



Wetherill Nature Preserve
A community treasure
Hunts Pt | Yarrow Pt



A natural place providing a habitat in perpetuity for flora and fauna of the northwest. A place to commune with nature.



Wetherill Nature Preserve
c/o Town of Yarrow Point
4030 95th N.E.
Yarrow Point, WA 98004
Hunts Point & Yarrow Point

Wetherill Nature Preserve

2023 Annual Newsletter



www.wetherillnp.org



Letter From the Commission

To our friends of the Wetherill Nature Preserve

2023 has seen various changes in the Preserve and on the Wetherill Nature Preserve (WNP) Commission. If you have visited the Preserve in the last few months, you likely noticed the changes involving the two entrances. The main entrance off the Points Loop Trail, rebuilt at the end of 2022, was finalized this past April with major plantings thanks to the Seattle Garden Club members and community volunteers.

The 33rd Street temporary entrance, kindly provided by the Applegate family these last 10 years, is now closed. Access to the Preserve is now via two entrances along the Points Loop Trail, the main entrance and the upper east entrance.

The impact of climate change

You may have also noticed the dying Poplar trees in some areas of the Preserve. We are sad to see them go, but we are working with experts to address the problem caused by climate change and root rot. The debris will be cleared over winter and spring and we will use it to enhance and create more wildlife habitat. We will also continue to improve the drainage and trails, remove invasives, and plant new trees.

We would like to thank **Marian Bergey**, for her 14 years of service on the Commission, and all her work on the newsletters and donor relations. She will be retiring at the end of 2023, but we are happy to welcome **Meredith Shank** as her replacement. **Bruce Jones**, Commission Chair for the last 10 years, is retiring and **Mike Koss** will take on this leadership role in 2024. Bruce will continue his work on the commission until his At-Large position is filled.

How You Can Help

Thank you to all our donors, volunteers, and supporters! Our ability to maintain WNP relies on your donations and the support from the Towns of Yarrow Point and Hunts Point. A suggested donation of \$150 per family is greatly appreciated, but we welcome any amount. Thank you for your continued support of the Preserve!



We are incredibly grateful to Bruce Jones (left) who served as the Commission chair for past decade, and welcome Mike Koss as the new chair starting in 2024.

What You Might See in our Preserve

The Preserve is home to an ever-changing collection of birds, bugs, and critters and many stay hidden in the lush growth, mucky swamp, and shallow pools at the lake's edge. As the seasons change, bald eagles, osprey, and heron can be seen, while colorful woodpeckers, spotted towhee, and shimmering green hummingbirds flit amongst plants. Birds are easy to see and hear in the Preserve, but other wildlife prefer to hide.

You might spot Pond Sliders with a bright red mark behind their ears. Females leave the water only to lay eggs and their young hatch late summer or early fall. Pond Sliders hibernate in the mud and sand during the winter.

Wildlife are easily frightened and harmed by dogs and humans that venture too close. Please stay a respectful distance from the wildlife, **keep dogs on leash**, and use the zoom on your camera to get that great photo!



The Red-Eared Pond Slider was seen laying eggs along the upper meadow trail.



A heron watches closely for its next meal at the water's edge.

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

Grateful to Volunteers!



The Wetherill Commissioners greatly appreciate Daniel Domingos for choosing WNP for his capstone Eagle Scout project. Daniel and 20 fellow scouts volunteered 60 man-hours to move 3 tons of gravel and trim over-hanging branches to create an improved NE Forest trail.



In April, the Seattle Garden Club helped to enhance the main entrance, planting ferns and other deciduous plants.

Your WNP Commissioners

- Bruce Jones, At-Large, Chair
- David Bergey, Yarrow Point
- Marian Bergey, Yarrow Point
- Ronni McGlenn, Yarrow Point
- Nelson Adams, Hunts Point
- Alane Moran, Hunts Point
- Mike Koss, Hunts Point

Wetherill Nature Preserve

In the Preserve, visitors see the conscientious attachment to the land of several generations. What surprises new visitors are its vast acreage, the number of trails it offers, and the variety of birds and other animals that call the Preserve's undeveloped acreage their home.

WNP Facts

Did you know that...

- 75+ trees were planted last year and nurtured in 2023.
- The Preserve has 5,020 feet of trails.
- 25 dying poplar trees were professionally taken down this Fall.
- 8 ¾ acres of Preserve wetland are designated as critical area.

Entrance and Parking

The main entrance to the Preserve is located about halfway between Hunts Point and Yarrow Point, along the Points Loop Trail. Some parking is available at the Hunts Point Town Hall.

Please keep **dogs on leashes**. Enjoy your Preserve!

Donating is Easy!

You can donate by credit card via the Town of Yarrow Point's website:
<https://yarrowpointwa.gov/wetherill-donations/>

Or by check made payable to:
Wetherill Nature Preserve
c/o Town of Yarrow Point
4030 95th Avenue NE
Yarrow Point, WA 98004
Donations are tax deductible

Thank You!

Donation Form

Name _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

☐ I would like to make my contribution a memorial donation 'in memory of':

☐ Yes, add me to your volunteer list