

Friends of North Creek Forest

10th Anniversary Gratitude Report

Updating Bothell City Council and the region about 10 years of
community impact



friendsnorthcreekforest.org

info@friendsnorthcreekforest.org

August 2021



Our hearts are filled with gratitude to you for having the wisdom and courage to help save the emerald gem of Bothell....the North Creek Forest. As Dr. Seuss said,

*"Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot,
nothing is going to get better. It's not."*

The North Creek Forest is now a preserved place where a wild habitat offers adventure and serenity in an urban landscape waiting patiently to be discovered by all.

Ten years ago, the grassroots story of rescuing the North Creek Forest was about to come to an abrupt and catastrophic end as "development and progress" threatened our beloved forest. However, visionaries with a dream in their hearts....people like you....stepped forward with passion and desperately needed funding to rescue the forest.

Now this forest offers protection for deer and downy woodpeckers while simultaneously giving the opportunity for in person and virtual education. Over the years, thousands of students from kindergarten through university age experience lessons on "mystery bark", water quality testing and how to eradicate invasive holly and ivy while preserving sword ferns and snowberry. Hikers and families on a spontaneous forest adventure might discover a blooming Nootka Rose, a playful babbling brook or a golden crowned kinglet quietly finding shelter high in a western red cedar tree. Thousands of community members have volunteered at habitat restoration events.

As we head into the future....thanks to your support....the majestic fir trees will keep reaching for the stars, the maples will continue to weave a carpet of red and gold in the Autumn and the raindrops famous in the Pacific Northwest will still fall softly on the preserved North Creek Forest offering peace and tranquility to nature and humanity.

The story of the North Creek Forest continues because of you and the many others who believe the truth that Robert Swan spoke:

"The greatest threat to the planet is the belief that someone else will save it."

On behalf of all the current and past FNCF Board of Directors, Staff and Volunteers, thank YOU for believing.

Sarah Witte

Sarah Witte, FNCF Board President



**Celebrating 10 Years of
Community Involvement to
Maintain and Improve the Ecological
Function of North Creek Forest through
Education, Stewardship and Conservation**

"We express our deep gratitude to all who have made a strong commitment to see the North Creek Forest not just preserved, but turned into a vibrant public park that retains its wilderness feel and allows both wildlife and educational experiences to coexist."

-Sarah Witte FNCF Board President

A Community-Based Environmental Organization

Friends of North Creek Forest (FNCF) began in 2011 as a neighborhood - grass roots movement. A group of local citizens who saw the value of protecting a 64-acre mature forest in the middle of a rapidly developing region organized to save the Forest. Led by a committed volunteer Board of Directors, FNCF is still going strong ten years later.

Scientific studies documented the rare and important ecological diversity of the Forest, as well as its value in protecting water quality and salmon runs in North Creek.

FNCF donated time and expertise to prepare and present \$2.8 million worth of federal, state, and local grant proposals on behalf of the City of Bothell. These funds enabled a fair market value purchase of the entire 64 acres. In April 2017 Governor Inslee and local elected officials cut the ribbon to celebrate the newest City of Bothell Park. FNCF remains committed to support the City of Bothell in maintaining and improving the ecological health of the Forest.



*Bothell Mayor Andy Reaume and Gov. Jay Inslee cut the ribbon to celebrate the city's procurement of all of North Creek Forest, surrounded by local officials and others involved in the acquisition process. --April 2017
CATHERINE KRUMMEY / Bothell Reporter*

Read more about the [history](#) of FNCF.

Oasis of Ecological Biodiversity in an Urban Setting

The 64-acre North Creek Forest meets the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife definition of a priority habitat - containing nine wetlands, seven streams and more than 100



species of native plants. North Creek Forest is home to many species of birds, mammals, amphibians, and invertebrates. It is extraordinary to be able to conserve such a large area of ecological diversity in a region that experiences an accelerated pace of development.

This ecological diversity is accompanied by important environmental functions in protecting water quality of the North Creek watershed. The Forest soils and wetlands retain moisture, and gradually release it through springs, streams, and ground water flow to help moderate flows and water temperature that support salmon and other species.



FNCF supports environmental research in the Forest through a cooperative partnership with the University of Washington Restoration Ecology Network.

(See Stewardship information in next section.)

Educating Our Region's Learners

FNCF education programming brings learners of all ages into an urban forest to explore, learn, and grow into stewards. Rigorous field trips challenge students academically with inquiry-based learning and physically with hikes and hands-on forest restoration activities, leading to life-long appreciation for the outdoors.

FNCF employs an Education Manager and interns to lead student groups through curriculum exploring stream health, forest biodiversity, soil health and much more!

Thousands of students from Northshore SD and other area

schools have experienced this outdoor environmental laboratory learning-about plants and animals, the ecological functions of a mature forest and the importance maintaining the health of North Creek watershed. FNCF's classroom and service-learning field curriculum aligns with Washington state's K-12 [Next Generation Science Standards](#).



Kayla Luft, FNCF Education Manager, teaches Canyon Creek Elementary 3rd graders how to identify native species of trees growing in North Creek Forest.

During the pandemic, we tackled the challenge of fostering student connections with nature remotely. Despite our concerns, we reached more students than ever before – 1,123 students from 50 classes!

-Kayla Luft FNCF Education Manager

Stewardship & Conservation

Although majestically mature and diverse, the Forest is still affected by disturbance and invasive, non-native plants in many areas. FNCF leads community and student groups to maintain and improve the ecological health of the Forest. We work in partnership with the City of Bothell to anticipate and



respond to maintenance needs; enhancing the health and sustainable use of North Creek Forest.

FNCF has partnered for nine years with the [University of Washington Restoration Ecology Network](#) (UW-REN). This is a "Capstone" project involving teams of 4-8 students who plan for and execute the restoration of 1/4-to-1/3-acre area. Removal of invasive, non-native plants followed by replacement with a variety of native species suited for the site is the big goal. Additional benefits are the teamwork, volunteer management and leadership skills honed by the real-world experience of collaborating with a non-profit partner. FNCF supplies tools, volunteers and refreshments for this program as well as ongoing maintenance at former sites including weeding, watering, and mulching.

Read more about our [stewardship](#) programming.



*North Creek Forest
UW-REN Site 3
Spring 2014*

*North Creek Forest
UW-REN Site 3
August 2015*



Research

FNCF collaborates with UWBothell and Cascadia College supporting scientific research to promote ongoing optimum forest health and ecological function. Assessments inform the work of the Stewardship Program, providing real world opportunities for students to implement best practices of environmental science and sustainability.

Read more about our [research](#) programming.

Community Programs



Mindful time in nature can be a game-changer

Learn about Forest Bathing, led by FNCF Board member

Judy Beaudette, in this lovely introductory video:

<https://youtu.be/YHI4tgxnebQ>

Read more about [Forest Bathing](#) (Shinrin Yoku)

Look up in the trees! Listen!

Birding expert and North Creek Forest enthusiast, Woody Wheeler leads explorations of North Creek

Forest's bird communities!

Read more about [Birding with Woody](#)



Learn more about our [Community programs](#)

Explore North Creek Forest!

[Driving directions to main gate](#)
112th Ave NE



For more information, to volunteer, to RSVP for an event, to donate or learn about North Creek Forest, please explore our website:

friendsnorthcreekforest.org

Media Coverage

The accomplishments of FNCF in preserving and protecting this valuable natural resource have been well-chronicled in a wide variety of media coverage. [Read more here.](#)

Volunteers Galore



Family-friendly, all-ages community habitat restoration events are a mainstay of stewarding the sunny edges of the Forest. It is a task akin to painting the Golden Gate Bridge - keeping the invasive plants under control while the young native species take root and fill in the space. During these past ten years, more than 2,000 community members have toiled for more than 11,000 hours at

more than 250 separate stewardship events!

The Forest greatly benefits from the volunteer time and effort of hundreds of employees from local businesses, scout troops, and our region's K-12 students on field trips!



Thousands of volunteers have logged more than 20,000 hours in meetings, planning, advocacy, outreach, fundraising, education field trips, and more!

Join us!! [RSVP for FNCF events](#)

Financial Supporters



It is with humble gratitude that we acknowledge all the financial contributions of individuals, grant funders, and corporations during these past ten years.

In the early years of FNCF, gifts of all amounts were received, and grants were

awarded for the acquisition of the land totaling \$2.8 million. More recent fundraising efforts and grant applications support the Education, Research, Stewardship, and Community programming.

Though many donations are single events, we offer a Forest Keepers option for those who choose to commit to regularly occurring gifts (of any amount).

Learn more about [financially supporting FNCF](#)

We are so grateful for the generous response of the community to help keep North Creek Forest healthy and the programs thriving!!

-Jerry Smedes, Founding Board Member

Grateful Thanks to Our Supporters



All this work is possible because of the incredible support of the community, local businesses, granting organizations and our elected officials. With deep gratitude we acknowledge the efforts of Bothell City Council, King and Snohomish County Representatives, State Representatives and Senators, Governor Inslee, and so many others.

Special thanks to:

- Marty Fries, landowner who offered access and support for work parties, and ultimately sold property to the City to complete the Park.
- Jim Freese, local citizen who spearheaded the early efforts and served as volunteer Executive Director of FNCF.
- Tom & Jeanie Robinson, whose purchase of a key parcel allowed City planning to proceed to purchase the complete Forest properties.
- Founding FNCF Board members, committed to preserving the forest, collaborated with the City of Bothell and raised \$2.8M needed for the fair-market purchase of the parcels through grants and donations.

Local businesses support fundraising efforts and make in-kind donations:

- Cairn Brewing - Kenmore
- McMenamins Anderson School
- Alexa's Café - Bothell
- Top Foods - Woodinville
- Woodinville Montessori School - Bothell
- QFC & PCC – Bothell
- Guardian Cellars
- Elevation Cellars - Woodinville
- Castillo de Feliciano Winery
- J&M Cellars
- Social Grounds Coffee - Bothell
- Preston Gates & Ellis, LLP
- Woodinville Garden Club
- Woodinville Rotary
- Northwest Arboriculture
- And more!

Other Partnering Organizations:

- Washington Wildlife & Recreation Commission
- Tulalip Tribes
- The Russell Family Foundation
- Rose Foundation
- Peach Foundation
- Whale Scouts
- King County
- Snohomish County
- Sno-King Watershed Council
- Northwest Horticulture Society
- Outdoor Youth Connection
- National Environmental Education Foundation
- Northshore schools, Soundview School, St Brendan's, Heritage, UCIC and more!
- Cascadia Environmental Science Center
- UW-REN, UW Bothell, Cascadia College
- HDR Foundation
- And more!!!

Corporations Matching Individual Donations

- AT&T
- IBM
- The Boeing Company
- Microsoft
- Weyerhaeuser
- And more!!

Endorsements

So much community support for the conservation of North Creek Forest! [See the list](#) of organizations, educators, political leadership and many, many individuals!

Friends of North Creek Forest
PO Box 2053 Bothell, WA 98041-2053
friendsnorthcreekforest.org
info@friendsnorthcreekforest.org
A 501(c)(3) Corporation

