



*Lake Forest Park Stewardship Foundation
eNews September 2020*

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**HELP NEEDED: Salmon
Watching in our
Neighborhood!**

With the support of the Stewardship Foundation Board and Trout Unlimited, a salmon reporting effort is being organized North Lake

Washington tributaries, including Lyon and McAleer creeks.

As some may remember, King County had a salmon watchers program in which citizens reported on the presence and activities of salmon in many county streams. Unfortunately, that program ended in 2015 due to lack of funding. Because information about use of streams by salmon is important for restoration and management, including of kokanee salmon, Jeff Jensen (LFPSF board member and UW Bothell faculty member) is reviving this effort in streams from North Seattle through Woodinville.

We Need Your Help.

Would you like to sign up to report on salmon in one of our local streams? Becoming a salmon reporter means:

- Selecting a stream that you are willing to watch for a total of 30 minutes/week from September 1 into sometime in November.
- Reviewing on-line training materials and attending one or more Zoom meetings
- Recording data during your observations on a provided form
- Entering your data into an easy-to-use on-line form

Dr. Jensen and Trout Unlimited will coordinate volunteers, provide training, and manage the reporting website.

If you're a streamside homeowner this would be a great time to learn more about what's passing through your backyard. If you live along a stream and are willing to let others come to survey, let us know!

You can find more information and instructions for signing up at: [North Lake WA Salmon Sightings](#)

The time to be watching for salmon is now -- please sign up SOON if you'd like to help. Dr. Jensen will hold the first zoom training this Saturday, Sept. 5th

Fall is here, and salmon are returning to streams and rivers around Puget Sound to spawn. Watch for these natural beauties at viewing sites near you, or tour around the county virtually from home!

[See the map here](#) to find locations to visit, and virtual opportunities. If you decide to visit a self-guided site near you, please remember to recreate responsibly.



Surveying Birds in Our Local Parks

Dr. Doug Wacker, Assistant Professor of Animal Behavior at the UW Bothell and Foundation board member, recently received a Scholarship, Research, and Creative Practice (SRCP) Seed Grant. Along with funding from the Foundation, the grant will be used to look at the intersecting effects of urbanization and habitat on avian biodiversity and behavior in the parks of Lake Forest Park. He and his students have been creating bird species lists for all of the parks

in Lake Forest Park and will be initiating year-round bird surveys beginning in the fall.

Pictured: Doug Wacker, Andrea Castro (Educational Studies), Kira Lemke (Biology), Alex Moseley (Biology)



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. Although this expiration has been mentioned at Council meetings, the Council has not yet taken any action to extend it.

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. **The Sound Transit Board met in June to discuss delaying projects for up to five years** to address funding shortfalls

expected due to the pandemic. Delays could include the SR522 (Bothell Way) Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project and the proposed Town Center commuter parking garage.

We have asked that the City and Sound Transit host a series of virtual "town halls" to increase public engagement and understanding of these important issues.



At its last meeting, the Planning Commission looked at projects in nearby cities that could be comparable to our Town Center redevelopment. Depicted here is **Schoolhouse District** in Woodinville, 4 stories residential over 1 retail, with 280 apartments, currently under construction. The developer has won awards for environmental sustainability.

How to Participate in Council Meetings

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.

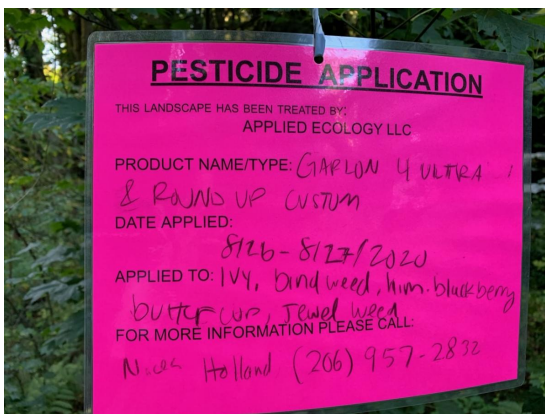
The next (virtual) Council meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 10th 7-9pm

To provide an oral Citizen Comment remotely, please sign up on the electronic sign-in sheet between 12:00 and 5:00 p.m. on the date of the meeting, and then join the meeting through the Zoom application by computer, mobile device, or telephone. A request to speak can also be made directly to the City Clerk at 206-368-5440 before 5:00 p.m. on the date of the meeting.

Oral Citizen Comments will also be accepted from those who have not pre-registered. After everyone who signed-up has commented at the meeting, the Mayor or designee will call for additional testimony by anyone that has not already spoken, by asking meeting attendees to "Raise their Hand" in Zoom. Instructions on how to raise a hand (over the computer and the telephone) will be provided by the Presiding Officer at the time they call for unsigned speakers.

[Click here to sign up on the Citizen Comments electronic sign-in sheet between 12:00 and 5:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting.](#)

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



PLEASE, No More Herbicides Sprayed Near Our Streams!

Last week, LFP citizens were outraged to see these pink notices all along McAleer Creek in the Perkins Ravine.

When questioned, work crews with backpack sprayers expressed little or

no concern about the application of herbicides to streambank vegetation. Many phone calls and emails later (since the City official named on the notices was not in fact in charge of the project and was also out of the office), it was determined this was part of a grant obtained by the City's Tree Board to remove invasive plants, and permitted by the Department of Ecology.

However, 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 have been used to a greater extent than was observed.

Even after pressing for more info, we have not received adequate response about who approved use of these toxic chemicals, what oversight was done to assure careful use, and why the public and *particularly downstream homeowners* were not notified in advance of the spraying. McAleer Creek runs through backyards and parks, where there is high likelihood of children and pets entering the creek, particularly on hot summer days.

The federal EPA has approved the use of Triclopyr (active ingredient in Garlon 4) to control broadleaf weeds and woody plants. But an EPA analysis found that although the chemical is "practically non-toxic" for humans and most mammals, it can be toxic to freshwater fish including salmon and some aquatic invertebrates, as well as "slightly toxic" to birds. How can the City be OK with potentially poisoning fish, crayfish, and birds?

The use of Glyphosate -- a.k.a. the active ingredient in Bayer-Monsanto's Roundup® -- is of even greater concern. It is a probable carcinogen, linked to increased risk of cancer. Last year, a jury ordered Bayer to pay \$2 billion to a couple who used glyphosate on their lawn for decades and who both suffered from non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. Over 52,000 additional court cases are pending from others with this deadly blood cancer.

Glyphosate doesn't just harm people. It also wipes out milkweed, the only food source for monarch caterpillars. This has contributed to monarchs declining by 90% in the past 20 years alone. Researchers have also found that glyphosate may impede the growth of bee larvae, impact bees' ability to navigate and find food and disrupt their gut microbiome, which could make them more vulnerable to diseases.

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.

This restriction on glyphosate builds on the City of Seattle's work to significantly reduce its use of pesticides since the 1970s, including adopting a ban 10 years ago on the use of pesticides at over 250 playfields, picnic areas, community gardens, and play areas. In addition, Seattle currently has 22 pesticide-free parks.

Please join us in asking the City of Lake Forest Park to pass a similar ordinance and commit to using less poisons for weed and pest control in environmentally sensitive areas, including parks and streambanks.

Send your comments to the Mayor & the Council here:

- All Council Members at citycouncil@ci.lake-forest-park.wa.us
- Mayor Johnson at jjohnson@ci.lake-forest-park.wa.us

Below: An area along Perkins Way that was sprayed with herbicides, showing proximity to the stream.



Do You Know Your Watershed Address?

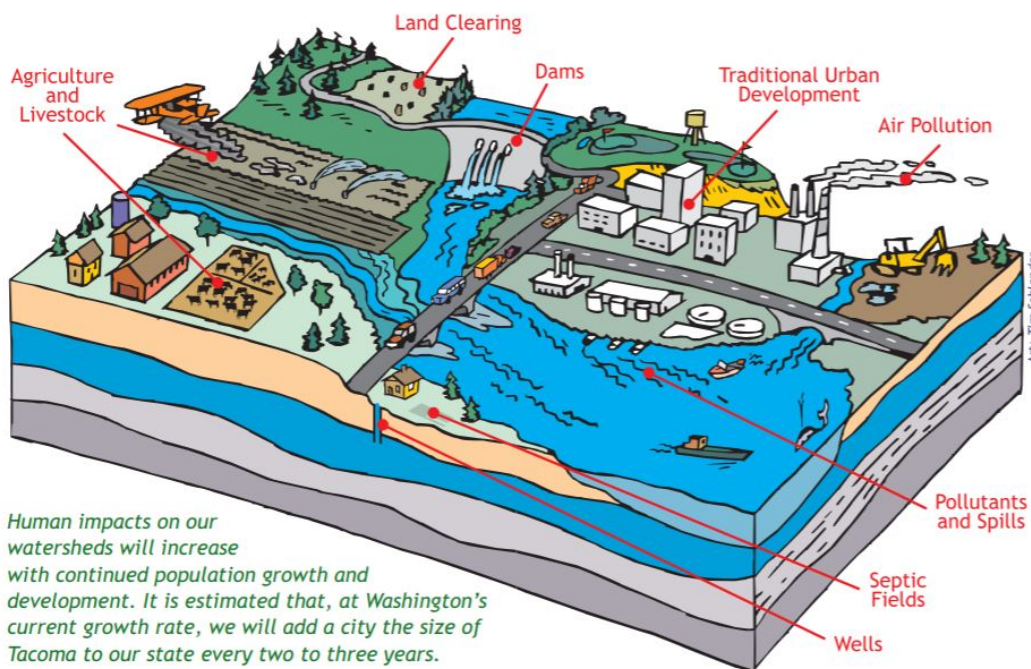
What is a watershed? Everyone lives in a watershed. Unlike states and counties, watersheds have natural boundaries defined by the shape of the land and the flow of water. In basic terms, a watershed, or basin, is all the land that drains to the same body of water, such as a lake or river. Smaller watersheds become part of larger watersheds, as streams feed into rivers, and rivers flow into oceans. This means wherever you are and wherever you go, you're in a watershed.



Why should you care? You are a citizen of a watershed. Your health and the health of your watershed are inseparable. This is because a watershed is an interconnected system of land, water, air, and the life they support—including people and cities. Your everyday actions affect your watershed. When a watershed is unhealthy, everything living in it suffers. The symptoms are easy to see: Beaches are closed because of pollutants. Fish populations dwindle because there isn't enough water or the quality is too poor to support them. Air pollution endangers our health and damages soil, water, crops, forests, and wildlife. A polluted watershed puts our drinking water supplies at risk. Our food sources are affected: Contaminated shellfish are unsafe to eat. Toxic chemicals in fish can accumulate in our bodies. **Your watershed's health can directly impact you and your family's health.**

The good news? Even small actions contribute to a healthy watershed. Turning off the water when you brush your teeth saves as much as three gallons of water each time! Conserving water leaves more water in the watershed to support natural processes and meet future needs. What's good for the watershed is also good for your budget: Using less hot water reduces your energy bills; and less water use lowers your water bill.

Other actions you can take include driving less, cleaning up after your pets, and limiting your use of pesticides and fertilizers. These simple steps make a difference, and the more of us who take them, the healthier our watersheds will be.



Learn more about watersheds from the WA Department of Ecology [here](#), and find Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed resources [here](#).

Eagle Scout Projects at Five Acre Woods



There are presently three Eagle Scout projects planned for completion from late August through early October in Five Acre Woods.

One will remove ivy climbing up trees. Those vines have regrown 15-feet high since volunteers cut the big vines on trees a year and a half ago!

The second project will remove ivy that is overgrowing downed trees and shrubs at the southeast part of the park. This action should facilitate access to that area so community volunteers can remove the ground cover ivy.

The third Eagle project will remove the large invasive English Holly and English Laurel shrubs from the park east of the wetland, as well as small plants of those species within 15-feet of the large ones. The work of all these projects will be done by groups of five or less people, all wearing masks and keeping good distance from each other. We expect it will take 3 to 4 days for each project due to the small size of the work groups.

The new trail constructed by two Eagle projects earlier this year is getting lots of use and many favorable comments. It allows people to experience different habitats closer to the wetland than is accessible from our other trails.

Foundation Board member and Scout liaison Doug Hennick reports that people are respecting Five Acre Woods quite well by staying on trails and keeping out of the wetland. We commend these young community volunteers for improving the park for all to enjoy!

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.

Old Tire Fished out of Grace Cole Nature Park Pond

Thank you to Foundation volunteer **Andy Ellers** for skillfully removing this tire from the nature park ponds using a rope & grappling hook.

The ponds are habitat for baby Coho salmon released by local schools each year, and form the headwaters for Brookside Creek. It is dismaying that someone would pollute the park waters this way.



178th Street Culvert Replacement Underway Now

If you have driven on 178th Street at 44th Ave NE near the Town Center recently, you have no doubt noticed traffic interruptions, and heavy equipment and tree removals near the stream.

Part of the City's "Healthy Creeks" initiative, this long-planned project will replace and upgrade a structurally deficient culvert beneath the road that is a partial fish barrier with a new 70-foot long, 24-foot wide by 8-foot high, fish passable concrete box culvert. Plans will allow Lyon Creek to continue normal stream function during and after the culvert installation. Work includes excavation of the road, utility protection and/or relocation, erosion and sediment control, fish exclusion and stream bypass, and widening of the channel bank within the project limits.

The sidewalk on the south side of NE 178th Street east of 44th Avenue Ave NE will be replaced with modifications to meet ADA requirements.

Approximately 281 square feet ("SF") of mitigation planting will occur on a privately-owned property to the north of the culvert, along with 2,074 SF of planting occurring on the undeveloped lot to the south. The road section will be restored and improved to meet pedestrian (ADA) and vehicle use standards. Graded channel bed sediment suitable for fish will be placed in the new culvert. All areas above the ordinary high water mark that are disturbed by the work will be restored with native vegetation. The project also includes removal of five trees within the stream buffer.

More road closures are expected in coming weeks. Please be patient, it's for the fish!



The Value of 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. Below are excerpts from a recent letter sent to the City of Shoreline, highlighting a key ecological

function of large trees. Consideration of these values, and how difficult it is to replace them, should be at the forefront of every consideration for tree removals here in Lake Forest Park as well as our neighboring forested cities.

August 27, 2020 Dear Shoreline Parks and Recreation Council,

Re: Significant Tree loss by WSDOT Dayton Project
(104 Trees to be cut down for WSDOT frontage project Permit 19-2371)

Today, I'd like to specifically talk about two significant trees on the WSDOT chopping block, #145 and #140.

Tree #140 is 61 years old.

This tree was planted in 1959; the year Alaska and Hawaii became U.S. states.

Tree #145 is just a little over 50 years old.

This means this tree was planted in 1970, a year after we landed on the moon.

Trees 140 and 145 provide the following benefits annually:

Saves the city \$495 a year

Capture 10,510 gallons of storm water run-off a year

Conserve 251 kilowatt hours of energy a year

Remove 1,287 pounds of CO₂ from our atmosphere per year

For reference, one car that drives 12,000 miles a year *generates 11,000 pounds of CO₂ a year.*

These are just a some of the types of benefits that *each* large conifer in our canopy provides our community. Currently, the trade-offs offered for removing even one of these assets does not give our Shoreline community members the same immediate benefits. In fact, these benefits will be denied for at least 21% of adult community members of Shoreline because these benefits will not be equitably replaced in their lifetime.² It won't be in my lifetime.

To immediately replace the CO2 benefit that we currently receive from these two trees you would have to plant and maintain:

Nine 10" Douglas Fir Trees
or
Twenty-eight 5" Douglas Fir Trees
or
One hundred and twelve 2" Douglas Fir Trees

We are in a unprecedented time in history living in a very unique area of not just our country but our state. We have a responsibility and stewardship just by living here. In so many ways, we are being asked to step up and really look at what is really happening around us. **The ways of progress for progress sake have passed.**

Responsibility for being a part of the Carbon Sink of the Pacific Northwest should be driving all projects in relation to building around trees, not bulldozing over them. A Carbon Sink is an area that stores/offsets more carbon than it produces. The larger the area, the more carbon is offset. **Large trees are considered carbon sinks:** Douglas Fir, Western Hemlock and Western Red Cedar all store more carbon than they emit until they reach the end of their natural life.

These large trees have served us and our community for more than some of our lifetimes and can continue to provide benefits to the community. The time is now to save these natural assets and require WSDOT to put their minds to work rather than their bulldozers and come up with design and material solutions for their new offices.

Sincerely,
Rebecca Jones, Save Shoreline Trees

For the full letter, and more details on the proposed tree removals at the WSDOT site in Shoreline, see their website at [Save Shoreline Trees](#) or contact them at: saveshorelinetrees@gmail.com 206.200.9770

Washington State Stands Up for Environmental Law

Protect 

WA Attorney General Bob Ferguson [filed a federal lawsuit](#) against the Trump Administration for illegally gutting the nation's bedrock environmental law.

The changes to the rules key to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) will eliminate or reduce environmental scrutiny for a wide range of major federal decisions and will harm Washington's most susceptible communities.

NEPA is a federal statute that governs all federal agencies and applies to most of the activities they approve or carry out. NEPA mandates detailed environmental review for all major federal actions — like power plants, roads, pipelines and large logging projects — that the federal government plans to undertake.

Former Washington Senator Henry "Scoop" Jackson introduced NEPA in the Senate in 1968 when he chaired the Senate Interior and Insular Affairs Committee. It passed with overwhelming bipartisan support in Congress and President Richard Nixon signed it into law on Jan. 1, 1970. NEPA has been called "[the Magna Carta of the nation's environmental laws.](#)"

Excerpted from [Shoreline Area News](#). Read the [full article here](#).

Current Events Discussion: What is Environmental Justice?

It is empowering to see how many people in Washington state are taking time in this moment to stand up for racial justice. How can the environmental community show up right now and what is our role in the fight against institutional racism?

To explore this topic, here are two articles from earlier this summer: An article posted by the [Washington Environmental Council](#) and also [this in the New York Times](#).

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

CONTACT US BY EMAIL



www.lfpsf.org

Lake Forest Park Stewardship Foundation | PO Box 82861, Kenmore, WA 98028

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