

# Puget Creek RESTORATION SOCIETY

September – October 2007

## Boardwalk plans moving forward

### Fun Events

**2nd Saturday Every Mo.**

**9:00 a.m. to 12 noon**

#### **Puget Creek Restoration Work**

Meet at 3505 North Alder Way, in Tacoma

Parking along Ruston Way and Alder Way. Walk 1/2 blocks on Alder Way until you reach the entrance to Puget Park.

We provide refreshments, work boots, and gloves

#### **Puget Creek Neighborhood Nature Walk**

**September 9, 2007**

**9:00 to 11:00 a.m.**

Our habitat ecologist will point out interesting and fun facts about the watershed and its wildlife.

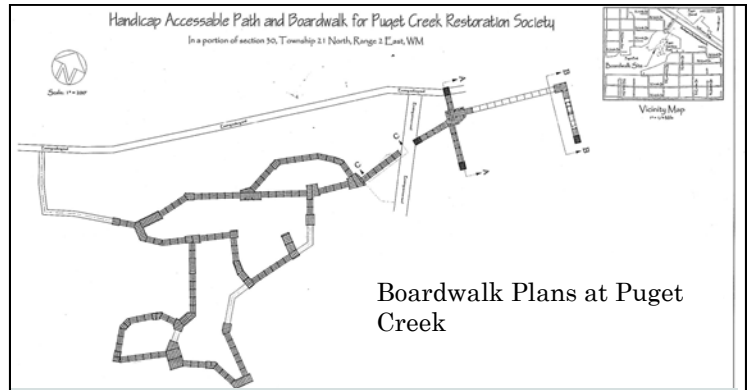
Refreshments provided by Starbucks and Safeway for this free event.

The Puget Creek watershed is a 66-acre natural area in Tacoma's North End and one of only three salmon-bearing streams within the city limits.

The City of Tacoma's Ruston Way trail is a component of the Puget Creek Trail that winds through the Puget Creek Watershed and connects with the Northend community and the Scott Pierson trail.

Along Puget Creek, a 5-acre wetland is utilized by numerous mammals, birds, amphibians and other wildlife. A public trail alongside Puget Creek is used by many and there is a public picnic area that allows citizens a chance to see the Coho and Chum salmon and cutthroat trout in the Creek.

Because of the surrounding urban environment and public use, this habitat has been degraded for over forty years.



Boardwalk Plans at Puget Creek

**Help raise the boardwalk - donate today!**

A habitat and people-friendly boardwalk will protect the riparian area and provide access for all individuals. Interpretative signs along the boardwalk will help educate park users and increase awareness as to the importance of urban streams to the nearshore and endangered species needs.

Community members will assist in building the boardwalk and planting native vegetation.

We plan to host a "Beers for the Boardwalk" event to raise money at Harmon Brewery. This event is tentative, so check our website for information.

Almost \$100,000 has been earmarked for this project through grants and in-kind donations.

**We wish to thank our project supporters:** National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Pierce County, City of Tacoma, Metro Parks, and Bates Technical College, and Helge Dordal.

**We still need your help to complete this project. Use page 4 of this newsletter to send in your donation today.**

**Thank you!**

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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### Protecting, enhancing, and restoring the Puget Creek Watershed

Serving the South Puget Sound communities through hands-on restoration, research, education, and advocacy, and promoting good stewardship.



**702 Broadway Suite 101  
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Website: www.pugetcreek.org**

## Trees provide more than shade

Trees provide many benefits to the community. An article in the Seattle Daily Journal of Commerce (DJC), Landscape Northwest stated, "Open vegetated areas and trees planted along streets can save billions of dollars by providing free ecological services, such as flood control, storm water management, and air and water quality improvement. Taxpayers also lose the economic benefits when trees are taken down. Retaining trees has significant benefits to fish and wildlife habitat, but the prime beneficiary is the property owner who can see an increase in his or her property value. A single, mature tree can account for a minimum of \$10,000 on the resale value of a home. Research indicates that homebuyers will pay more for homes with mature trees, open spaces, and near green belts.

The DJC article also stated that open vegetated areas and trees planted along streets can save billions of dollars by providing free ecological services, such as flood control, storm water management, and air and water quality improvement.

From 1972 through 1996, local jurisdictions in Puget Sound have spent approximately \$2.4 billion constructing storm water facilities to handle the 1.2 billion cubic feet of water that was once taken up through trees and filtered into the ground water during a peak storm event. Trees could dramatically reduce storm-water infrastructure expenses.

We applaud the Council's efforts to better protect Critical Areas with the passage of Resolution 37070.

We have met with City staff and council members to ask the City to continue its progress in protecting Critical Areas by providing consistency in its regulation and policy updates underway now.

## Meet the new Treasurer

Gary Jones is our new Treasurer. Gary is a native of the Puget Sound region, and was born in Tacoma Washington.

While working a variety of part time and student jobs, he completed a Bachelor of Science degree at the University of Washington, majoring in psychology and natural sciences.

He is currently pursuing graduate study at The Evergreen State College in the Master of Environmental Studies program. His academic and scientific interests include mycological remediation of salmon spawning habitat and riparian zones, promoting ecological awareness through education and research, and integration of shamanic ways and practices in environmental studies and science.

He enjoys long walks in the rain forests of the Pacific northwest, mushroom with Swiss cheeseburgers, and



the color blue. He is an expert in field identification of local fungal species. In the near term, Gary plans to complete the MES program, relocate to southwest Alaska, and buy a small float plane.

### Calling Future Board Members!

Now is the time for you to sign up for next year's board positions. If you are interested, please contact us for an application. Board meetings are the third Monday of each month, 6:30 p.m. at 702 Broadway Suite 101, Tacoma.

## New staff member brings enthusiasm for program

As the newest addition to the staff at Puget Creek Restoration Society, I would like to introduce myself to you all. My name is Laura Willhoite and I will be the SYTI and Volunteer Coordinator for the year. In May of 2007, I graduated from Hamline University in St. Paul, Minnesota with a degree in Biology and Social Justice.

While I originally hail from the West Coast (Portland, OR) I have lived in Minnesota, just south of the Twin Cities, for most of my life. I grew up loving the outdoors and developed a strong respect for and desire to preserve the places that provided for my entertainment and education.

Growing up in Minnesota I spent my free time camping along the north shore of Lake Superior, hiking in the state parks, cross-country skiing around the lakes

and the summer at Star Lake Wilderness Camp north of Brainerd. I worked at camp for the past four summers with middle school and high school youth.

At Hamline University, I took classes in Ecology, Aquatic Biology and Species Invasion, among others. I worked at ACR Homes, a group home for adults with developmental disabilities, and was also a part of Students FOR Peace, an affiliate of the Fellowship of Reconciliation.

This year, I am a part of the Lutheran Volunteer Corps, which places volunteers in non-profit organizations throughout the country. While in LVC, I will be living in the community with five other volunteers in Tacoma. LVC is committed to simplicity, sustainability and social justice. Our house will be exploring these tenants throughout the year.

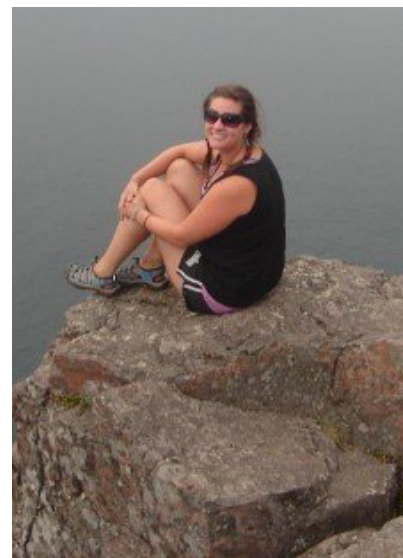
We are always looking for interns and volunteers at PCRS. So, if you know of anyone new or haven't been around in awhile yourself, give me a call!

Hope to meet you soon,

*Laura*

(253) 779-8890

[pugetcreeksyti@yahoo.com](mailto:pugetcreeksyti@yahoo.com)



**Laura enjoying the view on the north shore of Lake Superior.**

## Welcome new members and thanks to supporters!

After conducting neighborhood in the Puget Creek Watershed and business outreach this summer, we welcome some **new family and business members** to the PCRS: Gary Jones, Philip Ray, Ball Auto Sales and Service, Girl Talk A Nail Salon, Barbara Anderson, Alexander Ray, Chris and Nancy Meyer, Margulis, Luedtke and Ray -

Attorneys at Law, Summit Capital Advisors, Amy Ryken, Holly Senn, H. Lee, Paula Roussel, Neil Mullen, Yolanda Duralde, Hopper Construction, Stephanie Wilson, Rebecca Gooding, Jose Veliz III, Lynn Di Nino, Michelle Smith, and Alexis Juarez-Peltier.

**Thanks our supporters:** Hugh and Jane Ferguson Foundation,

REI, Puget Sound Flyfishers, McGavick Graves, Starbucks, The Russell Family Foundation, The Sequoia Foundation, Pierce County Conservation District, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, City of Tacoma, Pierce County, Student Environmental Grant Appropriations, and Tacoma Lumbermans.

# Join the Puget Creek Restoration Society

**Note: The PCRS is a 501c(3) organization and your dues are tax deductible.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

## Membership Dues - Please choose one:

\_\_\_\_\_ Business - \$50/year                      \_\_\_\_\_ Boardwalk donation

\_\_\_\_\_ Family - \$30/year

\_\_\_\_\_ Individual - \$20/year

\_\_\_\_\_ Work nine or more volunteer hours

\_\_\_\_\_ Other

Which of the following types of activities are you interested in? *Please check all that apply.*

\_\_\_\_\_ Office work                      \_\_\_\_\_ Research

\_\_\_\_\_ Restoration activities                      \_\_\_\_\_ Education/Outreach

\_\_\_\_\_ Legislative issues                      \_\_\_\_\_ Salmon enhancement projects



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