



Getting Involved in Siskiyou Square



Planting Zen in Siskiyou Square

Lotus Blooming Capital Campaign



Lotus Blooming Capital Campaign

Launched in 2013, the Lotus Blooming Capital Campaign is more than halfway through the first phase of a multi-phase effort to fund the transformation of Siskiyou Square into a place of refuge, contemplation, and restored natural habitat.

We are using donations to Lotus Blooming extremely efficiently. To date, for every dollar contributed to the campaign, we have raised about nine dollars from other sources, such as grant funding, "peer-to-community" web-facilitated loans, in-kind materials, and volunteer labor. The proceeds have been invested in land purchase, site engineering, building design, site infrastructure, environmental remediation, and initial temple construction.

We are currently seeking an additional \$400,000 to finish the first phase of the campaign, which will fund temple construction - Dharma Rain's new meditation hall (see below) and new dormitory and classroom buildings. These new funds, as well as the \$5 million already raised, will be used exclusively for capital expenditures on the site and are not used to defray operating expenses at Dharma Rain. At this critical time in the project, when we are more reliant than ever on the generosity of individual donors, we hope you will consider making a contribution to the project.



To donate to the campaign, you can (1) write a check and mail it to "Lotus Blooming Capital Campaign," PO Box 13325, Portland OR, 97213; (2) give on-line at our safe and secure site which can be accessed by visiting <http://tinyurl.com/DRZC-EFT> and choose the "campus-restricted" option; (3) give by credit or debit card over the phone; (4) or scan the QR code below with your smartphone to make a contribution. We welcome any questions about the project, campaign, or organization. Call the Dharma Rain office and speak to someone on our staff at 503-239-4846, or email us at staff@dharma-rain.org. We thank you very much for your support.

Northwest Zen Sangha Inc. is a registered 501(c)-3 not for profit organization, doing business as Dharma Rain Zen Center. Our Tax ID number is 93-6095067, donations are tax-exempt to the fullest extent of the law, and we have received the GuideStar seal for financial transparency.



Volunteers are welcome at "Wednesday Work Parties!"
Most every Wednesday, many of us come together to work around the site – planting, landscaping, light construction, and others kinds of basic manual labor. Vegetarian lunch is served at noon. Feel free to join us, enjoy the land, and meet other people involved with the project or community. Feel free to call 503-239-4846 or email staff@dharma-rain.org for specifics.



"An initiative by Dharma Rain Zen Center to transform a Portland brownfield into a space for contemplative practice, community connection, and native habitat."

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ZEN TRAINING AND STUDY CENTER

Cultivating peace, clarity, and compassion in an open, welcoming Buddhist community.

A portion of the site will be home to a traditional zen temple, adopted in its design to the NW region, and designed for low energy consumption. The temple will include a meditation hall (or *Soda*, pictured here), ceremony hall (*hondo*), living quarters, an office, and a garden – and will help Dharma Rain continue to offer meditation practice, classes, and workshops.

2



COMMUNITY AND NEIGHBORHOOD

Working at the grassroots level to improve the safety, beauty and livability of a neighborhood resource.

More than 20 neighborhood groups, educational institutions, religious groups, ecological non-profits, and governmental bodies have contributed labor, funding or in-kind support to build a place for people to meet, go for walks, enjoy open natural spaces (a new fruit orchard and community garden), or visit the temple and school playground.

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EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Promoting community, mindfulness, and nature-based education.

We are building a schoolhouse for the new “Frog Song” Montessori preschool and for our “Dharma Garden,” a nationally-recognized Buddhist Sunday school program. The site will also be a “living” campus for area schools (PSU, PCC, Madison H.S., and several elementary schools) to study conservation, ecology, and conduct field research.

“On once derelict urban land, a new gathering place is taking root, a place where people can walk in tranquil native habitat, take up residence with like-minded people, work in community gardens, bring their children to school or study and practice ancient, contemplative teachings. We invite you to visit.”



After outgrowing the SE Portland location that housed our temple for 25 years, we purchased 13.75 acres of land on Siskiyou Square, an undeveloped parcel of land at the base of Rocky Butte, adjacent to the bustling NE 82nd commercial district. At the time of purchase in 2012, it was overrun with invasive species, under DEQ supervision because of its previous uses, and a neighborhood trouble spot.



Siskiyou Square is located at NE 85th Ave. and Siskiyou St., near the I-84 & I-205 intersection, and Sandy Blvd.

COHOUSING COMMUNITY

Developing a residential community for those committed to sustainable living, spiritual growth, and harmony.



Siskiyou Cohousing is building a 31-unit residential community on 2-acres on the northeast portion of the property that will bring people and families together with a common interest in sustainability, spirituality, diversity, and land stewardship. There will be a central community house, social activities, and connection to goings-on on the land.

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ENVIRONMENTAL REMEDIATION

Integrating holistic, innovative environmental systems to deal with residual effects of the site's former uses.



Once a landfill for construction waste, and before that a rock quarry, the land at Siskiyou Square was dormant for many years before Dharma Rain purchased it in 2012. Working with grants from the EPA, we have invested in stormwater management systems, methane mitigation systems, and improved the top soil to prepare the land for its new uses.

5

ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION

Creating vibrant and resilient native habitat and preserving open space at a crucial link in NE Portland's largest green area.



After purchasing the heavily impacted site, we started in on an ecological master plan, removing invasive species, planting an oak savannah, restoring an overgrown ravine, and planting native species. The site will become a vital link in a local greenway, providing habitat, forage, passage for wildlife, and a place of refuge from urban surroundings.

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