



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

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### **What Are Those Fish?!**

While walking along Lyon or McAleer creeks during the spring, you may have noticed large groups of fish gathered in the shallows and wondered,

**“Are those salmon?”** Although spawning salmon get most of the attention, streams such as Lyon and McAleer are home to a variety of interesting fish species. Cutthroat trout, juvenile coho, and two species of sculpins are year-round residents, and species other than salmon make yearly spawning runs. Lake Washington longfin smelt (one of only two freshwater-only populations in the world) spawn in winter, and if you encounter silvery 8-12" long fish in our streams during spring you are likely seeing **peamouth chubs**.

Despite their abundance and conspicuous spawning runs, peamouth biology is not well studied. Triggered by unknown cues, peamouth migrate from deeper waters of Lake Washington to suitable shoreline and stream spawning sites in May through June. A peamouth spawning event can be a spectacular sight! A single female can lay over 30,000 sticky eggs, and dozens to thousands of fish enter the stream together for a night of vigorous spawning that leaves the water foamy. The adults typically exit the stream within 24 hours, leaving behind untold numbers of eggs that incubate for about seven days before the young hatch and migrate out to the lake. Peamouth grow in lake Washington for about four years before making their first spawning run. The adults provide food for otters, herons, raccoons and other predators, but are generally considered too bony for human consumption.

For more information, see the [City of Bellevue's website](#) about monitoring peamouth chub (minnows) in their streams .

Thank you, Board member and UW fisheries researcher Dr. Jeff Jensen, for this insight into our local stream fauna. **Dr. Jensen's May 2020 video of peamouth chub in Lyon Creek is viewable [here](#).**

## Post Your Wildlife Sighting



Did you know, neighbors have seen **bobcats** recently in Lake Forest Park? There have been a number of sightings posted on NextDoor, and Deputy Mayor Kassover has some amazing photos of a beautiful bobcat visiting her backyard!

We invite you to post your sightings on the Foundation's website at [LFPSF.org](http://LFPSF.org)

We are using a site called iNaturalist, a joint initiative of the California Academy of Sciences and the National Geographic Society, to catalog sightings of wildlife in Lake Forest Park.

Your observations of wildlife will help inform our efforts to preserve our natural environment. We have made a series of separate links so you can view all sightings or just sightings of specific kinds of organisms (e.g. plants, vertebrates, etc.).

Please [contribute](#), and let us know if you have suggestions.



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

The Council's moratorium on new development at the Town Center is slated to end September 13, 2020. Originally, the Council work plan projected that new development codes would be completed by then. Although the Council and Planning Commission have continued to meet via Zoom during the pandemic shutdown, public involvement has been hampered.

Recently, the Planning Commission made recommendations for new zoning code provisions for the proposed commuter garage at Town Center. These include a maximum parking structure height of 35-45 feet, a maximum parking structure footprint of 45,000 square feet, and commercial or public space on the ground floor. The Council will consider these new codes in June.

**The Foundation Board feels strongly that no new codes should be adopted until in-person public meetings are again allowed. We encourage the Council to further extend the moratorium to promote full public involvement during this process.**

Changing economic conditions resulting from this shutdown, including impacts to Sound Transit budgets and a shift to work-from-home which may become permanent for many, also create new questions about the future of transit-oriented development.

Meanwhile, Sound Transit continues to move ahead with plans including Bus Rapid Transit stations (Town Center, 153rd, and possibly 165th), many tree removals and widening along Bothell Way, changes in bus routes, and new parking garages. ST has been meeting with property owners along the east side of Bothell Way individually regarding property acquisitions, including taking whole houses and lots in some cases, either through voluntary agreements or through eminent domain.

The City's [Town Center Process webpage](#) contains links to recent meetings materials and minutes, including audio and video recordings for some.

You may submit your comments to the Mayor, Planning Commission, and to 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)
- Planning Commission in care of Planning Director, [Steve Bennett](mailto:Steve.Bennett@ci.lake-forest-park.wa.us).
- Mayor Johnson at [jjohnson@ci.lake-forest-park.wa.us](mailto:jjohnson@ci.lake-forest-park.wa.us)



*This aerial photo of new development at NE 155th & Aurora Ave N in Shoreline shows the scale of a 6-story 300-unit apartment complex.*

*A good reference for what is proposed at our Town Center!*

## How to Watch/Listen to Council Meetings

Please see the [Virtual Meetings during COVID-19](#) page for information about how meetings are being handled during the Governor's "Stay Home Stay Healthy" order.

There are several ways to watch/listen to City Council meetings: live stream, on-demand, and the City's two cable television channels: CenturyLink channel 8030 and Comcast channel 21. Regular meetings are video recorded, and work sessions are audio recorded.

- Live stream and on-demand replay of the meetings can be accessed [here](#). Please note the on-demand recording will be made available by the end of business on the Monday after the Thursday meeting.
- Live on CenturyLink channel 8030 or Comcast channel 21 (must live within LFP city limits and subscribe to one of these services)
- Replayed on the television channels at 12:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. daily, beginning the Monday following the meeting. The most recent meeting plays until the next meeting is held.

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



## Group Hopes to Save Shoreline's Large Trees

**Save Shoreline Trees** is a community coalition formed to bring neighborhoods together for a common cause, to preserve Shoreline's tall conifer tree canopy.

From their [website](#): 5000+ trees clear-cut along 5th Ave and the freeway to make room for Link Lightrail was heartbreaking. In the rush for new housing near transit centers, often developers clear cut lots to build new townhomes or houses and completely ignore requirements to keep a percentage of trees. As a result, the tax-paying residents are left without a voice in how their neighborhood is being changed, and we are all affected by the decrease of our tree canopy. This will create more heat in our area, increase noise and light pollution and affect the health of residents, existing trees, and wildlife habitat. Mature trees benefit our well being and are a valuable resource for the City of Shoreline. These trees are part of Shoreline's tall tree heritage. We ask City Council and City Planners to save these trees.

Recently, the group raised the alarm about mature trees to be unnecessarily

cut down as part of the new Kellogg Middle School expansion. The group is asking for help from LFP neighbors as well. If you are passionate about trees, please add your voice in asking if mature trees are being removed merely for construction access/ convenience ? Are remaining trees being properly protected from impacts? Saving mature trees should be prioritized in the *design phase* of any new project, and tree removal regulations need to be strengthened and enforced. After all, once those trees are replaced by sidewalks, buildings, or pavement, they are gone forever.

Contact: Melody Fosmore, Chair of Save Shoreline Trees,  
at [melodyfosmoredesign@gmail.com](mailto:melodyfosmoredesign@gmail.com)

## Local Field Trip : Kenmore's Heron Rookery

Great Blue Herons are an iconic bird species in the Northwest. These long-legged wading birds can grow to up to 4.5 feet tall and have a wingspan of over 6.5 feet wide. In spring and summer, these normally silent solitary birds gather in raucous rookeries to build nests and raise their young.

You can see the amazing sight of these huge birds high up in the branches of a marshy stand of trees behind Kenmore's Park & Ride just off Bothell Way at 73rd Ave NE. The gawky nestlings create quite a noise begging for food and clapping their bills.



Seattle Audubon lists more places in the Puget Sound area where you can view heron rookeries. Remember not to disturb the nesting birds by approaching too closely; they are best viewed with binoculars and scopes.

## June Restoration Work Parties Cancelled

Once restrictions are lifted, we will return to organizing **monthly volunteer work parties** to build new trail sections, remove invasives like ivy, and plant native plants and trees at Grace Cole Nature Park and Five Acre Woods.

If you enjoy working outdoors, and the great feeling of giving back to your community, these volunteer events are for you!

See our calendar for details, and to confirm dates and times for upcoming work parties.



## Spawning Grounds: Saving the Little Red Fish

We still hope to reschedule a showing of the new film that tells the story of a community coming together to save Kokanee from extinction. Ideally, we will host an outdoor family movie night end of August or early September. Stay tuned for more info.

Click here to learn more about the film.



## Earth Smart Green Fair Will Return Next Spring

### Have Some Spare Time? Pull That Ivy OUT!

Ivy is perfectly picturesque when growing in the English countryside or climbing the brick walls of historic buildings.

But here in the Pacific Northwest, ivy is a bully. A tree-killing, rat-infested, bird-poop-traveling bully. It thrives in the Pacific Northwest's mild climate and can grow in sun or shade. And since it's not native to the region, it doesn't have the environmental checks and balances it has in western Europe where it originated.



Rats are drawn to ivy because it helps them hide—and climb. And when invasive ivy crawls up trees, it weakens them by blocking sunlight and adding weight, meaning the trees are more likely to topple during windstorms.

Listen to the KUOW story: "[Rip the ivy out of your yard right now. Seriously!](#)" and be inspired to get rid of the ivy encroaching in your yard.

The [WA State Noxious Weed Control Board](#) has more information on identifying and removing English Ivy.

### In Bloom Now

The Pacific Rhododendron is also known as the Coast Rhododendron. Its scientific name, *Rhododendron macrophyllum*, literally means, "Rose tree with big leaves."



It is the Washington State flower.

Rhododendrons have long been a favorite of landscapers in the Pacific Northwest. Although many may prefer the variety of flower colors, and forms in cultivated varieties, our native Rhododendron with its bold green leaves and spectacular pink flower clusters can find a place in both wild settings and more traditional landscapes. Pacific Rhododendron is also useful for erosion control on steep watersheds. Read more on the Pacific NW Native Plants blog [here](#).



### What To Do If You Find a Baby Bird

From our friends at Shoreline Area News, this [article](#) by Christine Southwick will help you decide what to do if you find a baby bird.

Nestlings (left) are mostly featherless and helpless birds that should be returned to their nests, if possible. Fledglings (right) are mobile and well-feathered. Fledglings may not be

able to fly for the first few days after leaving the nest, but their parents still look after them and are usually nearby. Fledglings rarely need help. Photos via [Birdshare](#)

## The joy of birding is sweeping the country.

From the New York Times [tips for watching birds during lockdown](#), to the [Associated Press](#) mentioning that birding is like “real life Pokemon Go,” to our local Everett Herald [birding during quarantine](#) and Audubon’s many stories of birds [bringing people together across generations](#), people are finding joy in the birds of their own backyards.

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## Enjoy the Outdoors Safely

We are fortunate to have fresh air and green spaces all around us. During stressful times, getting outside just to do yardwork, go for a walk in the woods or a stroll to the lake shore can reduce stress and anxiety, improve your mood, and lower blood pressure.

Due to the current public health emergency and the Governor’s Stay-at-Home order, all tennis courts, basketball courts and playground equipment continue to be closed. This may change in Phase 3 of the Governor’s “Safe Start” plan. At this time, passive park areas, park fields, and trails are open as long as social distancing guidelines are followed.

### King County Parks Reminds Us to Recreate Responsibly

**#RecreateResponsibly**

- KNOW BEFORE YOU GO**  
Check the status of the place you want to visit. If it is closed, don't go. If it's crowded, have a Plan B.
- PLAN AHEAD**  
Prepare for facilities to be closed, pack lunch and bring essentials like hand sanitizer and a face covering.
- PRACTICE PHYSICAL DISTANCING**  
Adventure only with your immediate household. Be prepared to cover your nose and mouth and give others space. If you are sick, stay home.
- PLAY IT SAFE**  
Slow down and choose lower-risk activities to reduce your risk of injury. Search and rescue operations and health care resources are both strained.
- STAY CLOSE TO HOME**  
This is not the time to travel long distances to recreate. Most places are only open for day use.
- LEAVE NO TRACE**  
Respect public lands and communities and take all your garbage with you.

5/18/20

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 has successfully transitioned to Zoom meetings.

Please contact us by email for the link to virtually join a meeting, held the second Wednesday of each month from 7 to 9 pm.

Your support is greatly appreciated!

CONTACT US BY EMAIL



[www.lfpsf.org](http://www.lfpsf.org)