

Wetherill Nature Preserve



2024 Annual Newsletter

www.wetherillnp.org



Letter from the Commission

Dear neighbors and friends of the Preserve

We've had a particularly busy year maintaining and restoring the Wetherill Nature Preserve (WNP) this year. Our typical annual maintenance budget is \$35,000. With support from the Towns of Yarrow and Hunts Point along with the generous support of the residents and friends of the Preserve, we've been able to address our annual maintenance needs. Here's a recap of the activities over the last year:

Trail flooding remediation. Built up and raised the Lake and Marsh trails to thwart perpetual flooding.

Hazardous trees removal. Cut down the dying cottonwoods threatening people and properties.

Invasive species removal. Removed poison hemlock, purple loosestrife, and clinging tree ivy.

Small animal/bird habitat construction. Created eight habitat havens for wildlife using tree-fall debris.



Davey Tree Co. was hired to remediate numerous dying cottonwood trees to ensure visitor safety and prevent nearby property damage.

Funding for long-term sustainability of WNP

In the past, we've relied heavily on a few volunteers to address the majority of our maintenance needs, but increasingly we must use contracted manpower to tackle the larger, dangerous, or technical projects. Tree hazard projects mentioned above have depleted our reserves, which hinders future projects to ensure the stability and long-term health of the Preserve.

Capital campaign for WNP special projects

The Commission has identified **\$100,000** in special projects which includes hiring professional help. Keep reading this newsletter to learn more about the priorities and goals of this capital campaign and how you might help.

We've raised over \$15,000 for the special projects fund since the August kick-off and our goal is to raise **\$40,000 by year end 2024**, but we'll continue to campaign until we reach our goal. Please consider donating to *both* the **Annual Fund** and the **Special Projects Fund**. You'll find donation instructions in this newsletter. If you have any questions or suggestions, please reach out to us at wetherillnaturepreserve@gmail.com.

Thank you for your continued support!

Mike Koss
Chairman, Wetherill Nature Preserve

Volunteers and donors make a big impact

Hands-on help in the Preserve is greatly valued. Volunteers are helping to clear trails, pull ivy, plant seedings, mitigate blackberry overgrowth, build habitat havens, and move resources within the Preserve. This means a safer, more accessible and enjoyable experience for visitors.

We'd like to give a big THANK YOU to *Flynn Boettcher* (our hard-working intern), *Jim Bugbee*, *Michael Kranda*, *Deanna Hay*, *Dayton Mills*, *Scout troop 430 Eagle Scout leaders Ethan Liu and Daniel Emerson* along with their helpers, and members of the *Seattle Garden Club*.



The Preserve's volunteer super heroes: David Bergey and Bruce Jones

A heartfelt THANK YOU to two volunteers, **Bruce Jones** and **David Bergey**, who have given many *hundreds of hours* each year for the past *two decades* stewarding the WNP. They've worked tirelessly to repair storm damage, dig trenches, cut down dangerous trees, clear and build trails, carry loads of materials, plant native trees and shrubs, clear invasives, work alongside contractors, build habitat havens, and do the heavy lifting to benefit us all.



Reach out to us to engage and volunteer!

The WNP Commission appreciates and is always in need of enthusiastic volunteers. We have ongoing projects like tracking seasonal migrations of birds throughout the Preserve or helping by spreading its story and needs via social media.

 wetherillnaturepreserve@gmail.com

 www.instagram.com/wetherillnp

 www.facebook.com/groups/wetherillnp

 www.wetherillnp.org

Grateful to Volunteers!



The Wetherill Commissioners greatly appreciate **Daniel Emerson** who chose WNP for his capstone Eagle Scout project. Daniel built and installed two bat boxes to help reduce mosquito population.



The younger generation is revitalizing the Preserve's efforts by actively contributing their support and demonstrating engagement and appreciation for our natural environments.



As reliable as rain in the northwest, the Seattle Garden Club continues to help annually. This April, the team worked hard to clear debris, dead branches, blackberries, and more.

Natural safe havens for wildlife in the Preserve

Habitat havens within the Preserve are essential for wildlife because they provide safe spaces for species to thrive without the threats of urbanization, pollution, and human interference. These protected areas offer shelter, helping wildlife to maintain healthy populations and ecosystems. Since Preserves also serve as crucial breeding grounds, habitat havens help with the continuation of species and biodiversity, which is fundamental to the overall health of our planet.



A bald eagle keeps a close lookout for food and predators.



A pileated woodpecker drums on trees and searches for insects.

Consider sending photos of wildlife you've seen in WNP so we might post them on our website and newsletters. Email to wetherillnaturepreserve@gmail.com.



The 16-acre Wetherill Nature Preserve was given to the towns of Hunts Point and Yarrow Point in 1988 by **Marjorie Wetherill Baird and Sidonia Wetherill Foley**, descendants of a pioneer Seattle family. It is managed and supported by resident commissioners, volunteers, and caring donors.



One of eight habitat havens built for wildlife in the Preserve thanks to David Bergey and Flynn Boettcher.

What you might see in the Preserve

The Preserve is a haven for wildlife enthusiasts. Visitors may encounter a variety of species, including deer grazing and busy beavers. Bird-watchers will delight in spotting bald eagles soaring overhead and songbirds flitting among the trees. The preserve's diverse ecosystems provide habitats for smaller mammals like raccoons and squirrels, as well as an array of amphibians and reptiles. WNP offers a unique opportunity to experience the rich biodiversity of the Pacific Northwest.

The WNP Commissioners

The WNP Commission is comprised of volunteers from Hunts Point (HP), Yarrow Point (YP), and Clyde Hill (At Large).



Commissioners from left to right: David Bergey (YP), Ronni McGlenn (YP), Meredith Shank (YP), Mike Koss (HP), Alane Moran (HP), Bruce Jones (CH), Nelson Adams (HP)

Capital campaign priorities and goals for 2025-26

Special Projects Fund

The WNP Commission identified \$100,000 of capital projects to address in 2025-26.

- Restore damaged trails and habitat (focused on the Lake and Marsh trails). Approximately three-quarters of the Special Projects Fund will go towards this priority.
- Update the WNP Management Plan with a new focus on ecosystem resilience and visitor experience. This plan was last updated in 2017.
- Update signage, replace rotting benches, and fence the maintenance area.

What's the difference between the WNP Special Projects Fund and the Annual Fund?

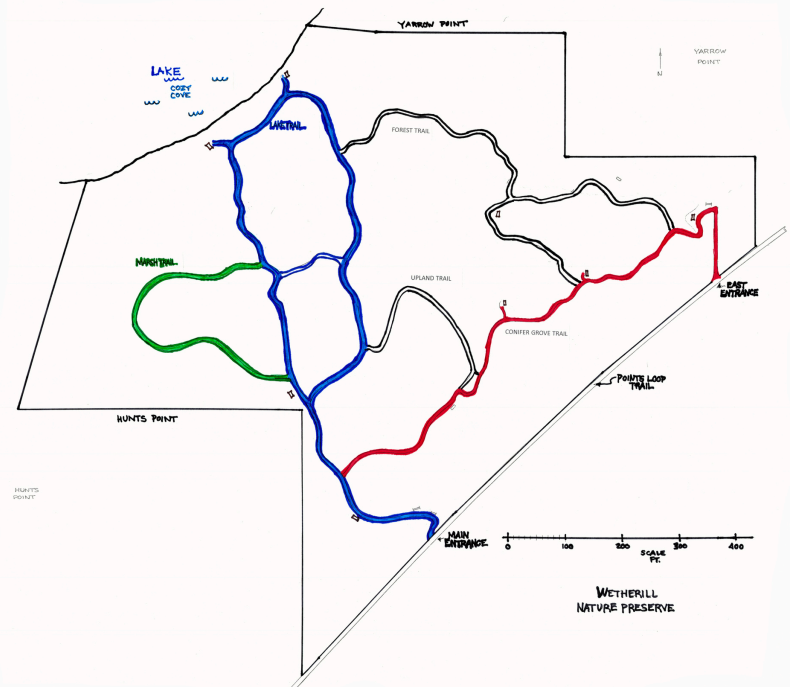
The Annual Fund (target is \$35,000) is used for regular maintenance, limited tree control and invasives removal. The Towns of Yarrow Point and Hunts Point each contribute \$10,000 annually. In 2024, the WNP Commission spent an *additional* \$53,000 from reserves to remove and clean up dead or dying poplars and cottonwoods. The rest of our budget comes from generous neighbors like you.

The Special Projects Fund is intended to address critical issues outside of normal maintenance in our 16-acre urban forest and wetland. These projects will better prepare the Preserve for the next decade of increasing weather damage, flooding, and visitors.

THANK YOU to those who have already made generous gifts to the WNP **Special Projects** fund!



Top images: Seasonal rain, increasing lake levels, and storm water runoff create a muddy mess on popular WNP trails. Bottom image: Pilot project for drainage improvement and trail repair.



The Wetherill Nature Preserve trail map highlights two priority areas to be addressed by the Special Projects Fund: Lake trail (blue) and Marsh trail (green).

Support your community's Wetherill Nature Preserve!

We hope you will contribute to both the **Annual Fund** and the **Special Projects Fund**. While any amount you can give will be greatly appreciated, **please consider donating a minimum of \$150 to the annual fund and a minimum of \$300** to the special projects fund to help us reach our goal of \$40,000 by the end of 2024.

Special projects fund donations can be made now and throughout 2025 and are eligible for donations from Donor Advised Funds (DAF).

Donations to the Wetherill Nature Preserve are tax deductible (c.f. IRS code at 26 U.S.C. §170(c)(1)).

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I/we would like to support the Wetherill Nature Preserve with a donation

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email (optional): _____

By check: Make payable to **Wetherill Nature Preserve** and mail to the Town of Yarrow Point, 4030 95th Ave NE, Yarrow Point, WA 98004

By credit card: Use the *QR code* or *go online* to <https://www.wetherillnp.org/donate>

By DAF: Please use tax ID: 91-0783996 for The Town of Yarrow Point and specify Wetherill Nature Preserve in the memo line.



[wetherillnp.org/donate](https://www.wetherillnp.org/donate)

Important: Please indicate where you wish to allocate your donation to *Annual Fund* and/or the *Special Projects Fund*. For online credit card donations, you will see a drop down menu to select fund(s). For donations via checks, please state your fund(s) selection on the memo line on check.

Please indicate how you would like to allocate your funds:

WNP Annual Fund 2025: \$ _____

WNP Special Projects Fund 2025: \$ _____

TOTAL: \$ _____

Donors giving \$500 or more can receive a WNP reusable bag available for pick up at Yarrow Point town hall in the new year.

This is a Memorial Donation “In memory of” _____

I would like my donation to be listed as anonymous

Yes, add me to your volunteer list. My email is _____

If you have questions on submitting your donation, contact Deputy Clerk Austen Wilcox at the Town of Yarrow Point at 425.454.6994 or by email depclerk@yarrowpointwa.gov.

Thank you Wetherill Nature Preserve Donors

November 1, 2023 to October 31, 2024

General Donations

Nelson Adams
Robert Afazl and Sima Sarrafan
Chris and Jean Baliga
Patricia Barrier
Joe and Kristina Belfiore
David and Marian Bergey
John and Marilyn Black
William and Jeri Boettcher
Ned and Jean Brockenbrough
Leland and Jeanne Buse
Steve Bush and Christine Chang
Pete and Glenna Carroll
City of Clyde Hill
Ned Clapp
Kristina and Robert Clawson
Mark Colver and Moya Laigo
Grady and Nancy Cunningham
John and Lynne Deal
Mick and Penny Deal
Therese and John Delaney
Gary and Sally Eastes
Mary Elmore
Lois Fish
Brian and Krista Fleming
Ted and Geri Frantz
Tom Goodenow
Susanne Guthrie
Katy and Holly Harris
Randy and Melanie Hassler
Carolyn Hathaway
Carl and Jolie Hellings
Richard and Marilyn Herzberg
Steve and Cathy Beth Hooper
Krista and Kevin Hughes
Suzanne Lile Hunter
Max and Margaret Johnson
Bruce and Joanne Jones
Richard and Aimee Jones
Richard Joslin
Angie Kam
Jun Yong Kim and Inae Tark
Robert Kirkman and Gakyung Chung
Dr. Thomas and Suzanne Knauss
Mike and Debbie Koss
Michael and Karin Kuntz
Steven Lagerholm
Janet and Michael Lawler
Sharon Lawrence
John and Melinda Lewison
Gary and Christine Linden
Carl Lombardi
Richard and Ruby Lyons
Diane and Kirby McDonald
Ronald and Mary Lee McDougall
Jeannie and Alan McGinnis
Ronni and John McGlenn

Evan and Chelsea Moore
Glyn and Jim Nordstrom
Mike and Penny O'Byrne
Rod and Janice Olson
Meg and Scott Penner
Alyssa and Cody Plaiss
Kate and Tom Peters
Peter and Molly Powell
Chris and Kerry Reid
Daniel and Cecelia Regis
Satya and Rao Remala
Jordi and Laura Ribas
Gregg and Cristina Riva
Peter and Julie Rose
Carole and Greg Scallon
Carl and Carole Scandella
Leslie Schofield
Seattle Garden Club
Seattle Garden Club--
Horticulture Committee
Frank Seide and Gorja Wang
Kass and Becky Sells
Meredith and Craig Shank
Samuel and Casey Sibert
Gary Slotnik
Debora Slye
Jason and Cindy Smith
Kathy J Smith
Rich Smith
Fred and Sidonia St Germaine
Jo Ann and Hobie Stebbins
Mary Jane Swindley
Daniel Temkin
Nancy and Marc Tollefson
Kathy and Bob Trimble
Mary Ellen and Jim Weber
James L. Weymouth
Arthur and Carolyn Whittlesey
Bob and Peggy Wilkerson
Sally Wright
David and Barbara Young

Special Project Donations

Sarah and Nelson Adams
Ned Clapp
Grady and Nancy Cunningham
Heather Dosch
Heidrun and Lee Eberhardt Jr.
Reid and Stephanie Eickhorst
Mary Elmore
Brian and Krista Fleming
Bruce Jones
Richard and Aimee Jones
Debbie and Mike Koss

Memorial Donations

Debora Centioli –
In memory of Angela Scalzo and Rosemary Scalzo

Paul and Nancy Daltas –
In memory of Mary Ellen MacDonald

Janet Deaton –
In memory of Ted Deaton

Margie Lundgren –
In memory of Steven Lundgren

Diana Lyons -
In memory of Jim and Mary Barton

Ernest Norehad –
In memory of Judith Norehad

Dan and Cece Regis –
In memory of Juanita Loder

Richard Sandaas –
In memory of Albert and Edna Sandaas

Steve Scalzo –
In memory of Angela Fiorito Scalzo and Rosemary Gai Scalzo

Rich Smith –
In memory of Susan Clark Smith

Bruce Sutherland –
In memory of Jean Sutherland

Virginia Park -
In memory of Anna Marie McKnight

Ronni and John McGlenn
Alane Moran and Phil Crocker
Glyn Nordstrom
Virginia Park
Peter Rose
Matt Scherr and family
Craig and Meredith Shank
Donna Shannon
Rubie and Pradeep Singh

