

Date: August 29, 2025

For Office Use

Gresham-Barlow School District
Citizens Comments to the Board

Name: Anne Nesse Phone: [REDACTED]

District Resident: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Group / Organization: PocketForestsNW

Topic: Bringing Small Native Forests to Gresham

- Please submit this form with your written public comment to the board secretary, Sarah Avery, at avery4@gresham.k12.or.us by 4:00 p.m. the day of the meeting.
- The Board Chair, may require that a proposal, inquiry or request be submitted in writing, and reserves the right to refer the matter to the administration for action or study.
- Written comments may offer criticism of school operations and programs; however, the board will not review personal complaints concerning school personnel or against any person connected with the school system. If there is a legitimate complaint involving individuals, the chair will direct them to the appropriate means for board consideration and disposition.
- Please make sure to include your name for the record, whether you are a resident of the district, and the name of the group or organization you are representing, if applicable.
- Questions asked by the public will be referred to the superintendent for response at a later time.
- The board's regular business meetings are digitally recorded. They are also televised by MetroEast Community Media (www.metroeast.org) and Willamette Falls Media Center (www.wfmcstudios.org).

The board sincerely appreciates your interest in the Gresham-Barlow School District and thanks you for attending this meeting. ■

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Honorable School Board Members and members of the public,

My name is Anne Nesse, and I am a retired K-12 school teacher, and presently Co-Director of PocketForestsNW, a nonprofit located in Gresham. Our nonprofit has become knowledgeable about an inexpensive way to build small native forests, that can be used as outdoor classrooms. These outdoor classrooms are proven to provide more cooling temperatures to our area! We strongly believe this would be of great benefit to our families and students in the Gresham-Barlow School District area!

We would like to invite anyone on the Gresham-Barlow school board, our new Superintendent, and any other administrators, teachers, or parents to come and tour the two small forests we have planted in Gresham. I have invitations to pass out, and our contact email. The cost of building these small forests is minimal, approximately only \$2.00 per square foot, and easily funded by grants. Students can be taught in these outdoor classrooms: read to, sing songs, taught hands on science, math, and history lessons with clip boards and paper in an outside setting that is proven by research to be healthy for your students, as well as educational. Being outside itself has been proven by science to boost ones sense of well being, so that learning can be improved!

These small native forests require NO care by the school, or teachers, after the first 2-3 years. A big plus since these small forests are lasting legacies.

Attached is a picture of our large 600 square foot native forest, (we have a smaller 6 ft X 10 ft one as well). The large forest was only planted March 29, 2025, and it has already reached the height of the kindergarten student in the picture. Unusually fast growth is common with these forests.

*I will try and bring a poster of this picture to pass around, as well as the invitations I have to come and visit the small forests and see them live!

YES, I would like to have someone contact me regarding my concerns and interests in our community. Mornings are best.

Anne Nesse

Please check the box below and include a phone number if you would like to have someone contact you regarding the topic described above.



I would like to have someone contact me regarding my questions/ concerns at:

[REDACTED]

Phone Number



Cell



Home



Work

The best time to reach me:

Mornings