



HOSFORD-ABERNETHY
NEIGHBORHOOD DISTRICT ASSOCIATION

Dear Review Committee,

Hosford-Abernethy Neighborhood District (HAND) is the volunteer neighborhood association recognized by the City of Portland to represent the Hosford-Abernethy neighborhood, including the Ladd's Addition Historic District where Abernethy Elementary sits. We write to offer our enthusiastic support for the Abernethy PTA's Greening Abernethy application.

Abernethy Elementary is far more than a school to our neighborhood. Its four-acre campus is the largest single open property in Ladd's Addition, and for more than a century it has served as our de facto park, gathering place, and green space. Beyond the roughly 280 students who learn there, some 2,300 community members use the grounds every month — families at the playground, neighbors walking the field, community events, and the school garden. In a historic district with no conventional park of its own, where many residents rent and have small yards, the Abernethy campus is the green space our neighborhood depends on.

HAND and the Abernethy school community have a long-standing working partnership. PTA and Garden & Grounds Committee representatives regularly attend HAND meetings to share plans and hear neighborhood input, and HAND keeps our residents informed about school-grounds projects through our communications. Our members volunteer at school and community events on the campus. Abernethy families, in turn, are among the most active participants in neighborhood efforts, from the Bike Bus to Tour de Ladd. This shared awareness and mutual volunteerism is exactly the kind of community-building that makes projects on this campus succeed and endure.

Greening Abernethy delivers improvements our residents will enjoy. HAND would love to see improved shade and native plantings across the campus: replacing more than 12,000 square feet of heat-radiating blacktop with trees, gardens, and a tiny forest will cool the neighborhood's most-used open space and manage stormwater in our combined-sewer area. We are especially excited about the proposed walking track, which would offer a quarter-mile-plus loop around the field, open to the whole neighborhood, that would give residents of all ages a safe, soft-surfaced place to walk year-round.

HAND commits to continuing our volunteer partnership with Abernethy as this project is built and cared for: publicizing work parties to our residents, turning out neighborhood volunteers for depaving and planting days, and supporting long-term stewardship of the new plantings. We urge the committee to fund this project.

Thank you for your consideration, and for the Percent for Green program's investment in neighborhood-scale green infrastructure.

Sincerely,

Hosford-Abernethy Neighborhood District Association