

# Lake Forest Park Stewardship Foundation



## *Make Every Day Earth Day*

*When we heal the earth, we heal ourselves.*

--David Orr

## Meet Our New Neighbors !



**We are thrilled to announce that beavers are back -- and this time, they found a perfect place to settle in the ponds at Grace Cole Nature Park.**

After observing the pond level rising at Grace Cole Nature Park, our volunteers used a wildlife camera to confirm the presence of at least one beaver (see black & white photo, at left).



The last time beavers were in the news here it was a story of conflict, when "Beatrix" the Beaver began building a dam on Hillside Creek (a tributary to Brookside Creek). Unfortunately, her work threatened to flood the entrance to Brookside Elementary school's parking lot and the playfield. The neighbors and the Foundation brought in BeaversNW, a nonprofit organization with a mission to help humans coexist with beavers. There was little to be done in that case except relocate "Beatrix" to better habitat, and she is now happily living in the upper Skagit valley.

The American Beaver, *Castor canadensis*, is found throughout North America. They are considered ecosystem engineers because of their ability to drastically alter ecosystems. The largest rodents in North America, beavers are herbivores feasting on herbaceous plants and the bark of woody plants. Their eating habits indicate that they have preferences for certain species including vine maple, willow and alder in the Pacific Northwest.

Beavers build dams using a variety of materials from small trees and branches to grass and mud to rocks and litter. They are crepuscular (active at twilight) and nocturnal, often returning to a site to maintain or rebuild a dam overnight. The sound of running water is the primary cue for beavers to maintain dams. They build these dams to improve their habitat by raising water levels. The ponds they create allow them to swim throughout the area to find food and avoid predators.

Beavers live in family groups consisting of a monogamous breeding pair, yearlings and young of the year. They typically have 2-5 kits per year and have a life expectancy of 10-15 years. These family groups live in lodges or bank dens.

Grace Cole Nature Park, however, is seemingly ideal beaver habitat. We invited Elyssa Kerr from Beavers NW to see the site and she agreed we can just let them be. Usually, beaver ponds reach an equilibrium level, and don't need any further interventions. If the pond levels get too high, we have BeaversNW standing by to help with "pond leveling" devices.

Since beavers are mostly nocturnal, you probably won't see the beavers, but you can see their handiwork from the boardwalk viewing platform. The dam extends to the left across the outlet of the pond. The lodge is harder to see, but is a large dome of sticks across on the west shore.

We hope to have Elyssa back this summer for an evening beaver talk at the park;

(Excerpt from the BeaversNW website)

maybe even a glimpse of these amazing creatures! Stay tuned for details.

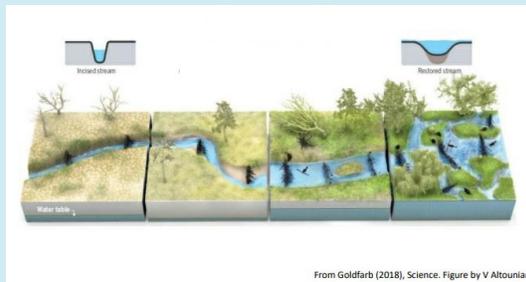
## Nature's Engineers at Work

Beavers provide many important ecological benefits for water quality and salmon populations. Our Grace Cole Beavers will make the ponds even better habitat for the Coho salmon fry released there each spring!

Learn more about beavers and their importance on the [BeaversNW](#) website.

A fun short primer on beavers is here: [The Smartest Thing in Fur Pants](#) (YouTube).

Graphic at right: shows the stages of stream restoration when beavers move in.



North Lake Washington Earth Week  
Test the Stacks at Cadman



The Permit for Kenmore's Asphalt Plant is open for Public Review - Let Your Voice be Heard

## Clean Air For All Join the Rally on Earth Day, April 22 & Send Your Comments by May 2

The asphalt facility in Kenmore has been producing asphalt since 1972 without any monitoring of emissions. Now the Puget

Sound Clean Air Agency (PSCAA) is in the process of issuing a permit (for past violations) that would require emissions testing and other oversight. PSCAA is seeking public comment on this permit. **A virtual public hearing occurred on April 18th and written comments will be accepted until May 2nd 2022.** This is your chance to speak up about the noxious odors, health threats, and other impacts of this industrial plant on our lake shore.

**Your Help is Needed!** Comment on conditions of the permit, and how having an asphalt/concrete plant in the middle of Kenmore, adjacent to Lake Washington, or beside the Burke Gillman Trail has affected your life.

**MEET UP/ RALLY on Friday April 22nd**  
Start: 3pm at Kenmore Square (the Hangar) by Stoup Brewing  
Walk\* together on the Burke Gilman to the asphalt plant  
End at Cairn Brewery 4:30pm- 6:30pm

\*kids & strollers, bikes, dogs, ALL WELCOME!

**Share Your Personal Stories:** If the smell or emissions of the asphalt production has been unpleasant or made you nauseous, if it has affected your residential life, or your shopping or visiting in Kenmore, or travelling down the Burke Gillman Trail (walking, jogging, biking), let PSCAA know how having an asphalt facility in a downtown region is incompatible with happiness and health. If you are a business and you think that the asphalt facility impacts your customers willingness to come to your business, let PSCAA know. Provide your personal experience.

### **Comment on Aspects of the Permit:**

Below are some points to consider. Think about if your health and the health of the communities of North Lake Washington are being protected.

The Permit provides emission testing for major toxics, within 90 days and every three years after. PSCAA says that the facility will "not likely pose a significant health hazard." Much of this determination was based on modeled emissions (not actual testing).

- More frequent testing is needed to ensure that the facility is fully compliant with emission standards and testing needs to be at random (unscheduled).

The Permit requires better record keeping of asphalt ingredients: The use of unapproved asphalt ingredients (cutback asphalt) can result in high levels of toxics, such as volatile organic compounds (VOCs). Required record keeping limits the chance of their use.

- Some feel that testing of the actual ingredients on site from time to time would ensure that asphalt components are compliant with standards.

The Permit requires Cadman to respond to odor complaints in a systematic way to limit

odor impacts to the community: The draft permit has a set protocol for responding to odor complaints from residents and business and visitors (Burke Gilman, Library, etc) in the immediate area of the facility.

- Some feel that the public is largely unaware of their ability to complain. It has been suggested that signage on the Burke Gillman be installed to inform people of how they can complain about odors.

Similarly, the City of Kenmore could do more to educate people in this matter. Some people believe a health survey is warranted to really understand the health effects of the emissions. The proposed permit is vague on enforcement and does not make the consequences of non-compliance explicit. With people's health at risk, room for error should be very small.

### **Let Your Voice Be Heard:**

Written Comments by mail to: Brian Renninger, Engineer,  
Puget Sound Clean Air Agency, 1904 Third Avenue, Suite 105, Seattle, Washington 98101

Fax to the Engineering Manager at (206) 343-7522,  
or Email to [PublicComment@pscleanair.gov](mailto:PublicComment@pscleanair.gov) by May 2, 2022.

Find out more about the proposed Permit [here](#) or our website: [PERK](#) (People for an Environmentally Responsible Kenmore)



After the property next door with steep slopes and a salmon stream sold to a developer, neighbor Jolene Jang raised the alarm.

Because the lot is nearly entirely encumbered by protected critical areas, the developer must go through a "Reasonable Use Exception" (RUE) process. Even a small house on that lot could have large impacts on the stream.

Jolene has since learned much about the ordinances here in LFP and raises many concerns, beyond what is happening next door to her. There have been other recently built homes whose builders violated the agreed-upon mitigations.

[Read more about this issue](#) and what you can do to weigh in with LFPs Planning Commission, electeds, and city staff.



## **The "Reasonable Use" Dilemma**

**Lake Forest Park's natural environment is being destroyed, parcel by parcel.**

Steep slopes, wetlands, salmon streams, large old trees...all these valuable natural assets are at risk when developers put profit first. Developers who do not live here, purchase lots with the goal of putting in the largest house for resale. As development pressures increase, the lots that remain available are more often those in critical areas.

We have good protections in our city ordinances for critical areas and tree canopy -- but, despite these regulations, there is a long-standing expectation for a property owner to be allowed "reasonable use."

*We ask, when is the threat to our streams, salmon, trees too great? Are there lots that simply are "unbuildable," where there is no "reasonable (economic) use," where the highest and best use is to leave as a natural area?*



**Mid Sound Fisheries  
Enhancement Group**

**Volunteer Opportunity**

**Training Neighbors  
to Restore Their Watersheds**

**Applications are now being accepted for a program that empowers community members with a passion for their local streams, clean water, and local wildlife.**

Community Action Training School (CATS) provides a free series of lectures – presented in a hybrid in-person and virtual format this year – and field trips. In exchange, participants volunteer on a local watershed improvement project of their choosing.

“We are thrilled to once again work with enthusiastic community members who are dedicated to being changemakers,” says Sarah Heerhartz, Executive Director of Mid Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group. “Protecting and restoring our rivers and natural areas requires many partners – from national governments to local ones, from nonprofit organizations to responsible businesses – and including people from all walks of life.” “People come up with the most amazing projects when they feel empowered to use their voices and energies to help heal our watershed,” said Tracy Banaszynski, Project Manager for Mid Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group.

Applications for this free program are due May 4, 2022. You can find out more at the websites of **Sound Salmon Solutions** and **Mid Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group**, the two organizations jointly organizing Community Action Training School.

For more information contact:

WRIA 7 Email to: [Maddie Dineen](mailto:Maddie.Dineen@sound.salmon.solutions) Sound Salmon Solutions

WRIA 8 Email to: [Tracy Banaszynski](mailto:Tracy.Banaszynski@mid.sound.fisheries.enhancement.group) Mid Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group

Mid Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group is part of a larger, coordinated effort to restore fish in Washington. We are one of 14 regional organizations in the Regional Fisheries Coalition.

## *More Earth Day Inspiration*



### **Earth Friendly Spring Cleaning**

Spring is here! It's time to open the windows, clear away the clutter, and start the new season off fresh with a good, deep spring cleaning. From inside to out, we put together this guide to help you wipe away the winter dust in a way that's good for the planet and for you and your family!

Click here for [eco-friendly spring cleaning tips and tricks](#) from King County Department of Natural Resources & Parks.



### **Have You Heard of 2/3 for Birds?**

North America has lost close to 3 billion birds since the 1970s, almost a third of the entire bird population. The die-off is primarily attributed to loss of habitat and the use of pesticides.

We are the solution. Our residential, ornamental and recreational landscapes can provide sufficient habitat to restore the bird population.

If we could plant even half of our 40 million acres of lawn in 2/3 native plants, and keep them pesticide free, we could turn the bird losses into gains.

**Find out how you can help by planting more native plants and reducing pesticide use, [here](#).**

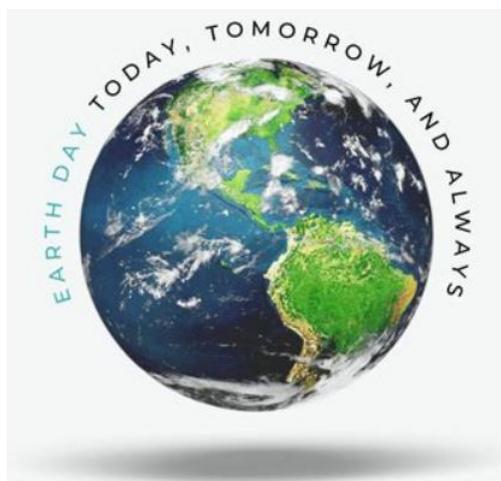
**Free Styrofoam & Plastic Bags/Film**

# Recycling Event!

The City of Lake Forest Park is partnering with Albertsons for a FREE Styrofoam and Plastic Bag/Film Recycling Drop-Off Event!

**This one day event takes place on April 23, 2022, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** in the City Hall parking lot.

Recycling must be clean, dry, and empty. Only Styrofoam with the #6 or EPS symbol is accepted. ([Details here](#))



## Town Hall Meeting on Climate

LFP People for Climate Action is holding a second Lake Forest Park Town Hall Meeting on Climate Resiliency on **Saturday, April 23, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., via Zoom.**

Celebrate Earth Day by thinking about and planning what you can do about climate.

### Speakers:

- State Representative Davina Duerr, District 1 update on climate action in 2022 legislative session
- Sarah Jaquette Ray, author of *A Field Guide to Climate Anxiety: How to Keep Your Cool on a Warming Planet*
- Heather Price, examining individual and community actions to address the fossil-fueled climate crisis

### Breakout sessions:

- e-bikes technology and climate solutions
- e-vehicles working toward gas free vehicles
- How to talk to your friends and neighbors about recycling
- Home weatherization
- Forest stewardship
- Reading through the climate crisis

Pre-Registration Required, [REGISTER HERE.](#)

This event is underwritten by Task Force on Climate Resiliency, Friends of Third Place Commons, and the LFP Stewardship Foundation.

The Stewardship Foundation is a 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.*

*Your support is greatly appreciated!*

[DONATE](#)



Lake Forest Park  
**STEWARDSHIP**  
FOUNDATION

CONTACT US BY EMAIL

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