



Newsletter

Summer 2005

Message from the President

Among its other attributes, our city has the distinction of having been born of the anger generated by a great environmental insult.

Just over forty years ago, local citizens watched a great marshland being destroyed to make way for a shopping center. To make sure it would never happen again in their community, they founded the City of Lake Forest Park. Incorporation gave them more control over land use regulations and the future of a splendid natural landscape.

Our city's streets conform to the contours of the hills and canyons. Odd-shaped lots and curving, leafy streets define "home" to Lake Forest Park residents. Old-timers and recent arrivals alike cite the natural beauty of the landscape high on the list of reasons they love the place.

But in those forty years since the visionaries decided to take action, many of our natural wonders are no longer visible. When I moved here 30 years ago, a covey of quail visited my garden. Undeveloped lots teemed with wild flowers and native dogwood. You could hear frogs at sundown. Every walk or drive revealed a panoramic view of priceless natural assets.

Such nearby pleasures are fast disappearing. The once-abundant open spaces have been gobbled up for houses. Wooded landscapes have become lawns. Roads and streets, essential to supporting

a growing population, dump storm water into our creeks, destroying trout and salmon runs.

Now it's up to us as individuals to protect and preserve what we have left of a natural landscape. Although our environmental history is one of collective, governmental action, that's no longer enough to save the best of what we have. Personal responsibility has to become the moving force to sustaining our legacy. Nearly all of our city's green space, streambanks, woods and bluffs are now in private hands. This presents some new and unexpected opportunities. If each of us becomes a committed steward, we can maintain the splendor of our little city's landscape.

Collective initiatives, like the restoration projects being guided by the Stewardship Foundation, can be a great help in organizing concern and guiding public energy. But without individual, personal citizen responsibility, the Foundation's time and energy would be wasted.

We look for ways we can develop a caring vision. But the essential element is a personal passion for the landscape and its wild inhabitants. While we're proud of the achievements the Foundation has marked on its journey, we're just getting started. Think where that collective journey can take us when each citizen in our community adds a personal commitment to saving the best we have.

SAVE THE DATE

for our 7th ANNUAL

BENEFIT DINNER AND AUCTION

Friday, October 21, 2005

New Location

Nile Shrine Center, 6601 – 244th St. SW, in Mountlake Terrace

6:00 – 10:30 pm

Please mark your calendar now and plan to join us for another evening of delectable food and drink, exciting auctions, great music and fabulous company!

Invitations will be mailed in September. Tickets are \$50.

To pre-register, call us at 206-361-7076.

Interested in being involved? We have a number of opportunities for you!

- Become a Table Captain. Bring together your friends, family and colleagues for a fun evening out, support the Stewardship Foundation, and have a great time in the process!
- Involved with an environmentally-friendly business? Consider becoming an event sponsor. We have a full range of sponsorships available. Help us throw a wonderful event and publicize your business in the process.
- Donate to our live or silent auctions. Do you own a vacation home, cabin, or time-share? Are you an artist or gardener? Are you able to guide a trip, teach a class, cater a meal, or offer a professional service? Please consider offering your getaway, art skills and/or services to our auction as a tax-deductible donation!

To learn more about these opportunities, please contact the Stewardship Foundation at 206-361-7076 or by email at info@lfpsf.org.

Earth Day at Grace Cole Nature Park

Many thanks to all the 60-plus volunteers who turned out on April 23 for a very productive work party in recognition of Earth Day 2005! After three hours of pulling out trash and weeds from the City's newest park, the industrious workers of all ages were treated to a barbeque lunch, cooked up by members of Crime Watch. (Crime Watch is the organization of citizen volunteers who will check on your home when you're away, if you call the City and ask for their service; and they turn out a mean hamburger, hot dog or veggieburger, too!)

This is one shining example of volunteers working together to make a big difference in our City.

Good Stewards Update

We have good news.

Our Good Stewards registration was officially accepted by the National Wildlife Federation on February 23rd. Now we must work hard to reach our goals for community certification. Good Stewards of LFP has already certified 125 yards as Backyard Wildlife Habitats, almost a quarter



of our first benchmark goal of 550 certifications (10% of all the yards in Lake Forest Park). Through neighborly word of mouth, the Dig-It Fair and Secret Garden Tour, and the City's mailing, more and more people are getting involved with our Community Wildlife Habitat project. **Thanks** to all of you who have been certified so far, and we hope the rest of you will join us in creating and protecting wildlife corridors throughout our community.

With the recent collaboration between the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and the National Wildlife Federation, those who currently have yards certified by the state will now be automatically certified by the National Wildlife Federation as well. NWF certification includes a one year membership in the National Wildlife Federation, and subscriptions to National Wildlife magazine and the quarterly newsletter, Habitats. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife has launched a campaign to certify 10,000 properties statewide by 2010, so the reciprocal agreement between state and national agencies will help us all to reach our goals.

Other Items of Interest in the Good Stewards Program:

- A grant from the Russell Family Foundation through the National Wildlife Federation will provide funding for schoolyard habitats, public education, and native plant projects.
- Wild Birds Unlimited of LFP leads the way for businesses to be certified as Business Wildlife Habitats with their certification in May.
- Welcome to Terry Williamson, who has joined our Good Stewards project as the PTA Environmental Representative and Onsite Coordinator for the Schoolyard Habitat project at Lake Forest Park Elementary School. Carolyn Barden is working hard on the Schoolyard Habitat Project at Brookside Elementary School.

Three new communities have begun the process for Community Wildlife Habitat certification: Whidbey Island, Anacortes and Bellingham. They join the communities of Lake Forest Park, Burien, and Alki with certifications in progress, and Tukwila and Camano Island, which are already certified (2 of only 10 nationwide). With local communities linked in our common interest to preserve wildlife habitat, we anticipate Puget Sound will become the first Certified Eco-Region in the United States.

Lower Brookside Creek Project

As we go to press, preparations are on track to begin work on the Lower Brookside Creek. A Determination of Non-Significance has been issued by the City, and the Army Corps of Engineers has approved the project. We expect to be able to proceed by early August. This, the Foundation's second stream restoration project on Brookside Creek, will involve removal of two waterfalls, reconstruction of the streambed, and installation of a larger culvert under an existing driveway. It will also include re-vegetation of the streamside with landscape plants salvaged from the site, augmented with native species. Adopt-A-Stream, a non-profit environmental organization, is partnering with us by supplying plants and labor. We'll be calling for volunteers, too, as work gets under way.

Stream Restoration Project Honored

The American Society of Civil Engineers, Seattle Section, has bestowed an "Honor Award for Excellence in Small Projects" to the Brookside Creek Stream Channel Restoration which the Foundation completed in 2003 on the property of Rick and Launa Hoy. That project, funded by the Community Salmon Fund, was designed by Arthur Fleming of Hart Crowser, and completed by Brian Bodenbach of Biosphere Company. Professional efforts were augmented by over 600 hours of volunteer help from Foundation members and friends. We can all be proud of this first in-stream project of the Foundation.

StreamKeepers and Stewardship Foundation Looking for Bugs

The Foundation and StreamKeepers are working collaboratively to expand the scope of stream health monitoring. Together, we'll be developing a "Benthic testing" program to analyze the health (B-IBI index) of our streams and, indeed, the general health of our environment, by observing the smaller aquatic forms (the macro-invertebrates) in our streams. Macro-invertebrates, as the name implies, can be seen with the naked eye, and don't have a back bone. They are the worms, mollusks and insect larvae living in the sand and clinging to the rocks which are the very important food for young salmon. Salmon live and grow for several months to a year in the streams, until they are ready to swim to the lake and then to the ocean. The presence of a variety of species of invertebrates in the stream is an indicator, not only of good stream health, but also of the environmental health of the community as a whole. As we all know, water runs off the land to the streams, and takes with it any substance which has fallen on or been placed on the land. Undesirable materials of any kind, whether they be toxins we've sprayed to control weeds or insects, excess nutrients from fertilizers or animal waste, as well as car exhaust and rubber from tires, are washed into the streams and affect the health of all aquatic life.

StreamKeepers and the Foundation are looking for Middle School, High School and adult volunteers, who may have an interest in natural science (no previous experience necessary), to participate in 4 hours of training on Saturday, July 9, in Benthic testing. If you're interested, or curious, please call Mamie Bolender at (206) 364-4410 or Mark Phillips at (206) 362-8964.

The South Woods: A Call For Action

Immediately south and adjacent to Shorecrest High School is a 15.6 natural area of native second growth forest that is one of the largest forested areas remaining in the upper Thornton Creek watershed. Combined with Hamlin Park to the north it is also the only piece of coniferous dominated forestland that still exists between the Lake Union ship canal and the north King County line. Preservation of this natural heritage appears to be in jeopardy. This rare natural habitat may soon be sold, fragmented, and slated for intensive development.

Due to scarce dollars, the current owners, the Shoreline Water District and the Shoreline School District, have indicated their desire to sell the property, as it no longer meets the purpose for which it was originally purchased. The property is now being made available to other public entities before being offered for sale to the general public. There is strong support from a wide range of citizens from neighboring communities for the city of Shoreline to purchase this property to help make their city more livable. Protecting this vital open space in a rapidly developing neighborhood is critical as it has substantive value both environmentally and recreationally and would provide a natural legacy for present and future generations of new stewards.

South Woods offers students an extraordinary site where the benefits of applied learning can occur. Tony Angell, Lake Forest Park resident and former Washington State Supervisor of Environmental Education, envisions the preservation and realization of this site as a school and community educational resource. Tony offers this: "One can imagine high school juniors and seniors providing introductory instructional programs, from a variety of subject areas, to visiting elementary and middle school students from throughout the District." Shared learning experiences between classmates, residents, junior and elementary students are all current opportunities being organized in concert with field work planned for the Grace Cole Nature Park in Lake Forest Park.

According to Katrina Barlow, Stewardship Board member and Shorecrest's Student Action for the Environment Club co-chair, they are eager to retain it for study purposes. These students have been studying the physical properties of the site and inventorying plants and animals. One class has catalogued all the plants in the forest; the site has even inspired language arts classes. What better way to teach students science, mathematics, social studies, art and community values?

This undeveloped site lies near the headwaters of a tributary to Thornton Creek, a recognized salmon stream, and is an important link with Hamlin Park's forest, the valley to the northeast, and the forested sub-basins of Brookside, Hillside and McAleer Creeks. Connected corridors provide critical wildlife habitat and increase the opportunity for diversity of species. It also contains an informal community nature trail that has been used locally for years. It makes good sense economically and ecologically for residents of Lake Forest Park and Shoreline to ensure that this 15-acre priceless treasure is not lost or degraded.

A citizens group, the South Woods Preservation Group, has been formed to encourage the city of Shoreline to purchase this property for long-term protection. To learn more about how you can get involved, please contact Terry Clayton at 206-919-0151, or the Foundation at 206-361-7076.

Environmental Legacy Award

On April 28, 2005, Mayor Dave Hutchinson and the City Council honored the Stewardship Foundation when they presented to us the first "Lake Forest Park Environmental Legacy Award." The inscription reads: "In recognition of outstanding contributions to our community by maintaining, preserving, enhancing, and fostering awareness of our natural environment for current and future generations." We look forward to continuing these efforts with the help and support of all members of the Foundation and our community.

Welcome....

The Stewardship Foundation is pleased to welcome Steve Plusch as a member of the Board of Directors. Steve moved to Lake Forest Park in 1989 when he assumed his Coast Guard Duties as Chief of Operations for the Pacific Northwest; he served on active duty for 30 years and retired in 1994. He got involved with city government when the "Keyhole" property, near his home in Horizon View, was about to be developed. Steve founded a citizens group to ensure that the zoning was restored to protect properties surrounding the "Keyhole."

Steve served on the Planning Commission for nine years. He started the LFP Telecommunications Committee and helped lay the groundwork for the City's Web site. He has also volunteered for 8 years as a member of Crime Watch. Steve and Karen have two grown children. He holds a B.S. in Engineering from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy and a Masters Degree in Electrical Engineering.

..And Farewell

Bob and Dee Simmons are "getting out of Dodge" and heading up to Bellingham at the end of June to be closer to their family and to start a new chapter in their lives. Their home on NE 182nd sold within two days to a young couple with two little boys who used to live in Lake Forest Park. However, Bob and Dee were not that lucky finding housing until just recently, but we understand it was worth the wait. We're told their "new digs" has a breathtaking coastal view and comes with a gardener and a maintenance man. How sweet is that!

Bob has been an enormous asset to both the Foundation and to the community in general in his role as a member of the Board, and, subsequently, as an Advisor to the Foundation. He's been an inspiration to us all.

We'll miss Bob and Dee terribly but know where to find them. We wish them well and are confident they'll be paving new paths (not the impervious kind), promoting the conservation ethic, and whipping their new community into shape in no time at all.

Small Change, Big Difference

King County Dept. of Natural Resources and Parks has awarded us a "Small Change for a Big Difference" grant of \$2,400 which will allow us to update and reprint "A Salmon's Guide to Lake Forest Park." This booklet is full of useful tips on environmental stewardship. Special thanks to Tema Nesoff of the City of Lake Forest Park, Gretchen Muller of the National Wildlife Federation, Todd Burley of Homewaters Project, and Christy Norman of Washington Audubon for providing impartial external reviews of our project to King County.



The CFT – What Is It?

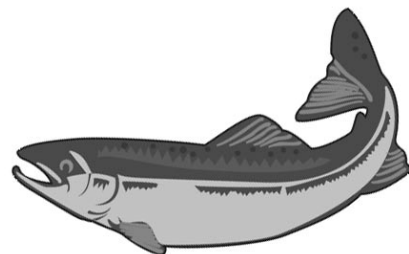
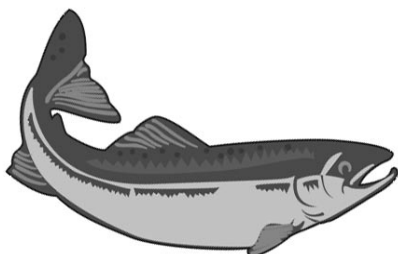
The CFT is better known as the Conservation Futures Tax (CFT) levy fund. These funds are collected from property taxes levied throughout King County and its cities for the purchase of open space lands. An Ordinance directs the King County Conservation Futures Citizens Committee to make an annual review of applications submitted for projects throughout the County for CFT funding and, by July 1st, to forward a recommendation to King County Council on the allocation of Conservation Futures revenues anticipated in the following year. The Council then considers the recommendation during the annual Fall budget adoption process. This year the recommendation is based on a current estimate of approximately \$9,650,000 in available 2006 Conservation Futures revenues. The levy fund varies from year to year.

In January of each year, King County forwards notice of applications to park and natural resources directors of King County and its cities with an application deadline of April 1st. This year, applications for 32 projects were received, with requests totaling over \$15 million. The committee met in late spring and conducted site visits to all of the proposed projects as part of its review. The projects were evaluated using Criteria adopted by the King County Council in 2001. The criteria and the competitive nature of the process help ensure that most of the applications were of high quality.

King County's Conservation Futures program requires dollar-for-dollar matching funds. CFT funds provide an incentive for local officials to try to accomplish open space acquisitions that are generated from competitive local and countywide planning processes such as the Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) planning efforts, city master planning processes, long established trail plans and other community planning processes. For example, in some cases the recommended funding level provides the first public funding commitment and serves as a strong endorsement that carries weight with other potential funders.

The goal is to recommend funding at levels that are sufficient to establish early successes in a project area or, in some cases, funding that should be sufficient to complete the project outright. During the last three years the CFT has funded nearly 100 projects that are well distributed geographically throughout King County and that have a significant collective impact on our quality of life.

Acquisition of the Grace Cole Nature Park project received partial CFT funding. The City of Lake Forest Park was recently awarded a CFT grant for purchase of a portion of the Keyhole property, near Horizon View Park. For more information about King County's Conservation Futures program please contact Carol Dahl (361-7076) who serves on the Citizens Committee.





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Stewardship Foundation, a nonprofit
corporation in the State of Washington.
Send inquiries and address data to:
17171 Bothell Way N.E., PMB 175
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Welcome!

The Foundation welcomes these new
members:

John & Sally Renn

Michel & Sara Jolivet

Bill Leon

Dennis DePape, DePape & Associates

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