



Greenwood Hills

CEMETERY

Portland, Oregon

Estab. 1882


Fall 2021


9002 SW Boones Ferry Road • Portland, OR 97219

Open 8:00am to Sunset



Did you know
Greenwood Hills
Cemetery has its own
Facebook page?

Search for us by name, then  Like
the page to share stories, news, photos,
and connect with the community of
people who care about this unique place.

We are happy to announce that
we are making it even easier to
donate to Greenwood Hills with
the help of  PayPal

You can go to our Facebook page
and click on the PayPal Donate
link to make a one-time or
recurring donation to help ensure
the preservation of this
wonderful property.

Need a grave marker?

Ordering through us helps
with the maintenance costs
of Greenwood Hills Cemetery.

We Offer These Services

Our Archivist provides quick
and courteous records search,
gravesite location, and
grave marker location services.
Interments in GHC are available
to those who hold deeds to
family plots with available space.
River View is our preferred provider
of grave marker and interment services.
If we are unavailable,
call River View directly at:
503-246-4251.

Welcome to part one of what will be a walking tour of the majestic and some-

times unusual trees that make
their home in Greenwood
Hills Cemetery.



It is hard to miss the redwood
that towers above everything
else in the middle of the first
loop as you enter the front
gate. Redwoods can live to be
2,000 years old and can reach
heights over 300 feet. This
tree is between 150 and 200
years old. A mere toddler!

There are four unusual
looking evergreens left of the
parking area that are very
dark with seasonal red
berries. These are yews, and
they are the most apropos tree
in the cemetery. Historically,
the yew was known as the
“Graveyard Tree” or “Tree of

Death” as there is a history of people and livestock dying from eating the
poisonous, yet attractive, red berries. In the 1960s, the bark was found to
contain paclitaxel, a chemical used as an anti-tumor treatment. So sought after,
the Yew was in danger of extinction until a synthetic version of the chemical
was developed.

To the right of the parking area is a majestic and graceful Deodar Cedar.
Deodar is derived from Sanskrit that translates to “Wood of the Gods.” Native
to the Himalayas (introduced to the US in 1983), the Deodar can reach heights
of 250 feet.

Just past the parking area is a large, big leaf maple tree. Big leaf maples are
identified by their large leaves and “helicopter seeds” that spin in the wind.
Maple syrup is traditionally made from the sugar maple tree; but any maple can
be used to make syrup. The ratio of sap to syrup is 40:1 for big leaf maple
syrup! (*Continued on page 2*)

Greenwood Hills Cemetery Maintenance Association is a volunteer organization dedicated to maintaining the grounds of Greenwood Hills Cemetery in a manner that respects the dead, honors the living, and preserves a valuable connection with our rich pioneer history.

Through responsible stewardship of resources, we strive to maintain a safe and beautiful open space where people can come to remember the past and enjoy the natural world which we hold in sacred trust for the future.

(continued)

Beyond the maple is a large elm tree. The elm tree is referred to as the 'Tree of Death' and there is an English saying: 'Elm hateth man, and waiteth' alluding to the tree's reputation for dropping boughs and killing those beneath it. The wood is durable and pliable which made it preferred for coffin building and a favored choice for medieval archers to make longbows.

The wooded area has large chestnut trees and big leaf maples. In the fall, you will find spiny nut pods on the ground in this area. You must remove the green husk and brown outer layer of the nut to reach the edible meat that is often "roasted on an open fire." Other trees in this area include juniper, Douglas fir, holly, hemlock, and cedar. Toward the end of this stretch, you will find a China fir. It is hard to miss with its dagger shaped flat needles and is prized in China for use in coffin making.

There is a field with young western redcedars to the right. These young redcedars were planted and watered by two of our board members 3 years ago. Some living over 1,000 years old and reaching 230 feet in height and 23 feet in diameter, the western redcedar is also called the giant arborvitae (Latin for "tree of life").

Look for part two of this walking tour in our Spring 2022 newsletter.

Clean up 2021



Our annual clean up has become a popular way to give back. This year was no exception. We had 30 plus volunteers show up with rakes, string trimmers, clippers and brooms. We enjoyed the luxury of using a tractor thanks to volunteers Terry and Patsy Kimzey. This helped immensely to spread the free chips we had delivered. We were able to cover pathways, flower beds and areas that are usually very muddy in the spring. Blackberries were cut back, Holly suckers cut down, and headstones trimmed. GHC was all spruced up for the holiday and beyond. Another shout-out goes to Jim Bezanson, who took it upon himself to clean, sand and stain all three of our picnic tables. We can never thank our ever attentive volunteers enough. They make windfall piles, keep water jugs full and pick up in general all year round.

Contributions are Appreciated!

Greenwood Hills Cemetery relies on charitable gifts to maintain the cemetery and make necessary improvements. Please consider increasing your donation or including GHGMA in your charitable giving plans if you have not done so.



I want to help maintain and restore Greenwood Hills Cemetery!

NAME _____

☐ Add my name to the volunteer list.

ADDRESS _____

☐ Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution of:
\$ _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

GHCMA Tax ID #94-3052123

Thank you! We truly appreciate your support.

Reply to:
GHC Maintenance Association
PO Box 80701
Portland, OR 97280