



# Season's Greetings



## *Lake Forest Park Stewardship Foundation eNews December 2020*

- We Need YOU! Seeking New Members
- Annual Meeting & Board Elections Postponed
- Kenmore Citizens Raise Air Quality Concerns
- Council Finalizing Code for Town Center
- Use of Pesticides Near Streams Discouraged
- SalmonWatchers and Bird Project Updates
- Completion of the 178th Street Culvert
- The Last 6000: Seattle's Campaign to Save Big Trees
- Looking Forward to a New Year!



### **We Need YOU!**

We are an all-volunteer organization. Please join us by enlisting your talents and interests to continue our mission to preserve and enhance the natural environment of LFP. We are actively recruiting new Board members; however, all volunteers are welcome.

Current city planning efforts have the potential to deeply impact the future direction and character of our city. If you value the natural resources of LFP, now is a critical time to engage.

The Foundation is an advocate for our local parks and tree canopy protection. We provide an environmental perspective regarding the actions of our City's elected officials and staff, including municipal codes and ordinances like

those affecting future Town Center redevelopment. For example, we were recently instrumental in helping persuade the city to restrict the usage of single-use plastic bags. Scientists on our Board are conducting exciting projects within our city's borders, including research to repopulate our creeks with endangered kokanee salmon, and surveying our avian friends in city parks. You do not need to be a scientist to join the Board, we value all perspectives and input, and need many different types of skills to keep a nonprofit running -- going into our 23rd year!

Some of our upcoming programs and needs are:

- helping to enhance Five Acre Woods and Grace Cole Nature Park. Both parks have needs for trail building/maintenance, weeding out invasive plants and establishing native plants;
- bringing botany/native plant expertise to our group;
- establishing new walking trails in LFP;
- writing grants for our Next big idea (you may have it);
- connecting and including teens and youth in our projects;
- social networking skills (we don't have an Instagram yet);
- legal knowledge, particularly land use;
- attending critical city meetings and public hearings, and reporting back to the group;
- acting as liaison with other community groups;
- website management;
- bookkeeping;

Don't be shy, we have lots of needs and your energy might just be what we need.

All questions or suggestions are welcomed. Please visit our [website](#) for more information on our organization. Contact [Lisa Pedigo](#) if you are interested in learning more about volunteer opportunities.

## **Annual Meeting Postponed**

The usual cycle of the Stewardship Foundation includes an Annual Meeting and Board member elections. We often have this meeting in October or early November. With this year's pandemic restrictions on meetings and events, the Board decided to postpone the Annual Meeting and extend current Board terms into February 2021. We had hoped that would allow for in-person gathering by then. That may not be the case, but we are still looking ahead to hosting some sort of Annual Meeting and Board elections, even if virtually. Stay tuned for more info to come. **Hoping we will have some new Board candidates joining us!**



## Foundation President Stepping Down

Julian Andersen, who has served as Board President since November 2016, will step down from leadership effective December 31st. Fortunately, Julian will continue serving on the Board.

A retired college teacher and newspaper publisher, Julian has long been involved in protecting LFPs natural environment. Many recognize him as an eloquent speaker at City Council meetings, and a friendly face at our Farmer's Market and Green Fair booths. Julian was President during the intense and successful [Campaign to Save Five Acre Woods](#).

In his resignation, Julian wrote:

*"My years as president have been challenging and rewarding. I will always be thankful for the spirit and dedication of all the board members with whom I worked. It was an honor to be seen as a spokesperson for the Stewardship Foundation, in settings both formal and informal. There are many opportunities for ongoing Stewardship Foundation activism. I look forward to playing a part in future activities and in supporting the next President."*

The Foundation benefits greatly from his sage advice, good humor and even keel. The Board thanks you, Julian, for your leadership and we are so glad to have you continuing as a Board member.

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## Local Air Quality Concerns Heighten

The Kenmore Clean Air Coalition, is currently fighting for clean air in North Lake Washington.

Kenmore's Cadman asphalt facility is at the center of their advocacy work. Located near Log Boom Park and the Burke Gilman Trail, the plant currently is not required to adopt modern emission standards and continues to endanger public health and safety. Kenmore Clean Air Coalition's aim is to test asphalt emissions from the plant to determine what is in the air that local residents are breathing.



Residents have complained for years of bad-smelling emissions, that makes eyes burn and breathing difficult. These concerns have coalesced into a groundswell of action that has the attention of the City of Kenmore. The group's work has included a socially-distanced Clean Air March in October — an effort that joined P.E.R.K. members, high

school students, legislative representatives, and other community members in a visible coalition against toxic fumes.

On Thursday, December 10th, the Kenmore Clean Air Coalition continued its advocacy work in a meeting with Cascadia Law. They will provide a summary of their progress on this issue and provide information that will get them closer to achieving their mission: a clean and healthy environment on the shores of Lake Washington.

Please take a moment to [sign their petition](#) and help them reach their goal of 1000 signatures.

For more information about reporting air quality complaints and joining their efforts, see their [facebook page](#) or the People for Environmentally Responsible Kenmore (PERK) [website](#).



*We must be proactive to protect the quality of life and natural resources that make Lake Forest Park special.*

In 2019, the Lake Forest Park City Council voted to institute a moratorium on accepting permit applications for any new buildings, or redevelopment of existing buildings, at the LFP Town Center site. This has given the Planning Commission and Council more time to review the existing municipal code and develop revisions. **The moratorium will expire on March 10, 2021.**

The Council has just released this proposed timeline for completing the code revisions:

- 12/10 5:30 p.m. Council Work Session
- 12/14 5:30 p.m. Special Committee of the Whole
- 1/7 6:00 p.m. Special Committee of the Whole
- 1/14 6:00 p.m. Council Work Session
- **1/14 7:00 p.m. PUBLIC HEARING on the proposed Town Center code revisions**
- 1/25 6:00 p.m. Committee of the Whole
- 1/28 7:00 p.m. Council Business Meeting (potential Town Center discussion)
- 2/11 6:00 p.m. Council Work Session
- 2/22 6:00 p.m. Committee of the Whole
- **2/25 7:00 p.m. Council Business Meeting – Adopt Town Center Code revisions**
- 3/10 Moratorium expires

It can be very difficult, especially with the virtual meetings, for the public to track the proposals. Often, revisions are discussed by Council or the Planning Commission, and then it is up to City staff or consultants to put those ideas into the ordinance language.

**It is important for the City to provide these proposals with clear mark-up/revisions and strikeouts so that those trying to follow can understand what's being changed, added, or deleted.**

How can citizens possibly review these changes without seeing it clearly spelled out? In some meetings, Council and Commissioners have expressed

this same frustration. Please join us in urging the City staff to provide these documents in a useful, easily discernible, format -- and with enough time in advance of meetings to read through them.

## Zoom In to See Your Council in Action

The next (virtual) Council meeting is scheduled for tonight Thursday, December 10th 7- 9pm

Instructions for making oral comments at the meeting are on the [agenda](#) as are links to all staff documents.

Please see the City's [Virtual Meetings during COVID-19](#) page for updated information about how meetings are being handled. The virtual meetings have been improved to include real-time public testimony via zoom.

Sign up for the City's emailed **Civic Alerts** to keep up with latest schedules [here](#).

You may submit your comments to the Mayor and the City Council via the following email links:

- All Council Members at [citycouncil@ci.lake-forest-park.wa.us](mailto:citycouncil@ci.lake-forest-park.wa.us)
- Mayor Johnson at [jjohnson@ci.lake-forest-park.wa.us](mailto:jjohnson@ci.lake-forest-park.wa.us)



## City Council Finalizing Parking Garage Zoning Code Changes

An excellent summary written by LFP resident Tracy Furutani appeared in the *Shoreline Area News* recently. Read it [here](#).

## UPDATE: Pesticide Use Near Streams Discouraged

This fall, LFP citizens were shocked to find out that our City contracted the application of "Garlon 4 Ultra" and "RoundUp Custom" near McAleer Creek in the Perkins Ravine. The Tree Board received grant funds to hire a contractor for a multi-part weed control and replanting project along the stream. This is important work, but we argue that use of the chemicals so near the stream was potentially harmful to aquatic animals, and possibly people and pets. Inadequate public notice contributed to the alarm over the pesticide use.

Use of RoundUp and Garlon4 is controversial and considered an extreme measure, and should be selectively and very carefully used, not sprayed so near the stream. Less toxic methods such as manual removal of invasives should be used instead.

In 2019, the City of Seattle adopted an ordinance banning the use of Glyphosate. Out of an abundance of caution, Seattle has joined cities like San Francisco and decided to highly restrict the usage of glyphosate and look for alternative solutions to controlling non-native and invasive weeds.

**We are asking the Tree Board and the City of Lake Forest Park to commit to avoiding the use of chemicals for weed and pest control in environmentally sensitive areas, such as streambanks and wetlands.**

Below: An area along Perkins Way that was sprayed with herbicides this fall, showing resulting dead vegetation and proximity to the stream.



More of the area along McAleer that was treated with chemicals.

Manual removal of ivy and blackberry are effective, and should be the first choice especially near streams and wetlands.

To learn more about the dangers of pesticides and how to reduce use, go to: [WA Toxic-Free Future](#) and the [NW Center for Alternatives to Pesticides](#).

## In Case You Missed It

**New SalmonWatchers Successful**

Foundation Board member Dr Jeff Jensen, along with Trout Unlimited, organized a

**Birds in Our Parks**



new salmon reporting effort for North Lake Washington tributaries, including Lyon and McAleer creeks this fall. There were 8 enthusiastic volunteers reporting from LFP, and some interesting sightings!

Read the UW Bothell's article about the project [here](#).



Read the [UW Bothell article](#) about Board member Dr. Doug Wacker's ongoing bird survey project in LFP's parks.

The project's goal is to learn how habitat and urbanization impact the way birds use urban and suburban parks.



## 178th Street Culvert Replacement Complete

Part of the City's "Healthy Creeks" initiative, this long-planned project at 44th Ave NE replaced a deficient culvert beneath the road with a new 70-foot long, 24-foot wide by 8-foot high, fish passable concrete box culvert. We celebrate the

removal of a barrier to fish and look forward to seeing the native plants restored along the stream. This project ties in well with new in-stream egg incubators Dr. Jeff Jensen installed just upstream. Here's hoping Lyon Creek's SalmonWatchers see more fish returning in coming years!



## The Last 6000

**Just over 6,000 majestic trees remain in Seattle.**

**Will you help find them?**

In 2015, Seattle hired the University of Vermont to use aerial technology to measure tree canopy. It used a technology called light detection and ranging, or LIDAR, in which a sensor-equipped plane collects data to create a three-dimensional model of the Earth's surface and surface characteristics, such as trees. One

result of that study was the discovery that there were **only 6,338 trees with a trunk diameter of 30 inches or greater left in the city.** In this campaign,

these trees are called "majestic."

There is no street-level data from that study, and no satellite images have been assessed since then. Therefore, there is not a good picture or current data of how many, what species, the state of health and where these majestic trees currently survive in Seattle.

The campaign invites citizens to locate and document majestic trees in our city in order to capture a current count, a census so to speak.

You don't need to live in Seattle to contribute trees to their database. If you drive through neighborhoods, visit parks, or work in the City, perhaps you have seen a majestic tree that should be documented.

To learn more, including ways to submit trees, go to the campaign's [website](#) or Instagram [TheLast6000](#).

A Program of PlantAmnesty | In Dedication to Cass Turnbull



The Stewardship Foundation is an all-volunteer nonprofit organization focused right here in Lake Forest Park, with the Mission:  
*to contribute to the well-being of our community  
by fostering awareness, understanding, appreciation,  
and stewardship of our natural environment;  
and by preserving and enhancing parks and open spaces.*

The Foundation Board meets virtually by Zoom on the **third Tuesday of each month** from 7 to 9 pm.  
Please email for meeting link and details.

CONTACT US BY EMAIL





