

Wetherill Nature Preserve

2025 Annual Newsletter



Wetherill Nature Preserve



Letter from the Commission

Dear neighbors and friends of the Preserve

Even though the weather is getting colder and wetter, I invite you to visit the Preserve and enjoy the freshly re-graveled trails. It's really lovely this time of year. Thanks to your generosity and the continued support from the Towns of Hunts Point and Yarrow Point, we've been able to maintain our annual upkeep, while also advancing several important long-term projects.

Special projects progress

One year into our capital campaign — the Special Projects Fund — we've raised \$61,000 toward our goal of \$100,000. These funds directly support restoration and improvements that go beyond regular maintenance.



This summer we achieved several significant milestones including the regravelling of all the original trails in the Preserve. Learn more in the *Special Projects Update* featured in this newsletter.

Ongoing annual maintenance

Alongside these special projects, our *Annual Fund* continues to support the vital day-to-day care of the Preserve, including:

- Maintaining and clearing fields
- Trimming trails
- Cleaning fallen poplar debris
- Clearing fence lines of overgrowth and fallen branches

Looking ahead

In 2026, we hope to complete the Special Projects Fund campaign and raise at least **\$39,000** to reach our \$100,000 goal.

Please consider donating to *both* the **Annual Fund** and the **Special Projects Fund**. 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 make a huge impact

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



Seattle Garden Club's enduring legacy at WNP

The Seattle Garden Club (SGC) has been Wetherill's longest-serving volunteer group for **22 years**, bringing energy and expertise each spring. Founded in 1990, SGC's 138 members have helped enhance and care for our preserve. Marge Baird, WNP's benefactor, was a devoted SGC member for 52 years. The club began organizing annual work parties at Wetherill in 2004, making a lasting impact. Visitors can still enjoy Judy Addington's commemorative bench near the Conifer Grove—an enduring symbol of SGC's service and camaraderie.

In 2022, SGC honored Commissioners David and Marian Bergey with a Special Commendation Award for exceptional conservation leadership. We greatly appreciate SGC's ongoing support and eagerly anticipate their work party next spring!



Reach out to volunteer and share your ideas!

We have ongoing projects like removing invasive plants and tree debris, and even tracking seasonal migrations of birds throughout the Preserve. Please help by spreading the unique WNP story and its needs via social media.



wetherillnaturepreserve@gmail.com



www.instagram.com/wetherillnp



www.facebook.com/groups/wetherillnp



www.wetherillnp.org

Grateful to Volunteers!



A big thanks goes to **Boy Scout Troop 430**, whose volunteers contributed to this year's blackberry eradication efforts.



Seattle Garden Club: Cultivating community and conservation in the Preserve every spring.



Recently, volunteers from the Seattle Garden Club helped to create a naturally beautiful entrance at the east access of the Preserve.

Did you know that the Wetherill Nature Preserve?

- Lost 7 large mature trees this year, which have been replaced with 8 new trees.
- Has been re-graveled with 130 tons of gravel across its entire network of lowland trails.
- Used 1,600 gallons of water this summer to help new plants thrive.
- Required 269 hours of contracted labor for trail upgrades.
- Has naturally reduced mosquito population thanks to bat houses.
- Gives shelter and protection for wildlife with 6 habitat havens.



Help keep the Preserve safe and serene

Every year, we are pleased to see more and more residents visit and enjoy the Preserve as a great way to connect with nature. To maintain its natural beauty, protect wildlife, and keep it safe, we kindly ask visitors to:

- Keep pets on a leash and clean up after them
- Refrain from smoking, making fires, or using fireworks
- Not ride bicycles in the Preserve



Wetherill Nature Preserve

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.



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)

Special Project Update

Progress report and goals for 2026

Special Projects Fund

Last year, the WNP Commission identified \$100,000 of capital projects to address in 2025-26. The scope of these vital projects address important issues outside of normal maintenance in our 16-acre urban forest and wetland. Our goal is to better prepare the Preserve for the next decade of increasing weather damage, flooding, and visitors.

Your donations have made a visible difference and 2025 has been a year of real progress. Thank you for helping keep the Preserve thriving for our community and future generations. Here's what your support helped to achieve this past year:

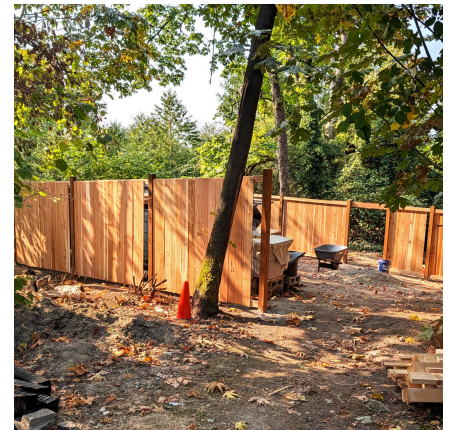
- Removed blackberry and holly growth northwest of the knoll bench at the east entrance.
- Installed a new fence around the maintenance yard, creating a secure and well-organized area for tools and equipment.
- Re-graveled 2,300 feet of wetland trails, bringing all original paths in the Preserve back to their original condition.
- Engaged Earthcorp to update our comprehensive management plan to use a Geo-IP system app. This helps track our progress of invasive species removal, areas for new tree plantings, and more.



A freshly graveled and restored trail junction.



A dingo was required to move 130 tons of gravel to the trails.



New maintenance fence under construction.

Looking Ahead

In 2026, we are counting on a strong second year of our capital campaign to reach our **\$100,000 goal**. With our community's support, these remaining priorities can be completed:

- Further trail restoration of the upland trails.
- Replacement of benches made of more resilient and hardened materials.
- Repair and add signage at entrances and in key areas of WNP.

We will be hosting another *open house in early 2026* to raise community awareness, answer questions, and invite your input to help reach our project goals. More information is forthcoming.

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 remaining goal.

Special projects fund donations can be made now and throughout 2026 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: \$ _____



As a thank you, donors giving \$500 or more receive a WNP reusable bag.

☐ **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** _____

For any 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, 2024 to October 31, 2025

General Donations

*Special Project Donations

Nelson and Sarah Adams
Christopher Baliga and Jean Hong *
Patricia Barrier
Mark Bath
Kristina and Joe Belfiore *
Sudeep and Seema Bharati
John and Marilyn Black
Leslie Brewer and Arnold Blinn
Boettcher Family Foundation *
Ned and Jean Brockenbrough
Jeanne and Leland Buse
Steve Bush and Christine Chang
S. Ward and Julayne Bushnell *
Dicker Cahill
Pete and Glenna Carroll *
Darryl and Pamela Pearce Carver
Shanna Case
Dwayne and Terese Clark *
Deanna and James Claypool *
Mark Colver and Moya Laigo
Grady and Nancy Cunningham
Therese and John Delaney
John and Marlene Durbin
Hamid Farhoosh and Homa Shirazi
James and Kimberly Franck
William T Frantz *
Goodenow Family Foundation *
Katy Harris and Holly Harris *
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Dan and Carolyn Hathaway
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Steve Hooper
Krista and Kevin Hughes *
Suzanne Lile Hunter *
Bruce and Joanne Jones *
Aimee Jones *
Karen and Richard Joslin
Jun Yong Kim and Inae Tark
Thomas and Suzanne Knauss
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Michael and Karin Kuntz
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John and Melinda Lewison
Carl Lombardi *
Margaret Lundgren
Michael and Mary Lyons
Ana and Gustavo Mahler

Michael Matthews
Michael and Vilma McComsey *
Fred McConkey
Diane and Kirby McDonald
Jeannie McGinnis
Ronni and John McGlenn (In Honor
of Katie Surbeck)
Sam and Jayne Minamoto
Evan and Chelsea Moore
Alane Moran and Phil Crocker
Shera Myers
Denise Niles
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J.P. and Erika Pendergast
Scott and Meg Penner
Kate and Tom Peters
Alyssa Plaiss
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Neville and Joanna Ray *
Daniel and Cecilia Regis *
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Rao Remala
Laura and Jordi Ribas *
Gregg and Cristina Riva *
David M Robinson *
Sabey Family *
Carl and Carole Scandella
Leslie Schofield
Meredith and Craig Shank *
Lee and Katie Sims
Rubie and Pradeep Singh Family *
Gary Slotnik
Debra Slye
Jason Smith
Kathy J Smith *
Sidonia St. Germaine *
Jo Ann and Hobie Stebbins *
Mary Jane Swindley *
(In Honor of David Bergey and his
service to WNP)
Daniel Temkin
Nancy Tollefson *
Robert and Kathleen Trimble *
Douglas Waddell
Jim and Mary Ellen Weber *
James L Weymouth *
Roger West
Bob and Peggy Wilkerson *
Chun Yuan and Tong Zhu

Special Project Donations \$5,000+

Boettcher Family

William T Frantz

Sabey Family

James Weymouth

Memorial Donations

Janet Deaton –

In memory of Ted Deaton

Michael and Diana Lyons -

In memory of Jim and Mary Barton

Ernest Norehad –

In memory of Judith Norehad

Alyssa Plaiss

In memory of Bonnie Previte

Steve Scalzo –

*In memory of Angela Fiorito Scalzo
and Rosemary Gai Scalzo*

Daniel and Cecelia Regis

In memory of Juanita Loder

Richard Smith –

In memory of Susan Clark Smith

Bruce and Olga Sutherland –

In memory of Jean Sutherland

