board position or support role, please email [WalnutGroveMadison@gmail.com](mailto:WalnutGroveMadison@gmail.com) **on or before December 15, 2021.**

## Other Ways to Get Involved

Paige Hawkins will continue to serve as our Greenways Chair, focused on external maintenance contracts and neighborhood sign gardens. The Greenways team can always use assistance with planting, weeding, and watering on the greenways and around the neighborhood sign gardens. For questions or to volunteer, please reach out anytime by email: [greenways@walnutgrovemadison.org](mailto:greenways@walnutgrovemadison.org)

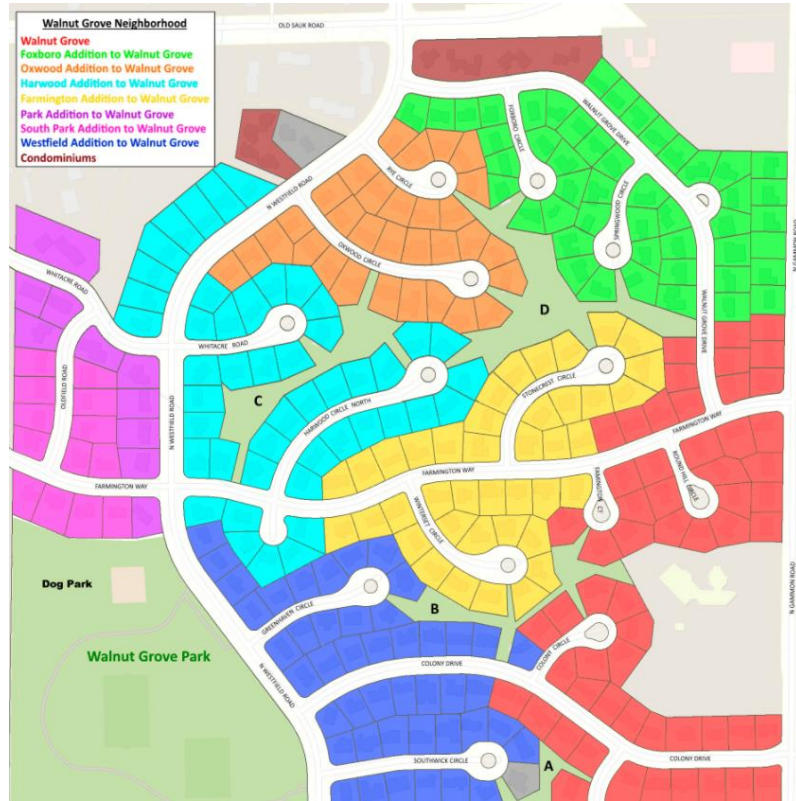
## Neighborhood Improvement Efforts

### 2022 Circle Grant Applications – Start Planning Now!

As many of us have been spending more time at home enjoying our green spaces, there is no better time than the present to start thinking about how you and your neighbors would like to improve the aesthetics of your circle this coming spring!

**A standard \$50 annual reimbursement** is available to each Circle for maintenance, coordinated through your Block Captain.

**Additionally, \$500 Circle Grants are available** on a selective basis to subsidize larger Circle beautification projects. To qualify, a plan detailing the proposed improvements and associated costs must be submitted to the Greenways & Circles Chair for presentation at an upcoming Board Meeting. A maximum of three grants may be approved each year – budget permitting – and these grants are awarded to circles on a rotating basis. Contact your Block Captain to express interest and for assistance in pursuing a Circle Grant!



### Circle Maintenance Reminders – Resident Responsibility

While the Greenways & Circles Committee assumes responsibility for large tree removal and replacements within the Walnut Grove Neighborhood Circles, homeowners share the responsibility for mowing, weeding, and general maintenance of their Circle. Block Captains are available to assist in the coordination of maintenance for their respective Circles.

### Parks Signage

Beautification efforts are underway to repair and repaint the Walnut Grove Neighborhood signs at the park and at the neighborhood entrances. A plan is in place to proceed with the updates, and work will begin soon, weather permitting. If it is determined that there is insufficient time to complete the work before it gets too cold outside, then the project may be delayed until spring 2022.

### Crosswalks and Park Safety

President Liz Fenster has had several communications with the City of Madison regarding traffic concerns on N Westfield Rd, particularly near the Walnut Grove Park and at the intersection of Farmington Way. We've reached out to the city on behalf of the neighborhood to consider options to provide more visibility to the crosswalk and for slowing the traffic flow to determine whether speed bumps, lighted crosswalk signs, a traffic island, or other interventions may be appropriate investments within their criteria. These projects have been slated for consideration as part of the "Safe Streets Madison" run by the City Traffic Engineering department and are being considered in budgeting for the 2022 Project Evaluation List. We will continue to provide the neighborhood with updates from the City as they become available.

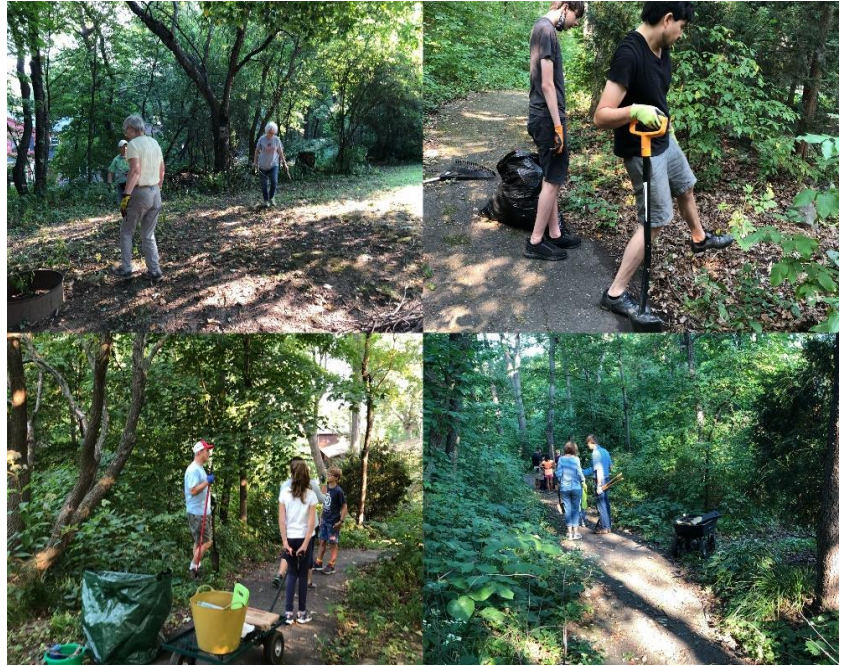
## Walnut Grove Path Paving

Have you noticed the new section of path at Walnut Grove Park? The 2021 work was done to provide a path at ADA grade to the shelter and playground. The HOA has submitted a request for reconstruction of the remainder of the path due to poor condition. Sadly, the Parks Engineering Department has provided a tentative repair date of "most likely 2025 or later" due to the timeline necessary for planning and budgeting.

## Greenway Cleanup

On Saturday, September 11, from 9:00 to 11:30, roughly two dozen Walnut Grove neighbors including solo owners, couples, and families with their children volunteered time, tools, and effort to remove invasive species, remove eroded soil from the pathway, and generally "spruce up" Greenway D. Large amounts of brush were carried to adjacent cul-de-sacs for removal. Kim Grimmer and Amanda Kaiser provided cold drinks for the crew. The weather was great, and attitude of attendees was neighborly and cheerful – several said they didn't expect to leave having had such a fun time!

Kim and Amanda also made four trips to the city's west drop-off site, in which 38 bags of debris were deposited.



While homeowner dues contribute toward repair and maintenance of the greenway paths themselves, we rely on volunteer efforts to keep the greenways clean and green.

Particularly if you are a neighbor who enjoys the ability to take advantage of our greenways, please consider donating a few hours of your time to contribute toward future collaborative greenway cleanup efforts!

## Volunteer Work Day

A "pop-up" volunteer work day was held on September 25, 2021, to plant two donated dogwood trees, replace failed plantings, and reinforce a stone erosion barrier along the Oxwood pathway.

## Future Cleanup Events

No additional volunteer work days are planned for 2021. If you have suggestions for targeted greenway cleanup projects for 2022, please email the greenways committee:

[greenways@walnutgrovemadison.org](mailto:greenways@walnutgrovemadison.org)

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## Neighborhood Events Postponed

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### 2021 Fall Crawl Canceled

Due to concerns with the continued pandemic and positive cases related to the delta variant, the Board has unanimously agreed that we will not be hosting an in-person event this fall.

We look forward to resuming neighborhood events when it is safe to do so. Stay safe and healthy, everyone!

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## Block Captain Change

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### Greenhaven Circle:

Amanda Fairbanks  
21 Greenhaven Circle  
amandabeci@gmail.com  
608-469-2239

Block Captains are neighbors who have volunteered to keep the lines of communication open so you have news and information about:

- Board of Directors initiatives
- Neighborhood events
- Safety and security issues

Contact your block captain using the current list on the Walnut Grove Neighborhood website:  
<https://walnutgrovemadison.org/block-captain>

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## City and Community Announcements

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### Madison Streets Division Updates

City of Madison brush pickup has ended for the year, as the final set-out date was September 19, 2021. Any remaining brush left on curbs should be taken to a drop-off site at this time.

- Drop-off site hours are different this year. Be sure you know what the hours are before loading your vehicle. Learn the hours and more at [www.cityofmadison.com/DropOffSites](http://www.cityofmadison.com/DropOffSites).
- Collection of fall yard waste begins in October. Learn when to set out your yard waste for pickup by going to [www.cityofmadison.com/yardwaste](http://www.cityofmadison.com/yardwaste).
- Remember: large item collection is different! You need to schedule your large item pickup before you place items on the curb at [www.cityofmadison.com/LargeItemWorkOrder](http://www.cityofmadison.com/LargeItemWorkOrder)
- Winter is coming. Get the information you need about winter parking, snow plowing operations, correct salt usage, and more at [www.cityofmadison.com/Winter](http://www.cityofmadison.com/Winter).

## Yard Waste

Place leaves & yard waste out for collection on any or all of the following dates:

- **Sunday, Oct. 17, 2021**
- **Sunday, Nov. 7, 2021**
- **Sunday, Nov. 28, 2021** - Final Fall Set Out Date

If your yard waste is not out for pickup on the set-out dates listed above, it will not be collected and will become your responsibility to remove.

## Annual Compost Bin and Rain Barrel Sale Scheduled for October 23rd

The 28th annual Madison compost and rain barrel sale will be held on Oct. 23, 2021 at the Garver Feed Mill, 3241 Garver Green and pre-orders are now being taken.

The sale is being conducted in support of the City of Madison's various goals and action items related to food waste and source reduction measures that save the City and individual households water, fuel, and money as reinforced by a recent resolution addressing food waste passed by City Council.

A limited supply is available so pre-ordering is strongly encouraged.

Compost bins and rain barrels diverters are available at discounted prices. Due to limited supplies, only composters and rain barrel diverters kits for converting repurposed barrels will be available.

For more information and to pre-order visit

<https://www.cityofmadison.com/streets/compost/CompostBinSale.cfm>

## Friendly Reminders

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### City Ordinances and Neighborhood Covenants

A few residents have reported to the WGHA Board that neighbors have been in violation of city ordinances, such as leaving trash or recycling receptacles in front of their homes on non-pickup days. For any violation that is not be defined in the Walnut Grove Neighborhood Covenants, residents are advised to contact the city.

**All homeowners are responsible for adhering to the City of Madison Property Standards and Conditions.**

Details are outlined on the City of Madison website:

<https://www.cityofmadison.com/dpced/bi/property-standards-conditions/24/>

While the WGHA Board is not responsible for holding homeowners accountable for city ordinances, **violations may be reported through the City of Madison website:**

<https://www.cityofmadison.com/reportaproblem/>

All Walnut Grove residents are responsible for having awareness of both the Neighborhood Covenants and Madison City ordinances. We recommend all Walnut Grove residents dedicate sufficient time to review these and ensure compliance.

### Planning Improvements to Your Home Exterior or Yard?

Be sure to review the **Architectural Control Rules and Procedures** on the Walnut Grove website and get in touch with the ACC Chair when planning work that requires ACC review and approval.

Some recent examples of home improvement projects that required approval have included additions, decks, privacy screens, and a basement egress window.

### Send Your Directory Updates

Early in 2022, WGHA will be publishing our Neighborhood Directory. If you have updates for the Directory, please email [WalnutGroveMadison@gmail.com](mailto:WalnutGroveMadison@gmail.com) as soon as possible.

#### WGHA 2021 Board Members – Contact Information

President	Liz Fenster	609-440-5673	<a href="mailto:president@walnutgrovemadison.org">president@walnutgrovemadison.org</a>
Vice President	Doug Hyant	608-440-4352	<a href="mailto:vicepresident@walnutgrovemadison.org">vicepresident@walnutgrovemadison.org</a>
Secretary	Kim Grimmer	608-259-6892	<a href="mailto:secretary@walnutgrovemadison.org">secretary@walnutgrovemadison.org</a>
Architectural Control	Jeff Vanderpool	213-321-4499	<a href="mailto:architecture@walnutgrovemadison.org">architecture@walnutgrovemadison.org</a>
Greenways & Circles	Paige Hawkins	608-332-6234	<a href="mailto:greenways@walnutgrovemadison.org">greenways@walnutgrovemadison.org</a>
Block Captains	Danielle Bashirullah	608-320-8354	<a href="mailto:blockcaptains@walnutgrovemadison.org">blockcaptains@walnutgrovemadison.org</a>
Treasurer and Events	Charlie Morgan	608-833-0229	<a href="mailto:treasurer@walnutgrovemadison.org">treasurer@walnutgrovemadison.org</a> <a href="mailto:social@walnutgrovemadison.org">social@walnutgrovemadison.org</a>



*Board Members at Large: Eileen Goode, Molly Hyant, Hayden McCann*