

Protect the Streams of Lake Forest Park



What is a stream and why are they important?

- A stream is an area where surface waters have created a channel or bed that contains water for at least part of the year.
- Streams are important because they shape our landscape and provide food, protection and a home to wildlife and fish.

The Streams of Lake Forest Park

McAleer Creek

McAleer is a large salmon-bearing stream that drains into Lake Washington. Salmon, Sockeye, Coho and Chinook still live in McAleer Creek, but are not as numerous as they once were due to high levels of silt, pesticides and fertilizers from highways, parking lots, lawns and industrial sites.

Hillside, Brookside and Sheridan Creeks

Three small creeks, Hillside, Brookside and Sheridan, are important to the life of McAleer Creek. The upper reaches of Brookside Creek and its associated wetland ponds are classic coho salmon waters that have suffered from human activity.

Lyon Creek

Fed by many small wetlands and tributaries, Lyon creek was once home to trout and salmon. Today most of the salmon are gone due to high amounts of the urban pollutants associated with pet and human waste, vehicles, yard care and other urban activities.

Bsche'tla Creek

Bsche'tla (pronounced bs-cheh-tlah) is a term from the Lushootseed Indian dialect, translated as "it has a rock." Once home to great fish runs, only a small number of salmon, cutthroat and steelhead have found their way up the Creek in the past few years.

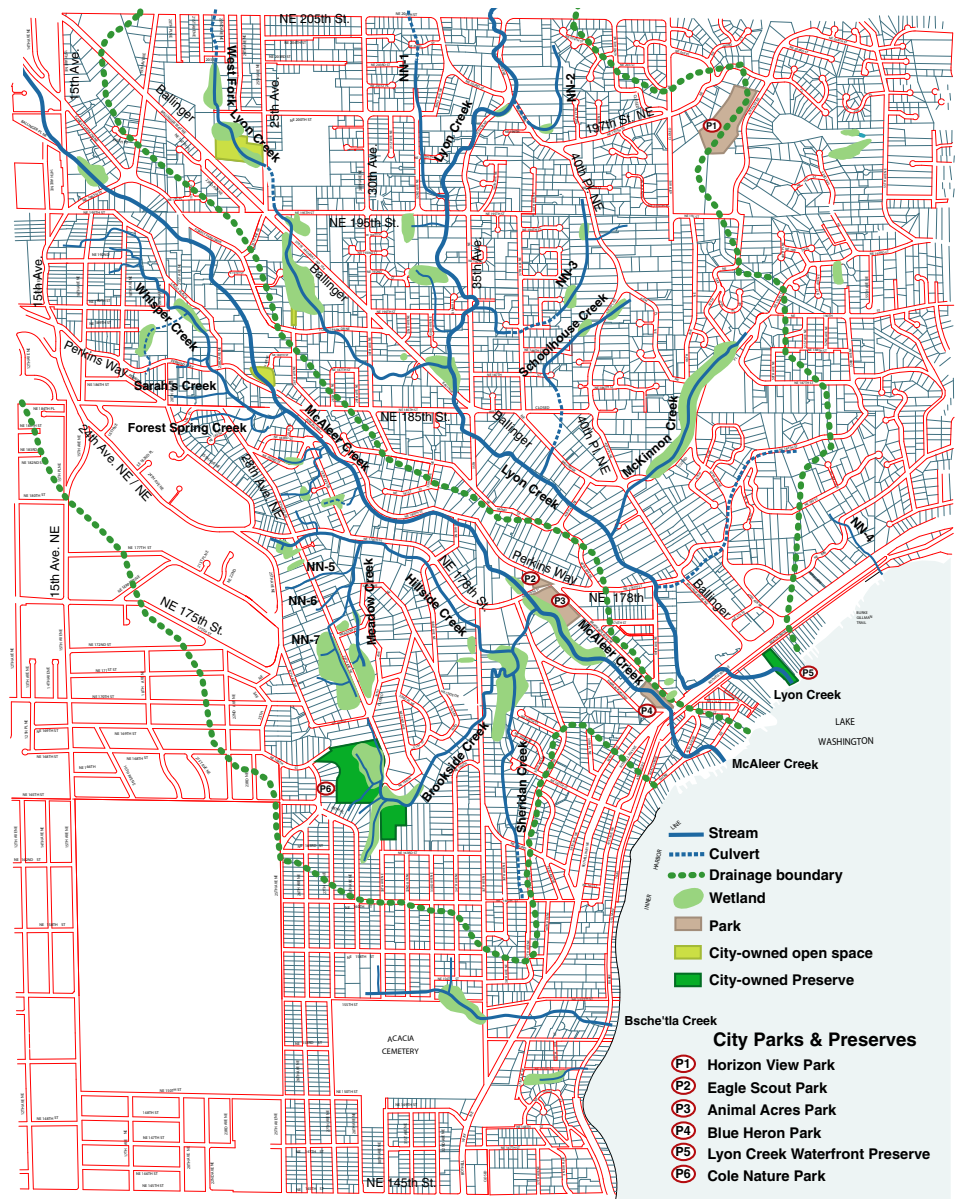
Other Streams and Creeks

Seven additional creeks flow across Lake Forest Park. All of these creeks were once overflowing with fish and other wildlife.

Water Quality issues affecting streams in Lake Forest Park

In urban areas such as Lake Forest Park stormwater drainage systems prevent flooding by transporting rainwater runoff away from streets, parking lots and rooftops. This water flows directly into local creeks and, ultimately, into Lake Washington. While most residents think stormwater is clean, in reality it collects and astounding quantity of pollutants on its journey including:

- Oils and grease
- Sediments
- Pesticides and Fertilizers
- Animal and organic waste
- Heavy metals from road runoff



Help rebuild our creeks and habitat

Reduce runoff by helping water penetrate into the ground slowly

- Dig tiny dry wells filled with gravel at the end of the downspouts on your house.
- Use perforated underground pipe to carry water from the downspouts.
- Reduce the amount of water that runs from your driveway into the storm sewer with alternatives to impervious blacktop and concrete.

Reduce contamination caused by human and animal waste

- Collect pet waste in plastic bag and throw in your garbage.
- Have your septic system cleaned and inspected every 5 years

Go natural with your lawn and yard

- Reduce or eliminate pesticide/fertilizer use
- Build healthy soil
- Plant right for your site
- Practice smart watering

Maintain your Vehicles

- Fix leaks
- Wash your car on your lawn or at a car wash
- Drive Less

Get Involved

- Protect our lakes and streams and report any illegal dumping by call (206) 368-5440 (M-F 9-5), after hours call (206) 296-8100.
- Call the City of Lake Forest Park if you want to know more or get involved at (206) 368-5440.