



Planting Zen in Siskiyou Square

Dharma Rain Zen Center is transforming a brownfield into a space for spiritual practice, community connection, and native habitat.

If you care about the establishment and evolution of Buddhism in the west; the strengthening of Oregon's contemplative tradition; facilities for interfaith and cultural activities; the cultivation of mindfulness, ethical living, and compassion in the community through an extensive array of programs for adults and children; and continuing the deep and subtle transmission of Soto Zen, then Planting Zen is for you.

If you live, work, go to school, or recreate near Rocky Butte, and would enjoy a scenic place to walk your dog and chat with neighbors; tend a raised bed to bring food to your family; pick up your child from preschool; learn about the science behind naturescaping a landfill; take a bike route through the neighborhood without risking busy 82nd Avenue; or look through an oak grove with a sense of satisfaction born from your stewardship of the land; then Planting Zen is for you.

If you care about the environment in the Portland metro area; the health of the regional aquifer; the creation of habitat for wildlife within the urban boundary; the restoration of derelict land; the highest standards of sustainable, equitable and responsible development; and the enjoyment of ample, accessible greenspace, then Planting Zen is for you.

Planting Zen Overview: The vision for the site and our method of arriving at it both stem from our core mission to help people bring ever more awareness to their lives. We will build a traditional Buddhist temple layout with a central core of human-scale buildings enveloped in a fabric of wooded areas, inviting paths, gardens and a small cluster of residential units. The temple and the site will be a public resource, with a variety of daily classes, events, and programs open to all. The spacious layout preserves the benefits of a natural area for community use, health, stormwater management, wildlife habitat and aesthetics.

Ecological restoration work has already begun. In early 2014, Dharma Rain will transition out of our home for the last 25 years into the immediate vicinity of the site, establishing a temporary base of operations and services until portions of the new campus are operational. Dharma Rain is dedicated to helping people cultivate and realize the practice of Zen Buddhism in everyday American lives. We are one of the largest and oldest Buddhist groups in Portland and known for an open, accessible community and the depth of our practice. Visit us on-line at www.dharma-rain.org.

Selected Media Coverage:

- KGW News, Buddhist temple planned for NE Portland lot, <http://www.kgw.com/video/featured-videos/New-Buddhist-temple-coming-to-NE-Portland--196237411.html>
- *Oregonian*, Plans for Rocky Butte take a Spiritual Turn. August 3rd, 2012, by Anne Laufe http://www.oregonlive.com/portland/index.ssf/2012/08/northeast_portland_landfill_co.html
- Portland Tribune, Buddha Rising in Rose City. April 25th, 2013 by Peter Korn. <http://portlandtribune.com/pt/9-news/151113-buddha-rising-in-rose-city%20>
- *Daily Journal of Commerce Oregon*, Buddhists hope to build facility on former landfill site. April 20th, 2012. By Reed Jackson. <http://www.dharma-rain.org/pdfs/12calendars/DJC-siskiyou-site.pdf>
- *Northwest Dharma Association News*, Dharma Rain: Watering the roots of Dharma. Winter 2012. By Jeanna Moyer <http://northwestdharma.org/nw-dharma-news-wp/?p=809>
- *Brownfield Quarterly* "Zen and the Art of Landfill Maintenance," by Abigail Cermak.



Goals and Objectives:

Temple - To establish a campus for Dharma Rain Zen Center that:

- Provides expanded offering for beginning and advanced lay practitioners;
- Strengthens the formal residential/monastic practice;
- Supports children, youth and family programs, and creates a daily preschool;
- Allows a greater capacity for hosting a range of events;
- Affords universal accessibility;
- Promotes greater institutional flexibility.

Habitat - To restore the former landfill to a vibrant, resilient and biologically sound state that will:

- Provide native sources for foraging, shelter and passage in an important wildlife corridor between two major habitat islands in NE Portland;
- Engage, educate and inspire hundreds of volunteers from the numerous partner organizations that are involved in this effort, cultivating a sense of stewardship for this land and of the broader environment.

Watershed - To protect the health of the watershed and its inhabitants by:

- Minimizing the potential for landfill pollutants to leach into the groundwater;
- Preventing exposure of landfill contents during or after construction and maintaining the methane abatement measures currently in place;
- Featuring extensive use of holistic tactics such as using plants to absorb and process contaminants, and to hold and filter the water, minimizing the load on the municipal stormwater system.

Neighborhood and Community - To improve the local experience of connectivity, safety and beauty by:

- Developing public gathering areas, pedestrian pathways, the temple grounds and a residential co-housing complex that models sustainable, community-oriented and multi-generational design;
- Extensive collaboration happening between Dharma Rain's membership, local citizens, non-profit groups, public agencies and private enterprises.



Legend

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| ① Path to 82 nd Ave. | ⑬ Street Trees |
| ② Deciduous Oak Grove | ⑭ Ravine Habitat Area |
| ③ Oak Savannah | ⑮ Playground |
| ④ Buffer Planting | |
| ⑤ Produce Garden | |
| ⑥ Orchard | |
| ⑦ Formal Courtyard & Japanese Garden | |
| ⑧ Bioswales & Trees | |
| ⑨ Pond | |
| ⑩ Householder Refuge Co-Housing | |



← **Landscape Plan:**
 33% of the land area on site will be developed,
 33% will be cultivated open space,
 33% will be managed as wildlife habitat.



Dharma Rain
Zen Center

www.dharma-rain.org; 503-239-4846