

**FAUNTLEROY WATERSHED COUNCIL**  
**Meeting #93, January 9, 2020, Fauntleroy Church**

**ATTENDEES**

Watershed volunteers: Judy Pickens, Dennis Hinton, Peggy Cummings, Steev Ward, Mike Arizona, Pete Draughon, Chris Nack

Fauntleroy Church: Phil Sweetland

Seattle Parks: Carol Baker

Guest: Betsy Lyons, Seattle Public Utilities

**1. Introductions**

**2. Minutes**

Approved as distributed.

**3. Financial reports**

Dennis reported that we have \$822.35 in our checking account. Judy reported that our stewardship fund has received \$225.00 in four year-end donations. We had an expenditure of \$799.78 for plants for the Kilbourne ravine project so the EarthCorps crew could get them in the ground during its last grant-funded day. All told, we have had \$18,175 donated to the fund and have spent \$1,422.41, leaving \$16,752.59.

**4. Council business**

Administrative fee: Judy pointed out that we are paying a 15% administrative fee, charged at the time EarthCorps pays a bill with stewardship funding. We were unaware of this fee at the time we set up the fund but it is standard. Given how EarthCorps processes billings, it will apply to all expenditures, even when the contractor is EarthCorps. We now have a written memorandum of agreement reflect this and other details.

Scribe duty: Since Peggy has moved to Burien, she may not be available for all council meetings and we will need a council member to do minutes. After a short discussion, Mike offered to take over this task.

Executive committee: Judy announced that Mike, our new forest steward, has joined the executive committee.

**5. Seattle Parks**

Carol called in her report as she could not attend. She said repairs to the salmon-release bridge and the nearby boardwalk are ongoing, along with tree removal where needed after windstorms.

**6. Stewardship/habitat**

Culvert replacements: Betsy explained that she manages SPU's creek culvert replacement program and initiated efforts to replace the city's creek culverts at 45th Ave. SW and at California Ave. SW; the latter culvert connects to the Fauntleroy Church culvert under its parking lot. Cody Nelson is the project manager.

Betsy said that preliminary work is continuing and that the team is working towards 30% design. SPU will also be doing a value engineering study to inform the design and look for ways to get the greatest value at the least cost. SPU is submitting grant pre-proposals requesting \$2 million grant from the State Fish Barrier Removal Board for 2021; she will know in April if the city is invited to submit a full proposal. The grant would cover design and construction costs at 45th and on-going design at California. The city will also be doing geotechnical work at the two sites, including using ground penetrating sonar to determine the actual location of the long upstream culvert. Further flow assessment in the lower creek is also in the offing. Betsy noted that SPU has a list serve for individuals who want to receive project updates.

Discussion and note taking ensued, starting with SPU's plan to clean sediment buildup in the fish ladder and culvert under Fauntleroy Way SW. Betsy noted that the ladder was sized for a maximum flow event and more common low flows have allowed an accumulation of sand. Phil noted that the city had removed sand in the early 2000s, only to have it accumulate again right away. Judy added that strategically placed rocks have prevented spawners from landing on sand bars and that salmon watchers have not reported seeing any difficulties with sediment.

UPDATE: Betsy rechecked the State Fish and Wildlife report that had recommended sediment removal and talked with the author, learning that sediment removal is not, in fact, a recommendation at this time. Later in the spring, she hopes to schedule a site visit with State Fish and Wildlife to discuss recommendations.

Dennis referred to the build up of sea grass in the privately owned reach to the beach, which we had to pay to remove to ensure spawner access. Judy noted that the rain gardens installed up the hill as part of the city's CSO project came with ongoing maintenance by a contractor. Perhaps a similar arrangement here is needed, that expecting the property owner to keep on top of vegetation in the channel is unrealistic.

Forest steward report: Mike reported that he is working with Eric Sterner (Seattle Parks/Green Seattle Partnership) to assess which areas in Fauntleroy Park need the most attention. He has also contacted fellow forest steward Steve Hodson for a walk through of the park and the projects he had been working on. Mike has selected an area for work parties this spring and summer and for planting in the fall; he is lining up volunteers.

Peggy has been coordinating design and planting of the native plant demonstration garden next to the schoolhouse as part of our West Seattle Garden Tour grant. Mike will be assisting, Judy and Phil will be updating signage, and Taproot students are on deck for planting.

## **7. Project activity**

Kilbourne ravine: Judy reported that she closed out our King Conservation District grant on Dec. 31, leaving just \$7.12 on the table. EarthCorps prepared a detailed report on invasive and beneficial plant coverage that captures observations during every year of the six-year project. The crew supervisor also saw to Judy's getting ample photos along the way. She is planning to tap our stewardship fund to ensure that an EarthCorps crew can keep on top of maintenance two days per year.

Schoolhouse pocket garden: Peggy reported that she has purchased plants from Seattle Native Plants in Burien and that all have been inoculated with mycorrhizal fungi to help them survive summer drought. They will be delivered free to Judy's for storage until planting day. She plans to recruit volunteers from the ranks of Taproot parents to help her and Mike prepare the plot ahead of when students install the plants. Dates will be determined by weather and the school schedule.

County grant: Judy said we did not receive a grant from County Councilman Joe McDermott's office for climate-related work in the lower creek - not enough money for all the proposals received. She sent project plans to Betsy in case some of the instream upgrades envisioned might be incorporated into culvert-related work.

Redd monitoring/spawner locations: Dennis said he hasn't seen any home hatch yet from fall spawning - too early. He called our attention to two diagrams on the back of our agenda showing where watchers had seen spawners in 2018 and 2019. All were in the fish ladder or a few yards upstream from it.

Smolt trapping: Steev and Dennis said that smolt traps in upper- and lower creek locations will go in about March 1, our earliest time. Dennis and Pete are on deck for monitoring them. We briefly discussed how they might best remove sediment and debris from the traps after heavy rains.

## **8. Outreach**

In the media: Dennis reported that the Dec. 1 neighborhood newsletter featured an article on the creek blockage at the mouth, with photos of the work done by Garden Cycles to remove it. In early January, the *West Seattle Blog* posted photos of Phil and Judy making salmon-egg deliveries to schools, including the entire 2018-19 Salmon in the Schools annual report.

Website upgrade: Chris said she is exploring software and server options for the website that are affordable and easier for her to update.

***Action item: Phil will work with Chris to explore options and get going on the upgrade.***

Seattle creek people: Judy said that an effort is under way to re-establish some form of communication and coordination among Seattle's creek watersheds - an outgrowth of last June's meeting called by SPU. She and Phil plan to attend a gathering soon being organized by a volunteer on Thornton Creek. Judy will take copies of our annual report and stewardship-fund prospectus to share.

Fauntleroy Food Fest: Judy noted that the annual food fest will be March 17 at the schoolhouse and that she had reserved us a half table.

***Action item: Judy, Peggy, and Mike will decide what we want to emphasize and have as handouts.***

## **9. Education**

Salmon in the Schools: Phil reported that egg delivery had not gone as well as in previous years because, halfway through the first day, eggs were already hatching. Iodine treatment may have caused the die off that some schools experienced. Steev suggested neutralizing the iodine with chlorine remover. Phil set up a tank to keep some eggs overnight for second-day delivery and those are doing fine at all three schools. He will work with the hatchery to replace the eggs/alevin that were lost.

Dissections: Steev reported receiving requests for in-class dissections so far from Louisa Boren STEM and Sanislo. Judy said kids during egg delivery got a laugh out of knowing that their carcass was in a freezer at Husky Deli along with the ice cream!

**Next meeting:** Thursday, **March 12**, 7pm @ Fauntleroy Church

**FAUNTLEROY WATERSHED COUNCIL**  
**Meeting #94, March, 2020, Fautleroy Church**

Because of meeting restrictions brought on by the novel coronavirus, we did not gather in person this month but rather submitted reports and commented by email, as follows:

**Financials**

According to Dennis Hinton, we had \$813.35 in our checking account as of March 9.

We have received donations totaling \$18,175 to our stewardship fund and have spent \$2,924.01, leaving \$16,149.99 in our account with EarthCorps. (These numbers are prior to reimbursement for expenses associated with the native-plant garden.)

On March 11, Judy got an email from Sarah Griffins, owner of Treo Organic Salon, letting us know that the Endolyne business has selected our stewardship fund as its 2020 charity! Clients give as they like and, in 2019, the salon was able to donate some \$4,000 to a charity. The business is doing well, so the check we get this time next year could be in excess of that amount. If you are a salon client, please remember to say thanks in person!

**Seattle Parks**

Carol Baker reports the following:

Park District: The main local implication of current decision-making about allocations is the return of a couple of positions we lost in 2011. They are entry level so they will help Fautleroy Park indirectly.

Wire mesh on boardwalks: We would like to use something more substantial but the boardwalk itself is in such poor condition we cannot. Since the boardwalk was paid for by a grant, replacing it will have to be a fresh project.

Vagrants: The main thing is to report promptly. The city is required to go through certain steps but we can confirm so what you report gets on the list. You can use Find It-Fix It website but response may lag because the list of reported encampments is so long.

Cambridge Street entrance: Jacobo met with Scott Stevens from Parks and Jim Lee from SPU on site to get their input about an appropriate solution for managing street runoff into the park. After looking at the site and the impact to the slope, SPU has agreed to begin looking at design options for capturing the water and directing it to the appropriate point to prevent further damage to the site. Jim believes that the work could begin in late 2020 or 2021 and would not take to long to complete. Jacobo is happy to get this project on their list and hopeful that it will be a permanent solution. SPU repairs must take place first, then we will be able to work on trail improvements and follow up with restoration of the forest understory in the area. Now with a definitely timeline for some improvements, he looks forward to being able to get in there to improve the trail.

**Native-plant pocket garden**

On March 3, Taproot School students, aided by teachers and parents, installed 22 native plants to create a pocket garden at the east end of the Kilbourne ravine (next to the Fautleroy Schoolhouse) to demonstrate how native species that can turn any landscape into beneficial and beautiful habitat. The schoolhouse is home base for the small nature-oriented school, making its students well suited to not only install and mulch the garden but also maintain it over time.

Forest stewards Peggy Cummings and Mike Arizona organized the project in cooperation with Denise Wallace, property manager at the schoolhouse, and Michelle Taylor, head teacher at the school. Judy Pickens designed and Phil Sweetland worked with Kellie at Center Sign Shop to create the interpretive sign, using the Kilbourne project sign as the base. Shortly before installation, Judy and Peggy took the

sign to the classroom to discuss the nine species with students. Carol Baker with Seattle Parks provided temporary fencing to protect the new garden.

Ahead of the planting party, Peggy and Mike worked with a Taproot father and his two daughters to strip the triangular plot of grass and enrich the soil with compost. They selected and positioned the plants to benefit bees and birds, protect restored habitat in the adjacent Kilbourne ravine, and discourage weeds. This project was a requirement of our \$4,000 grant from the West Seattle Garden Tour; Judy has filed our final report with the tour. Garden expenses were \$524.10, leaving \$3,745.90 of the grant for maintenance of restored habitat in the ravine.

### **Redd monitoring**

Dennis has been checking last fall's spawning location for home hatch since the first week of January and seen none so far.

### **Out-migration monitoring**

Steev Ward installed both upper and lower traps on Feb. 29. Pete Draughon and Dennis began checking them twice daily on March 1. A few days later, Pete made adjustments to ensure that no smolts could bypass the lower trap. As of March 10, they had not found any smolts, suggesting that out-migration hasn't yet started.

### **Forest steward report**

In addition to work on the pocket garden, Peggy has continued to monitor conditions in Fauntleroy Park, including trails and the supply of watershed brochures in kiosk boxes. Most of the debris and damage from windstorms has been cleared from trails and the salmon-release bridge. The boardwalk linking the bridge to the east viewing platform has also been cleared and some repairs made. Wire mesh has come loose at several places and is a tripping hazard. She covered the worst spot with a piece of downed wood to make it obvious to walkers until it can be repaired.

In February, a representative from Alaska Airlines contacted Forterra looking for a 2020 Earth Day event in this area. Forterra put the person in touch with Mike Arizona to plan a work party for up to 25 Alaska Airline employees. The event in the upper part of Fauntleroy Park to focus on English ivy removal has been postponed. A group from Starbucks recently expressed interest.

Mike has also put in a request to the city to stock our job box with gloves, hand tillers, a small saw, and hand sanitizer and to repair the box hinges.

### **Dogs in creek**

Concern continues about dog walkers letting their animals off leash to splash around at the release bridge, potentially killing juvenile salmon. The executive committee came up with the following things to try to change this behavior:

***Judy will talk with Carol about placing seasonal "good dog" signage at the bridge and ask the West Seattle Blog to emphasize this problem in its coverage of the first salmon release this spring.***

***Dennis and Pete will keep an eye out for dog walkers during salmon releases to remind them of "good dog" behavior.***

We will revisit this topic at our May meeting.

### **Rodenticide**

Kersti Muul reports that, on Sunday, Dec. 8, she found Lincoln Park's resident adult female owl dead near a trail in her usual territory. Kersti saw no visible trauma and thought something was off. The owl had recently made a kill and Kersti suspected rodenticide poisoning. She worked with PAWS to get a necropsy, and the toxicology report confirmed her suspicion.

The city has a robust raptor population and poisoning is a slow and inhumane death for any animal. This second-generation anti-coagulant kills raptors, squirrels, cats, and even dogs. Along with Seattle Audubon, Kersti is working to raise awareness and advocate for legislation to ban this type of rodenticide in our state. Los Angeles is doing so as well as it has killed multiple mountain lions. Kersti will update us as she is able. Mama owl had two successful chicks this past year, her first in over 10 years. The chicks are now at risk as they, along with her mate, have ingested rodenticide-laced rats from the Fauntleroy neighborhood and it's just a matter of time before they fall victim.

### **Culvert replacements**

Seattle Public Utilities is moving along with plans to replace creek culverts under 45th Ave. SW and California Ave. SW, including taking borings to understand substrate conditions. A miscalculation led to drilling through the culvert, top and bottom, under the church parking lot. SPU is now assessing soil conditions to inform what to do. The project team plans more public outreach in the watershed.

### **Roxhill Bog**

Volunteers working on restoration of a segment of Roxhill Bog received sufficient grant funding for Natural Systems Design experts to do a hydrology study. Led by our colleague, Steve Winter, the study sought to answer the question "What's happened to the water?" in the historic peat bog. Given that this area has long been rumored as feeding water into Fauntleroy Creek and also intermittent Seola Creek, Steve was able to lay that rumor to rest, as follows:

*We did not look into that specifically, but here are my general thoughts: I don't think the Roxhill wetland was a major source of water to either Fauntleroy or Seola. The basic underlying geology is that there are very fine-grained glacial lake sediments below the peat. The lake deposit is going to have very low vertical permeability, so little water would be available for deeper infiltration to reach the other creeks. That said, we haven't looked at deeper boring records or anything like that to see if there is a deeper layer that could transfer water to the west or south to feed those seeps.*

*I think there is some possibility that the water retained near Roxhill could support some flow in Seola. The big glacial trough they both drain has a very low/subtle topographic divide to the south (just south of where the Safeway is now). The old Seola peat wetland has a remnant still and there are some ponds just north of 106th at the low point that are topographically lower than Roxhill. This system may have had some transfer from Roxhill but probably not a big volume.*

*For Fauntleroy, there is more topographic relief (capped with glacial till) between Roxhill and the Fauntleroy basin, and we observed local unconfined groundwater gradients from west to east flowing into the Roxhill wetland. Therefore, the water transfer would have to be from a deeper layer that we don't know much about. Again, I don't expect that there was a lot of deeper percolation (the wetland clearly retained water for a long time, hence the 8+ feet of peat deposit).*

### **Seattle Watershed Alliance**

As a follow-up to last June's convening of creek advocates (called by Seattle Public Utilities in response to our advocacy), Judy and Phil attended a Feb. 12 gathering in the Thornton Creek watershed. Others represented Piper's Creek, Arboretum Creek, MidSound Fisheries Enhancement Group, and the Delridge Neighborhood Development Association. Common issues/concerns aired included public engagement, signage, homeless camps, funding, and agency interaction (especially with SPU). Those attending decided to form what is tentatively being called the Seattle Watershed Alliance. Judy and Phil will continue to represent our interests.

### **In the media**

Dennis reports that the March 1 issue of *Neighbors* had an article about the addition of Mike Arizona as a forest steward and (with reference to our annual report) how many hours our three forest stewards volunteered in 2019. The *West Seattle Blog* covered installation of the native-plant pocket garden, with photos of students at work.

### **Website upgrade**

Research is under way; no details at this time.

### **Fauntleroy Food Fest**

Concern about public health during the COVID-19 outbreak prompted the Fauntleroy Community Association to cancel this March 17 event. We had planned to have an information table, primarily about the pocket-garden project.

### **Salmon in the Schools**

Phil reports that salmon rearing had been going fine at our schools until March 10, when Seattle Public announced that schools would close because of the virus to help arrange for fish care. Most teachers arranged with school custodians to either care for the fish or provide building access for others to do so. One tank volunteer relocated school fish to her home and Pete helped Phil set up a tank in his carport to care for the Gatewood fish. Judy became Communication Central that afternoon and Shannon Ninburg and Dennis provided moral support. Jack Lawless arranged to pick up slack for our preschools. When school closures were extended to late April, Phil and Pete added West Seattle Elementary's fish to the carport.

Releases are still on the calendar, starting in late April. Shannon plans to enhance "salmon talk" at the beginning and end of every elementary release and is updating our worksheet to tie habitat exploration more closely to salmon-related learning in classrooms.

### **Dissections**

Steev did his first salmon dissection at West Seattle Elementary on March 4. Phil and Judy audited and can vouch for a high level of student interest in Steev's educational and entertaining slice and dice. As of that date, he had four other dissections on his calendar (now affected by school closures), with two frozen carcasses yet to be claimed by teachers.

### **Exoskeleton count**

Sixth graders from Our Lady of Guadalupe School were scheduled to do the annual count of stonefly exoskeletons near the fish ladder on March 20 but the school has closed. Dennis began seeing them on trees in early March. We scheduled a trio of Pathfinder students being home schooled to do the count.

### **Upcoming event**

The spring Recycle Roundup planned for the church parking lot on April 26 is being rescheduled.

## FAUNTLEROY WATERSHED COUNCIL

### Meeting #95, May, 2020, Email Summary

*Because of meeting restrictions brought on by the novel coronavirus, we did not gather in person this month but rather submitted reports and commented by email, as follows:*

#### **FINANCIALS**

As of April 30, we had \$795.35 in our checking account at WaFd. In recent weeks, we had expenditures totaling \$18.00 for brochure copies.

As of May 5, we had received \$20,225 in donations to our stewardship fund with EarthCorps and had a balance of \$18,199.87. This balance reflects payment of \$602.72 for plants and supplies for the native-plant demonstration garden at the east end of the Kilbourne ravine, a requirement of our \$4,000 grant from the West Seattle Garden Tour. (The balance also reflects EarthCorps' administrative fee.) We will apply the residue of the grant (\$3,397.28) to long-term maintenance of restored riparian habitat in the ravine.

#### **SEATTLE PARKS**

Carol Baker's report is a story of narrowing priorities since March, when her staff was cut to a quarter of its original size at any one time. Their priorities have been maintaining safety, keeping restrooms open, removing enough litter and garbage to keep areas healthy, and preserving infrastructure (green and other).

Pete had raised safety concerns about a steep rogue trail down to the creek halfway between the church parking lot and the release bridge. We have blocked the area but Jacobo did not think we had actually signed it closed. Our experience is that efforts to block such established rogue trails do not completely work but it is something we have done on rare occasions. People will continue to use the area but we are using signage to warn others.

In March, Jacobo was fairly sure he could commit to working on the Cambridge entrance on the east side of the park. He still intend to do so but response is slower and the labor resources he was hoping to use aren't yet available.

#### **PROJECT ACTIVITY**

Schoolhouse pocket garden: Peggy and Mike have been monitoring this new plot at the east end of the Kilbourne ravine and each time have found it looking good. They will keep an eye out over the summer for anything that needs attention.

Out-migration monitoring: As of May 14, Pete and Dennis had counted 78 smolts in upper and lower traps, which Steev had installed Feb. 29. They have each checked both traps daily since then. This number is more than four times what they counted last spring and is the fourth highest total since we began monitoring in 2003. They plan to keep going until May 31.

Culvert replacements: In response to a request from Seattle Public Utilities in May, we submitted a letter to the State Fish Passage Barrier Removal Board supporting replacement of the culvert under 45th Ave. SW.

#### **STEWARDSHIP/HABITAT**

Forest stewards: Peggy reports that things on her end have been pretty quiet. Fauntleroy Park is very lush, with heavy plant growth, especially fringe cup along the trails. The warm, wet weather has transformed trails into fairy-tale pathways through the woods. Longtime forest steward Steve Hodson has given the park even more time than usual this spring, which is especially appreciated given the park's increased usage. Mike Arizona ordered 10 cedars, 10 nootka roses, 10 salal, 10 twinberries, 10 tall Oregon grapes, and 10 vine maples, all for fall planting in Zone 8.



Preventing dogs/children in creek: Having Dennis and Pete in the upper creek daily since March 1 to check the smolt trap revealed enough concern about destructive activities in the channel to warrant signage. Judy worked with Carol on a sign reading “This creek is year-round habitat for salmon & a place for research. It is not a wading pool for children or a water feature for dogs. Thanks for being a responsible steward of this natural resource!” for the release bridge. That sign included Seattle Parks and watershed council logos. A few days later, we added a council-only sign in Fenton Glen near the trap. When someone destroyed that sign, we modified the working to include “or a building site for dams” to its replacement. Each sign was printed on rain-resistant paper affixed to Foamboard but they held up remarkably well.

After Carol observed that, during the pandemic, many people are in parks for the first time, we made more copies of our watershed brochure using the church copier and available paper. Both Peggy and Mike have supplies to keep kiosk boxes full. In the process, Judy made minor corrections/updates to the brochure. With so much park usage now, Peggy has asked for more copies soon.

***Action item: Judy and Phil will make and fold another 100 brochures and let Peggy know when they are ready.***

## **ADVOCACY**

After one in-person organizing meeting before the pandemic, Judy and Phil attended the Seattle Watershed Alliance’s next two gatherings on Zoom. Outcomes were an initial list of groups represented, a mission statement, top-tier concerns, and assignments to move the alliance forward. The mission statement:

The Seattle Watershed Alliance works collectively for the health of all of Seattle’s watersheds. By pooling our knowledge, experience and resources as representatives of individual watershed interests, we use our combined voices to bring issues, needs, and recommendations to the attention of the City of Seattle and King County, Washington. Using sound science and action, we work with elected officials and staffs to prioritize and address issues for the betterment of all of Seattle’s drainages and thereby elevate urban watershed stewardship to a new level of leadership and effectiveness.

Groups initially represented were Carkeek Park Advisory Council/Carkeek Community Action Project, Delridge Neighborhood Development Association (advocating for Longfellow Creek), Fauntleroy Watershed Council, Friends of Arboretum Creek, MidSound Fisheries Enhancement Group, SnoKing Watershed Council, Thornton Creek Alliance. More groups are being contacted about joining as members or partners.

**Decision: Members of the executive committee authorized including our council as a member.**

## **OUTREACH**

In the media: The Washington Education Association’s e-newsletter had a story in May featuring para educator Mini Helms’ home school activities during COVID-19. It included the Fauntleroy Creek stonefly exoskeleton count done in March via FaceTime with her group of two first graders and a sixth grader from Pathfinder.

In early May, the West Seattle Blog had video and photos from Louisa Boren STEM’s salmon release, submitted by teacher Christina Massimino.

We submitted an “in-progress” story and video to the *West Seattle Blog* about how teachers were engaging students electronically in releases. Since it hasn’t yet run, we’ll update it with final numbers at the end of the month.

The June 1 issue of *Neighbors* community newsletter will include a story about salmon releases, a sidebar about smolt monitoring, and an article by Dennis about interesting encounters while checking smolt traps.

Website upgrade: This project is still on the to-do list.

## EDUCATION

Salmon releases: Given closure of school buildings and the governor's stay-at-home order, releases this year were private affairs shared with students as much as possible, mostly by electronic means. Dennis and Pete were at the ready to assist teachers and tank volunteers, as was Nancie Hernandez, the technical-support person with Salmon in the Schools-Seattle. Judy coordinated to avoid having two releases at the same time.

Release dates and number of fry by school:

- Pathfinder - March 16 - 135
  - Highland Park - April 2 - 110
  - Alki - April 30 - 130
  - Boren STEM - May 1 - 132
  - Arbor Heights - May 1 - 115
  - Roxhill - May 8 - 124
  - Our Lady of Guadalupe - May 8 - 30
  - Taproot/Fauntleroy Children's Center - May 12 - 140
  - West Seattle - May 16 - 116
  - Sanislo - May 18 - 124
  - A Child Becomes - May 19 - 100
  - Gatewood - May 19 - 118
  - Cove School - a series of family releases in May - [REDACTED]
  - Jack's fish - April 29, April 30, May 4 - 600
- Total fry released:** [REDACTED]



(Left) Teacher Angie Nall videoed the Arbor Heights release, joined by a handful of masked students, salmon teacher emeritus David Wilkie, and tank tender Kristen Waitt Hutchinson.

(Below) Taproot Students each created a flag at home for teachers to display on release day for the Taproot/Fauntleroy Children's Center fish.

(Right) Nancie Hernandez helped first-time salmon teacher Kyoko Giedeman and two masked students release Roxhill's fish.



Phil will video Jamie Shilling singing West Seattle's fish on their way and add footage of fish development (including a smolt en route to saltwater) and Pete's information about macroinvertebrates. He will then revamp the video to show Gatewood's fish going into the creek. Students from each school can then see their release on YouTube. The fish from both schools will go in the lower reach to take advantage of that habitat as we had no evident home hatch from fall spawning.

Exoskeleton research: Since we could not do the annual spring count of stonefly exoskeletons with Guadalupe students, Dennis arranged to do it on March 31 via FaceTime with Pathfinder students being home schooled. The three girls (including his granddaughter Lilia) watched on an Ipad at their teacher's home. Dennis did the official count first, then he and Judy walked students through the process, from objectives to charting and analysis. Judy filed the report with Seattle Public Utilities and it's available on our website on the "Fauntleroy Creek" tab.

**NEXT MEETING: Thursday, Sept. 10**

**FAUNTLEROY WATERSHED COUNCIL**  
**Meeting #96, September 10, 2020, Pickens/Sweetland Patio**

**ATTENDEES**

Watershed volunteers: Judy Pickens, Dennis Hinton, Peggy Cummings, Pete Draughon, Mike Arizona

Fauntleroy Church: Phil Sweetland

Seattle Parks: Carol Baker

**11. Introductions**

N/A

**12. Minutes**

None to approve as we've not met since January

**13. Treasurer's Report**

Dennis reported that we have \$779.35 in our checking account. Judy reported that the stewardship fund has \$16,423.52; no recent donations have been received.

**14. Seattle Parks**

Carol reported that, despite COVID-19 challenges, a rebuild of the Cambridge Street entrance to Fauntleroy Park may still occur this calendar year, though delay until 2021 is possible.

Even though we financed installation of the Fauntleroy Park boardwalk with a grant, she said that Seattle Parks may be able to work on it if/when it has capital dollars to address this type of maintenance.

**15. Project Activity**

Schoolhouse Pocket Garden

Mike and Peggy continued to weed and water this native demonstration garden over the summer. Three plants have died and will be replaced in October. Mike and Peggy will continue to support the garden this fall and transition ongoing maintenance to Taproot School in the spring of 2021.

***Action item: Peggy will look into commandeering a small amount of wood chips for the garden from what Seattle Parks delivers to Fauntleroy Park.***

Kilbourne Ravine

Judy reported that EarthCorps completed 6 hours of maintenance in June, removing invasive species at a cost of approximately \$2,000. This was the first time the stewardship fund paid for such maintenance. The next scheduled crew day is in November.

**16. Stewardship/Habitat**

Forest steward report

Peggy twice stocked the brochure holders at the two Fauntleroy Park kiosks this summer. She deemed the paper we're using on the Fauntleroy Church copier quite adequate for the brochure.

***Action item: Peggy asked Carol to look into Seattle Parks' doing maintenance on the Kilbourne Park portion of the ravine.***

Mike reported that the Green Seattle Partnership will be delivering 60 trees and plants in late October or early November for the conifer forest part of the park. When the delivery date is confirmed, Mike will develop a plan to haul the plants into zone 8 and plant them as COVID restrictions will prevent a normal planting party this fall.

Phil noted that the Seattle Watershed Alliance is encouraging a compassionate response to homeless encampments in parks and natural areas. Fauntleroy Church has a list of local resources, such as showers and meals.

**Action item: Judy will send a pdf of the resource list to Mike and Peggy to hand out in the event they encounter a homeless person in the park.**

#### Culvert replacements/flow monitoring

Phil reported the project to replace two creek culverts (45th and California/church parking lot) is at just under 30% design. More than 90 design facets were recently considered during value engineering. Estimated costs remain prohibitive for the church. Seattle Public Utilities installed a flow monitor and depth gauge in the lower creek to collect data for the culvert replacements.

#### Runoff from ferry terminal deck

Judy reported being contacted by a creek neighbor concerned about runoff from the ferry terminal deck. They researched the situation and learned the runoff here is mostly particles from tires. Until the terminal can be rebuilt and a runoff system installed, terminal employees are sweeping the deck on a quarterly basis.

#### Spawner access/salmon watch

Dennis reported he has not observed any juvenile salmon in the creek over the past two months. To his knowledge, no spawners have ventured up as far as 45th Ave. SW in many years. Weed growth in the reach to the beach is much lower than last year and neighbor Mike Dey is monitoring. The 2020 salmon watch will begin Oct. 15.

**Action item: Dennis and Pete will check upstream of the watch area to document whether or not any spawners venture up towards 45th Ave. SW.**

Judy and musician Jamie Shilling are hopeful the annual salmon drumming will occur this year despite COVID restrictions.

**Action item: Judy will publicize the drumming once a safe plan is devised and a date set.**

#### Storm-drain stenciling

Phil reported that SPU will be distributing drain stencils to the public every other week, started on Sept. 30, from the Fauntleroy Church parking lot.

#### Whale Update

Kersti Muul provide a detailed report in writing. Highlights:

- The southern resident orcas recently had one birth and three more are pregnant.
- Kersti has collaborated with a partner to start a new group called Salish Wildlife Watch that will focus on wildlife sightings and boater education.
- Kersti was able to collaborate with San Juan Marine Resources Committee to extend the Whale Warning Flag program to central and south sound.
- Kersti's sighting reports have been featured in the *West Seattle Blog* often during the past few months.

#### **17. Advocacy**

Judy and Phil continue to represent our council on the newly formed Seattle Watershed Alliance. The group is currently focused on organizational decisions and how to be a resource to watersheds throughout the city. The alliance is trying to identify key volunteers in other watersheds to expand its influence. One recent step was adopting a logo.

## **18. Outreach**

### In the media

Dennis noted that the *West Seattle Blog* gave a nod to *Neighbors* as the last remaining printed community newsletter in West Seattle. The September issue included information about EarthCorps' work in the Kilbourne ravine, culvert replacements, and a call for salmon watchers.

## **9. Website upgrade**

No update.

## **10. Education**

### Salmon in the Schools

Phil reported that surveys have been sent to the 2019-20 schools to help determine what Salmon in the Schools will look like during COVID restrictions. Permitting with State Fish and Wildlife for 2020-21 will proceed as usual. We should expect fewer schools and fewer fry next spring.

Judy reported that she has reached out to Louisa Boren STEM to determine interest in taking over the annual macroinvertebrate study from Our Lady of Guadalupe. Because of COVID, the protocol will need to be simplified.

### Youth Ambassador workshop series

Judy will be participating in a water/soil/carbon virtual workshop aimed at teens and young adults on Oct. 24, organized by the Green Seattle Partnership.

**Next Meeting: Thursday, Nov. 12, location TBD**

**FAUNTLEROY WATERSHED COUNCIL**  
**Meeting #97, November 12, 2020, on Zoom**

**ATTENDEES**

Watershed volunteers: Judy Pickens, Dennis Hinton, Peggy Cummings, Kersti Muul, Mike Arizona

Fauntleroy Church: Phil Sweetland

Seattle Parks: Carol Baker

**1. Introductions**

N/A

**2. Minutes**

Minutes from September 10, 2020, were approved.

**3. Treasurer's report**

Dennis reported that we have \$915.35 in our checking account after paying for more copies of our watershed brochure. Judy received a \$150 honorarium for participating in a panel discussion and donated it to our checking account. She reported that our stewardship fund has \$16,423.52. No recent donations have been received. She will soon email past donors a year-end donation request. The next draw from this fund will be an estimated \$2,000 in December for a day of EarthCorps maintenance in the Kilbourne ravine.

**4. Seattle Parks**

Carol reported the following:

- She does not anticipate any heavy cuts to the 2021 Seattle Parks budget.
- She is still pursuing the rebuilding of the stairs at the Cambridge Street entrance but no timeline is set for this work.
- As reported earlier, replacement or major repair of the grant-funded boardwalks in Fauntleroy Park by Seattle Parks will need to be funded as a capital expense within the Seattle Parks budget. Carol will let us know when that discussion begins so we can advocate for such work.

***Action item: Carol will coordinate with Peggy on delivery of a small amount of mulch to the schoolhouse pocket garden.***

**5. Project activity**

**Spawner access/salmon watch**

Dennis reported that the 2020 watch began on October 18 and will end in mid-November. Only two spawners have been seen and both were at the mouth of the creek. For the first time since 2015, none has made it upstream to the spawning reach. Other Seattle creeks have reported a small showing as well. We had an exceptional number of new volunteer watchers this year. Even though they did not see any salmon, they appreciated the solace and peace the creek offered in this challenging year, providing further evidence of the importance of our natural areas. Volunteer Mark Sears managed an ongoing problem with logs jammed under the ferry dock, restricting spawner access to the creek..

**Schoolhouse pocket garden**

Peggy reported that she purchased and donated six native plants to replace those that did not survive the garden's first year. The supplier provided four additional plants at no cost. Mike planted all ten in early November and weeded the garden. Peggy will see to spreading a layer of mulch in the near future. The Taproot School intended to be the garden's long-term steward had to close its operation at the schoolhouse (a victim of the pandemic) but is continuing online. We expect to need to devise a new long-term plan with the schoolhouse property manager.

## **6. Stewardship/habitat**

### Forest steward report

Peggy reported that she restocked the Fauntleroy Park kiosks with the watershed brochure and that the dog-waste stations were full of donated bags. She saw no dog waste on the trails and said, overall, the park was very clean. Mike reported receiving 60 trees, shrubs, and groundcovers from Seattle Parks in early November and he plans to lead a small planting party in conifer forest zone 8 in late November.

### Culvert replacement

Phil reported that Fauntleroy Church has not yet received a reply to its letter to the general manager of Seattle Public Utilities. The letter made clear that the church cannot afford the design the city continues to advocate to replace the culvert under the church parking lot. It also emphasized that the city has not yet repaired the holes that geotech drilling punched in the pipe.

### Whale update

Kersti reported numerous Orca sightings in the sound recently. The southern residents are doing very well; none has appeared emaciated. The two calves are doing well and two more may be on the way.

## **7. Seattle Watershed Alliance advocacy**

Phil reported that the alliance sent a letter to Seattle City Council members about the negative impact homeless encampments are having on the natural environment and on use of parks by the general public. The letter advocated for the humane treatment of the people living in these encampments and asked the city to support volunteers caring for natural areas by providing specific advice about what to do if they encounter persons who are homeless.

***Action item: Phil will send a copy of the letter to watershed council members.***

## **8. Education**

### Salmon in the Schools

Phil reported that he has requested 46 permits for schools still wishing to participate this term but anticipates many of them will go unused as more teachers realize the difficulty of having tanks in locked buildings or off-site. He still expects we'll have several hundred fry to release this spring from preschools and the 500 that Jack Lawless rears. In a normal year, 75 schools across the city would be rearing coho, chum, and Chinook.

### Annual benthic sampling

Judy reported that volunteer Shannon Ninburg led four sixth- and seventh-grade students from Louisa Boren STEM in the annual macroinvertebrate sampling in mid October. She credited Shannon for a great job and the students for their enthusiasm. The students will be presenting their findings via Zoom. Judy will let council members know when this presentation will be so those who are able can hear the report and generally support the students.

## **9. Outreach**

### In the media

Dennis reported that the *West Seattle Blog* and the *Fauntleroy Neighbors* newsletter both ran articles calling for salmon watchers. The *Blog* also covered the annual drumming.

***Action item: Dennis and Judy will write our annual "fish wrap" for the Blog at the close of the watch..***

### Salmon drumming

Judy reported a very successful annual drumming event, with an estimated 60 people from the community spaced around the Pickens/Sweetland parking area at creek level. Jamie Shilling again led the drumming and singing. A highlight was participants' writing an encouraging word or two on stones and placing them on the creek bank along the spawning reach. Dennis and family had collected the



stones along the Yakima River and washed them so they could be added to the habitat. Judy speculated that so many people of all ages came out of a desire to get out of the house to do something different and worthwhile.

#### Engaging new volunteers

Judy raised the need for us to bring on new volunteers not only to increase our positive impact on the watershed but also to ensure the long-term viability of the council. Judy asked each member to jot down ideas about specific things we might do if we had new volunteers interested in and able to do them.

***Action item: Council members are to email Judy their ideas prior to our January meeting so we can include them in a more extensive discussion about engaging new volunteers.***

#### **10. Good of the order/upcoming events**

Dennis reported Hadley Rodero of Washington State Ferries has requested a council member to serve on a citizens' advisory committee for rebuilding the Fauntleroy Ferry Terminal. Judy offered to be our representative.

Kersti mentioned a culvert/drain along Longfellow Creek that regularly backs up with debris.

***Action item: Kersti will send the location to Carol so her maintenance crew can investigate.***

Judy announced that Recycle Roundups at Fauntleroy Church will likely resume in April.

**Next Meeting – January 14, 2021, location TBD**