

Have you noticed improvements to the landscape and salmon habitat at the former Wayne Golf Course?

In the past few months there have been some big changes at Bothell's newest park! In May, the Community Church of Seattle helped us tackle some overgrown brush and invasive plants along the edge near the Burke-Gilman Trail. In April, we celebrated Arbor Day volunteers helped plant new trees and gorgeous annuals for some welcome new colors to the parking lot.



As you enter park, you will notice many new signs going up at all the entrances reminding pet owners to keep dogs on a leash. Staff asks that you please obey the leash laws by controlling your animals and picking up any waste. Please walk only on the cut pathways and keep your pets on a leash to protect the critical area habitat. This is especially important in the former back 9 area of the park, adjacent to Blyth Park.

The warm weather means that the grass is growing fast. Staff is working to keep a good portion of the former front 9 cut so that it can be enjoyed for passive recreation. Some of the steeper hillsides will remain in a more natural state with longer grass for wild birds and animals to enjoy.

The former Back 9 is seeing even more changes as we convert the areas around Waynita Creek and the Sammamish River into improved habitat for salmon and other animals. The grass will remain uncut and long to begin the process of restoring these critical areas. We are already seeing the positive benefits of nature reclaiming the land. Walking along the trail, park visitors can hear more songbirds and frogs providing nature's soundtrack.



Sadly, most of the old yellow apple orchard did not survive the one/two punch of a drought followed by the heavy snowfall we experienced last winter. The Parks & Recreation Department's certified arborists completed an assessment of the old yellow apple orchard trees and found that all but three of needed to be removed. During the removal process, it became abundantly clear how dangerous these trees were as many were nearly hollowed out from rot and decay.



All is not lost however! The three remaining trees will be evaluated again, braced, and pruned in an attempt to keep them alive for a few more years. The wood chips from the removal will also be used at the former Wayne Golf Course and other parks to help us support more natural weed suppression and pollinators by eliminating herbicide use. The remaining wood will naturally decay and provide needed nutrients for the soil.

In the coming years, we will be working with our entire community to create a restoration plan for the river, creek and buffer areas and master plan the property. In the meantime, we hope you get the chance to come out and enjoy all the natural wonders Bothell's newest park has to offer.