



## Lake Forest Park Legacy Project Summary

Lake Forest Park continues to experience pressure for new development, like most cities in King County. The cost for land will increase and land available for public purposes will become scarcer. These factors make it important to preserve land for parks, recreation, trails and open space for the future – our legacy for future generations.

Lake Forest Park, composed of 3 square miles situated on the edge of Lake Washington, is comprised of two creek basins- Lyon and McAleer. The city is forested with large evergreens giving it a park-like serene character. Large building lots add to the park quality of the city. Clear streams criss-cross the city flowing through parks, open space, and private land. Birds and other wildlife inhabit the wooded bluffs and wetlands. Rolling hills and valleys create a diverse topography that also generates challenge to walkability and neighborhood connections. Lake Forest Park is distinguished from its neighboring cities by its large tree canopy and its limited commercial development. The city's only commercial area, the Towne Centre is located at the intersection of two heavily traveled state highways, Ballinger and Bothell Ways.

### *Vision*

The City of Lake Forest Park prides itself on preserving and restoring its natural resources. The Lake Forest Park 100- year Legacy Vision linking our city through green spaces and places creates the framework to build and expand upon the city's natural qualities in the near term and the long-term future.

The Lake Forest Park Legacy Vision encompasses four components implementing green infrastructure- healthy connections, people places, natural drainage, and native habitat. Neighborhoods are linked to each other and to neighboring cities by pathways. Hubs are interspersed throughout the city providing for community gathering places. Public streets are transformed into corridors that transport people and provide for natural drainage. Enhanced riparian areas and creek ways ribbon their way throughout the city providing natural habitat corridors linking the two major streams, Lyon and McAleer and their tributaries.

### *The Green Infrastructure Plan*

***Green Infrastructure is a comprehensive network of parks, civic spaces, streets, trails, shorelines, creeks, natural drainage features and urban forests that will bind neighborhoods to one another, create ecological conduits from the city's boundaries to its shorelines, and ensure a wealth of green spaces for all of its citizens to enjoy.***

Public input and engagement were critical to developing the plan. Hundreds of people attended three public forums to learn about the Lake Forest Park Legacy, identify gaps in

the community, and prioritize projects to implement the vision. Those who were not able to attend the forums were able to offer input through interactive web surveys after each forum. A citizen taskforce under the guidance of Jones & Jones, Architects transformed the Vision for Lake Forest Park into the *Green Infrastructure* Plan.

The Green Infrastructure Plan provides the City with guidelines and direction for purchasing and preserving property, accepting donations, and seeking funding. It enables the City to be able to focus on relevant opportunities and priorities.

### ***The Priorities***

The City was divided into 6 sub basins: upper, middle and lower McAleer and Lyon Creek basins. The public identified projects for each of the sub basins and later prioritized projects to be developed within a six or twenty- year time frame. Twelve projects, two within each sub basin, are on the six-year priority list with another twelve for the next twenty years.

### ***Implementation***

Making the Legacy Vision a reality is a comprehensive and multifaceted endeavor. It requires the support of the public, elected officials and city staff to approach future development and preservation within the context of a city green infrastructure. It includes for example, opening public Rights of Ways for trails, acquiring land for open space and recreation, new zoning, and coordinating with public utilities, and planning for traffic safety in conjunction with green streets. Some of these activities will occur in the near future and others implemented over time. Lake Forest Park citizens have provided their input for six-year project priorities. The plan will be updated after six years and the public will be invited to participate in the process again.

### ***The Projects***

#### **Early Action Projects- Six Years**

- A. Lower Lyon Sub-basin
  - 1. Towne Centre
  - 2. Tolt Pipeline Trail
  
- B. Mid Lyon Sub-basin
  - 1. McKinnon Creekway
  - 2. West Fort Confluence
  
- C. Upper Lyon Sub-basin
  - 1. Orchard Park
  - 2. Aldercrest Gateway

- D. Upper McAleer Sub-basin
  - 1. Greening Perkins Way
  - 2. Greening 178<sup>th</sup> Street
  
- E. Mid-McAleer Sub-basin
  - 1. Growing Grace Cole Nature Area
  - 2. Greening 158<sup>th</sup> Street
  
- F. Lower McAleer Sub-basin
  - 1. Greening The Lakeway
  - 2. McAleer Creek Delta

**Long Term Projects- Twenty Years**

- A. Lower Lyon Sub-basin
  - 1. Lyon Creek Delta
  - 2. Kenmore Gateway
  
- B. Mid Lyon Sub-basin
  - 1. Reservoir Lid Park
  - 2. Greening Lake Forest Park Elementary School
  
- C. Upper Lyon Sub-basin
  - 1. Greening 197<sup>th</sup> Street
  - 2. Blossom Lane Gateway
  
- D. Upper McAleer Sub-basin
  - 1. Whisper Confluence
  - 2. Cedarbrook Gateway
  
- E. Mid-McAleer Sub-basin
  - 1. Greening 33<sup>rd</sup> Ave. NE
  - 2. Greening Brookside School
  
- F. Lower McAleer Sub-basin
  - 1. Seattle Gateway
  - 2. Greening Acacia Park

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