



CURRENTS

News from the City of Shoreline Volume 17 No. 2

March 2015

20 years as a City - Past to Present *Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services*

In the 20 years since Shoreline became a city, the changes we have seen in our parks and in recreation opportunities have been nothing short of astounding. Eleven years after incorporation, 70% of Shoreline voters approved an \$18.5 million dollar bond levy that changed the face of the City forever. As a result of community input, support, and partnership, Shoreline residents now enjoy sunsets from the bluff trail at beautiful Richmond Beach Saltwater Park, evening concerts at Cromwell Park's gazebo, and competitive games on turf fields.

Public access to open spaces grew through the acquisition of South Woods, Kruckeberg Botanic Garden, and additional property at Hamlin Park. The bond also helped to improve trails and walkways throughout Shoreline.

We now have three off-leash areas for dog owners and their canine friends, and Shoreline residents can garden in two City-owned community gardens. Over the last 20 years Shoreline's parks have become a destination for community gatherings, individual renewal, and recreation like never before.

Not to be outdone, Shoreline's recreation programs exploded on the scene with the renovation of Spartan Recreation Center, the Shoreline Pool, and Richmond Highlands Recreation Center. Now Shoreline offers a variety of year-round recreational opportunities for adults, teens, children, and people with disabilities. For example, the Million Stair Challenge at Richmond Beach Saltwater Park encourages physical activity and community building each June; Indoor Playground provides a place for toddlers to play and socialize during the school year; and Tween Night welcomes upwards of 150 5th and 6th graders to the Richmond Highlands Recreation Center on the second Saturday of every month. Shoreline's Choices program provides camp and recreation opportunities to residents with disabilities and Camp Shoreline has expanded over the years to include holiday breaks and Counselor-in-Training programs.



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CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS:
Mondays at 7:00 p.m.
Shoreline City Hall, Council Chamber
Agendas: shorelinewa.gov/councilmeetings

Mayor and City Manager meet with Federal representatives

In February, Mayor Shari Winstead, City Manager Debbie Tarry, and Intergovernmental Relations Manager Scott MacColl traveled to Washington D.C. to meet with Shoreline's federal delegation and their staff. These meetings provide an opportunity for our representatives to hear first-hand about the City's priorities, needs, and concerns in relation to federal policies and funding.

In the past, our relationship with federal legislators has been instrumental in securing over tens of millions of dollars in federal, state, and regional grants. As long as there is an opportunity to bring Shoreline taxpayers' money back to Shoreline, these legislative trips will continue to be important.

On the most recent trip, the Mayor and City Manager emphasized transportation funding, particularly around the SR 523/145th Street Corridor project. A strong federal-local partnership is required for the City to fulfill its long-term vision for creating transit-oriented communities around our light rail stations. In eight short years, Shoreline residents will be boarding light rail trains at the NE 145th and 185th Street stations. To make transit oriented developments a reality, the City will likely need to take ownership of and reconfigure 145th Street. Planning for future growth means that the City will need to work with the City of Seattle and North City Water District to develop adequate utility capacity. The City will need federal, state, and regional financial support to make it possible.

Economic Development update

In 2014, the City experienced robust investment, with permit revenues being the second highest in the City's history. Only 2007 saw more activity. By volume, the majority of applications were submitted by over 200 homeowners investing in remodels and additions to their homes, with almost 60 more new structure applications received.

The most celebrated retail application is for Shoreline Marketplace, the former Haggens on 175th and Midvale. Trader Joe's will be the anchor tenant this fall, flanked by yet to be announced tenants on either side. Applications were also received for a remodel of the Costco fuel station, the Salvation Army Family Store (now open), an addition to the Public Storage on Aurora, and for the new Elks Lodge #1800 on 15th Avenue NE. A handful of restaurants also plan to open for business in Shoreline in 2015, and WSDOT's new traffic center is nearing completion in the northwest corner of Aurora Square.

The Shops at Richmond Beach completed a major remodel in 2014. In addition to welcoming the Greek Kitchen as a new tenant; the long-time family owners promise a major announcement in early 2015 for the large retail/office space adjacent to QFC.

Investment is transforming the south end of Shoreline's Town Center at 170th and Aurora. Bethany North moved its church offices and One Cup Coffee into the former windowless Sugars nightclub building, which it has christened The Junction. To the north is the new Chuck Olson KIA dealership, to the south is the new ICHS medical facility, and to the east construction is commencing on a multifamily housing project.

Fueled by demographic shifts, multifamily projects are hot in Shoreline, just as they are throughout the region. Just over 1,000 multifamily units are being considered in Shoreline in the next few years. Most intriguing are two applications which would add nearly 500 units to Aurora Square. These projects represent approximately \$80 million in investment in Shoreline and add enough residents to Aurora Square to redefine the 1967 auto-oriented Sears center into a 21st century lifestyle hub that the entire city can enjoy, as envisioned in the Aurora Square Community Renewal Plan, which can be found at shorelinewa.gov/aurorasquare.

Free workshops for your home improvement projects

Tuesday, March 31 and Tuesday, April 28
6:00 to 8:00 p.m., City Hall lobby

Home improvement season is coming! Do you have a home improvement project in mind, but need some guidance to get started? Is it a house remodel, subdivision of property, driveway, drainage, deck, or a tree project? Our workshops can help you take the next steps.

Technical reviewers will be available to help with questions regarding your house, property, land uses, and street as well as City requirements and permit information. Visit shorelinewa.gov/homeimprovement to make an appointment with a technical reviewer.

There will also be a local designer, Master Gardener, energy auditor, material supplier, home loan agent, and a grant funding program representative for residential drainage improvements available to answer questions. (You do not need to reserve a time slot to come in and talk with any of these consultants).

Questions? Contact Permit Services Manager Jarrod Lewis at jlewis@shorelinewa.gov or (206) 801-2521.



EARTH HOUR

Since 2007, World Wildlife Fund's Earth Hour event has inspired individuals, communities, and businesses around the world to turn off their lights for one hour. The hour encourages communities to share the opportunities and challenges in creating a sustainable world.

Every year, more than 7,000 cities and towns across the world participate, including Shoreline.

Again this year, all non-essential City Hall lights will be turned off during Earth Hour. We invite all Shoreline residents and businesses to join us and turn off lights between 8:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 28.



EARTH HOUR

MARCH 28 - 8:30 PM

Aurora Corridor Construction Update

N 200th Street (east of Aurora)

Utility installation work began last month and will continue into this month. This includes trenching on N 200th Street and vault installation on the south side of the street. When this work is finished, the one-way, one-lane traffic heading east will shift to the south side of the street so work can begin on the structural sidewalk.

What is the structural sidewalk?

On the surface, it will look like any other sidewalk. But it will be constructed a bit like a bridge, as the sidewalk will be supported by columns and girders over the edge of the existing embankment. The construction will require drill rigs and column construction and setting of precast girders.

Aurora Avenue

After Seattle City Light has completed its conversion from aerial to underground power lines, the traffic flow will shift from the east side to the west side of Aurora. The shift will occur in late March or early April.

QUESTIONS DURING CONSTRUCTION?

Aurora 24-hour hotline:
(206) 801-2485

Email the Aurora team:
aurora@shorelinewa.gov

Read the latest news and construction updates:
shorelinewa.gov/aurora



BEFORE



Interurban Trail



Saltwater Park Upper Terrace



Twin Ponds Community Garden

AFTER



Interurban Trail

Parks and Recreation celebrate 20 years of progress continued from page 1

The addition of program staff made adult programming possible with such things as Shoreline Walks and a variety of trips and hikes that connect adults to one another and encourage an active lifestyle.

Finally, Shoreline's 1% for the arts program has made community favorites possible, like the placement of artistically enhanced pianos in public spaces during Piano Time, and the Sculpture Stroll along the Interurban Trail. Shoreline now has a permanent art collection of more than 25 works, including sculptures, artistically enhanced architectural structures, murals, banners, and other pieces that lend beauty to the City and encourage community engagement.

We are stronger and more effective when we work together. The City's Parks Department has established valuable partnerships with multiple community organizations, such as the Shoreline-Lake Forest Park Arts Council, Shoreline Historical Museum, the Kruckeberg Garden Foundation, Shoreline School District, and Shoreline Community College. These partnerships enable us to use taxpayer money more efficiently by offering Shoreline residents many more options at lower cost than we could on our own.

As Shoreline has moved from adolescence into adulthood, we're looking forward to what we can continue to do together as we listen, plan, work, and grow.



Saltwater Park Upper Terrace



Twin Ponds Community Garden



Changes to Metro fares now in effect

The King County Council approved Metro fare changes that took effect March 1, 2015. The following changes will be made:

- Fares increased by 25¢ per trip in all current Metro fare categories — adults, youth, seniors and people with disabilities — for all regularly scheduled transit services.
- The fare increased by 50¢ per trip for Access paratransit service, which serves people with disabilities who can't use regular bus service.
- Metro now offers the new ORCA LIFT reduced fare of \$1.50 per trip for qualifying riders.

The fare changes are intended to strike a balance between generating revenue that will support Metro service and keeping bus trips affordable for people with low incomes. Fares are the second-largest source of revenue for Metro, after sales tax. Metro fares were last changed in 2011. Visit metro.kingcounty.gov for more information.

How the ORCA LIFT Reduced Fare Program works

The ORCA LIFT program provides a reduced transit fare for qualified individuals whose household income is below 200 percent of the federal poverty level (as established by the U.S. Health and Human Services Department). The reduced fare must be paid with a valid ORCA LIFT card, which is registered and issued to each individual user and is good for 24 months. Currently Metro Transit, King County Water Taxi, Kitsap Transit, Seattle Streetcar, and Sound Transit Link light rail offer a lower fare to those holding an ORCA LIFT card.

Metro's other programs that provide reduced fares will continue. These are the Human Services Ticket Program, Taxi Scrip Program, and Regional Reduced Fare Permit (RRFP) program for seniors and people with disabilities and the reduced fare for youth.

2015 Fare Changes

Category	Old Fare	New Fare	Difference
Adult 1-zone Peak	\$2.50	\$2.75	+\$0.25
Adult 2-zone Peak	\$3.00	\$3.25	+\$0.25
Adult Off-Peak	\$2.25	\$2.50	+\$0.25
ORCA LIFT Reduced Fare*	NA	\$1.50	NA
Youth	\$1.25	\$1.50	+\$0.25
Senior/Disabled	\$0.75	\$1.00	+\$0.25
Access Paratransit	\$1.25	\$1.75	+\$0.50

*Eligibility required

DID YOU KNOW?

The average American home uses 25 gallons of hazardous chemicals annually, mostly in the form of cleaning products. It's time for some spring cleaning! Throughout the year, items can be taken to North Seattle Hazardous Waste Facility for safe disposal. More information is available by calling (206) 296-4692 or visiting HazWasteHelp.org. Learn how to replace them with low-cost, toxic-free cleaning recipes at shorelinewa.gov/greencleaning.

Seattle City Light surcharge for undergrounding

On April 1, Seattle City Light (SCL) will begin charging Shoreline ratepayers a surcharge for undergrounding utilities on the final phase of the Aurora Corridor Improvement Project. The average residential customer can expect an increase of about 0.6%.

The City's franchise agreement with SCL allows the City to ask SCL to "underground" existing electrical systems. SCL pays for construction of the improvements, then incorporates the cost into the City's electric rates, usually over 25 years.

For more information, contact Management Analyst Alex Herzog at aherzog@shorelinewa.gov or (206) 801-2216.

Answers to frequently asked questions about light rail station areas

Over the past year and a half, we have answered many questions about the 185th and 145th station area subareas. Below are brief answers to some of the most frequently asked questions. For more in depth answers to these questions, and others, visit shorelinewa.gov/lightrail.

What will happen to my property values?

Research has shown that property values generally increase, particularly when coupled with increases in zoning, for those properties within a half mile of a station.

Based on the research, it would be reasonable to assume a potential property value increase ranging from five to ten percent for properties located within one-half mile of the new light rail stations in Shoreline. This would represent a one-time increase in values associated with a new transit station, and would capture the benefit of changes in zoning and other City implementation actions to encourage Transit Oriented Development (TOD) projects.

Will my property taxes go up?

Because of constitutional and statutory limits on the amount property taxes can increase, such as the 1% limit, it is safe to assume that an increase in property values and assessed values will not automatically lead to an equivalent increase in property taxes. While increased density and proximity to light rail has the potential of increasing property values five to ten percent for properties located within one-half mile of the stations, the slow rate at which property taxes can increase most likely means that the property taxes on those properties will not increase at the same rate. In other words, an increase in property values does not result in a proportional increase in property taxes (e.g., a five percent increase in property value leading to a five percent increase in property taxes).

Will I be able to sell my home? Will people be able to obtain mortgages to purchase single-family homes in the up-zoned areas?

By increasing density around the light rail stations, the City believes, and research backs this up, that the land surrounding the stations areas will become more desirable. While some people would not like to live near light rail stations, others would. Those wishing to move out of the area will most likely find willing buyers.

The City has spoken with mortgage experts and bankers, and all of them have stated that the proposed zoning changes would not prevent someone from being able to obtain a mortgage to purchase a single-family home in the

station areas if they wished. The concern arose because of previous discussions about single-family homes being non-conforming in some of the up-zoned areas.

The mortgage providers have stated that one of the primary considerations when determining the type of financing a buyer can get is the economic life of the property. Usually, lenders look at the "current highest and best use" to determine the economic life of a property. What the neighborhood looks like is more important than the zoning. If the neighborhood is primarily detached single-family homes, then, regardless of the zoning, a qualified buyer should expect to get a conventional residential loan. If a significant part of the neighborhood has converted to multi-family buildings (such as in a higher density zoned area) then someone who wants to purchase a remaining detached single family home to use for that purpose may have to consider a shorter term loan or other financing mechanism.

The City has, and will continue to upon request, provide lending institutions with letters clarifying zoning regulations in the City. What this means is that if a bank wants stronger assurance of what the City allows in an up-zoned area, the City can provide the bank with a letter stating that the single-family home is a permitted use, or that non-conforming (grandfathered) regulations allow such a use or rebuild, or even expansion.

Why does the zoning around light rail need to be so intensive?

The Puget Sound region is growing. The Growth Management Act (GMA), adopted in 1990, keeps growth to urban and developed areas, preventing it from sprawling into our valuable natural areas. As a result, already established urban areas will need to absorb the growth. This includes Shoreline.

Shoreline is a first tier suburb located within 25 miles of major job centers north, south, and east. With the addition of light rail, Shoreline will become an even more desirable place to live. The question is whether to allow the growth to occur haphazardly throughout the City, or to plan for it and focus it in those areas that make sense, such as around transit corridors. Concentrating growth around transit hubs will allow the City to better plan for and serve the growing population, it will help reduce Shoreline's greenhouse gas emissions, it will increase the likelihood of more amenities coming to Shoreline, and it will allow for more housing choices over time.

Visit shorelinewa.gov/lightrail for more information

Will the City force me to sell my home? Will the City take my property through eminent domain?

The answer is no to both questions. The City is not in the development business and will not be taking any property as a result of the rezone. Any development that occurs will be the result of a private developer purchasing property from a willing seller. If you want to sell your property, you can. If you do not wish to sell your property, you do not have to. If no one sells their property, then nothing will be built and the station areas will basically remain as they are today.

Why such a rush to do this now when light rail will not be here for another eight years?

While it is true that light rail will not start running for another eight years, we want to be sure we are ready for it when it does. The City will need to make infrastructure improvements to accommodate new development, even with limited increases in density. Making such improvements will take time to plan and construct. We also need to conduct traffic corridor studies to find the best ways to accommodate increased traffic from development. These will take money. Grant funding paid for approximately 88% of the entire Aurora Corridor Project. In order to be competitive for grants to make improvements around the station areas in the coming years, we need to have plans in place now. Most of all, the City desires to provide predictability for current property owners.



Echo Lake Park improvements

Echo Lake Park improvements ribbon cutting

Saturday, March 21, 10:00 a.m.

Echo Lake Park, 1521 N 200th Street

Echo Lake Park is looking good, and will be ready for a grand opening this spring. Join the Echo Lake Neighborhood Association, City Council, and City staff for a ribbon cutting ceremony.

Before the opening, City staff will work with the project team to restore the open lawn area that was modified to allow for better drainage of the compacted soils due to construction activities that disrupted natural drainage. The new Echo Lake Park is a great improvement and we look forward to the dedication ceremony.

If you have questions, please contact Park Project Coordinator Maureen Colaizzi at mcolaizzi@shoreline.gov or (206) 801-2603.

Safely dispose of your household hazardous waste

Household Hazardous Wastemobile Event

Saturday, March 21, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Sears Rear Parking Lot, 15711 Aurora Avenue N

Shoreline residents will have the opportunity to safely dispose of a variety of hazardous chemicals at a City-sponsored Wastemobile event. Household cleaners, pesticides, and automobile products, among other items will be accepted at no cost.

Event flyers with additional details of what is and isn't accepted will be mailed to all residents. Bring the event flyer or your driver's license with a Shoreline address as proof of residence.

Shoreline's Wastemobile Event is sponsored in cooperation with the Department of Ecology and the King County Local Hazardous Waste Management Program. For more information, contact the Shoreline Customer Response Team at (206) 801-2700.

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**CITY OF SHORELINE
CURRENTS**

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starting March 9th!**

Monday/Wednesday,
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*Lessons options for all ages from
infants to adults*

More info and registration:
(206) 801-2650
shorelinewa.gov/pool
shorelinewa.gov/registration

(206) 801-2700 Customer Response Team 24 hours/7 days a week
(206) 801-2485 Aurora Construction Hotline 24 hours/7 days a week

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