

# F R I E N D S



## *of North Creek Forest*

### A Commitment to Ongoing Stewardship

Friends of North Creek Forest are committed to an ongoing partnership with the City of Bothell in the stewardship of North Creek Forest park lands. Friends will serve both as a point of contact between the city and other groups involved in stewardship and will be directly involved in planning and supervision of volunteers.

We envision developing a plan and initiating actions to remove invasive plant species and restore native species. We also anticipate and are committed to trail design, building and maintenance as well as addressing erosion issues once the forest hydrology is understood and we can engage experts in design and repair. A central function of the forest will be education and we will continue to foster relationships between educators to that end and, whenever possible, link education with direct stewardship activities.

To fulfill this ongoing commitment Friends of North Creek Forest will continue to engage current supporters and also expand our network. Interest or specific commitments already exist between Friends and UW Bothell, Cascadia CC, UWB/CCC Sustainability Organization, UWB Student Government, Cascadia Student Government, Cascadia Environmental Science Center, Conservation Catalyst, Sierra Club, Audubon, Eagle Scouts, Northshore School District, and SnoKing Watershed Council and affiliated member organizations to name a few.

We expect to seek modest grants to cover financial needs where other funding is not available. An example of this might be for trail building and restoration materials like, mulch, gravel, lumber and perhaps some plants as well as necessary equipment. However, since the City of Bothell will be our partner we expect a portion of these needs will be supplied by the city where the park budget allows. Erosion control may require more resources. We expect to be involved with the city in grants, planning and execution of erosion control measures.

We envision our primary stewardship function will be one of joint planning with the city, recruitment of volunteers and supervision of volunteers. To that end we have kept a record of volunteers by individuals and organizations. These include 300 hours per year that will be donated by the UWB/CCC Sustainability Organization and 400 hours pledged by individual members of the Washington Native Plant Society, CPS Chapter. Altogether we have commitments to over 2000 hours at this

time, most of them annually reoccurring, and we have not yet made a large effort to boost these numbers.

We are currently finishing a "Request For Proposal (RFP)" to the UW Restoration Ecology Network (UW-REN). We are assured of a high likelihood of partnership with this program, which has been restoring public parklands in our region for over 13 years. A team of students in the UW-REN capstone program would spend the school year doing a restoration project on the Blarney Forest LLC (Robinson) property. They would begin this fall with a survey, a comprehensive assessment and by developing a restoration plan with the assistance of UW faculty and restoration experts in the community. They will then remove invasive species and plant native vegetation. They will conclude with a full report and recommendations for future stewardship. Since a large proportion of UW-REN capstone projects are continuations of previous restoration projects, we can expect opportunities for several of these partnerships in coming years as the full forest becomes park land. Both forest composition and proximity to the UWB campus make North Creek Forest an ideal location for their work. A recent such partnership between UW-REN and the city of Kirkland is moving into its fourth year of work on the restoration of Cotton Hill Park. Over the past three years of work, restoration has been initiated in over half of the park.

Another item would be security. At some point we would like to meet with Bothell Police Department to determine what issues to anticipate and how we might assist. We will watch for encampments, dumping, graffiti and drug use, reporting these to the police, but have little experience in "best methods" for monitoring. We could help develop a "Park Neighbor" mailing asking residents to nurture their new park by watching for these things, joining us in stewardship and limiting the use of invasive plants in their yard.

We are honored to partner with the City of Bothell for ongoing care of North Creek Forest, recognizing the community effort does not end at the acquisition of this park land.

By Unanimous Assent  
Friends of North Creek Forest  
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