

Magnuson Park Site 1941



## Warren G. Magnuson Park

In 1855 what is now Magnuson Park was covered by six foot diameter trees and rich wetlands. However by the mid-twentieth century the wetlands had been filled in, high spots leveled, and the south end strip mined. The present park area was mostly denuded and covered by aircraft runways and tarmac.

Transformation to a park began in the 1970's and careful restoration planting projects began in 1997.

Walks described in this brochure are offered as part of the park's 2014 International Bird Migration Day celebration. They provide opportunity to view past and ongoing ecological restoration progress and to learn about and compare various models and methods which have been used for accomplishing it at Magnuson.

Sand Point Head North Slope and North Wetland November 2012



Sand Point Head North Slope and North Wetland February 2014



Two different lectures celebrating international bird migration day will be available at the walk starting point between walks. Lecture will start at 11:30 AM and 1:00 PM. Over 170 bird species have been observed in this park.

# Restoration Walks 2014



## Magnuson Park Restoration Walks

Saturday May 10  
9:30 AM and 2:15 PM  
Magnuson Community Center Building 47  
7011 62<sup>nd</sup> Ave. NE

Magnuson  
Environmental  
Stewardship  
Alliance



Society for Ecological Restoration  
Northwest Chapter

# Magnuson Park Restoration Progress

Air station use ended in the 1970's. By the end of the 1980's soil dredged from Lake Washington and excavated from elsewhere in the region had been used to cover piles of runway rubble and to create new contours on the Sand Point peninsula. After that bird and wind borne vegetation took root. Some was of desirable native species and much was of ecologically undesirable exotic species.

Significant ecological restoration projects began in 1997. Since then thousands of people and many entities have worked and contributed to improve habitat and restore vegetation in the park. This has occurred on scales ranging from individual stewardship on small sites on up to carefully engineered and professionally installed large scale projects. Although the multi-million dollar 2009 Wetland, Sports Field, and Drainage project is best known, these walks will focus on other less well known projects, including early projects which are now seventeen years old.

These walks are being coordinated with the Park's celebration of International Bird Migration Day and walk participants may want to attend lectures on birds which will be held near the starting point after the first walk ends and before the second walk begins.

Each walk approximately an hour and a half and cover approximately three miles at a good pace between stops. The morning walk will cover sites near Sand Point Head (also know as Kite Hill) including the 2012 North Wetland project, the 1997 Starflower site, UW Restoration Ecology Network projects, other upland restoration sites, and the 2011 Shore Pond Project. The afternoon walk in the south end of the park will include the North Woodland, the 2013 Headwaters project, and projects and restoration work in the Promontory Point section initiated since 1997. Each walk will also skirt edges of the large and well known Wetland, Sports Field, and Drainage project completed in 2009.

**Morning walk sign up is at: <http://seattle.cedar.greencitypartnerships.org/event/5093/> Afternoon walk sign up is at: <http://seattle.cedar.greencitypartnerships.org/event/5094/>**



Photo to left:  
Previously strip mined site in the  
Promontory Point Section of the Park

Untitled photo on title page: North  
Woodland, formerly near 100% invasive  
covered

## Restoration Walk Areas of Interest:

- 1) Sand Point Head including UW Restoration Ecology Network sites, the 1997 Starflower site, the 2013 North Wetland, and other forest restoration sites
- 2) 2011 Shore Ponds Project
- 3) North Woodland and Promontory Point restoration sites from 1997 onward
- 4) 2013 Headwaters project
- 5) Contrasting project scales, habitat types, and methods of accomplishing work
- 6) Wildlife and vegetation observations along the routes

Restoration walks to be guided by Tom Kelly, Chair Magnuson Environmental Stewardship Alliance and Green Seattle Partnership Forest Steward ([sandpointforestry@hotmail.com](mailto:sandpointforestry@hotmail.com))

Photo & Map Credits: Tom Kelly

Restoration Walks is an initiative launched to celebrate SERNW's 20th Anniversary across the Cascadia bioregion. To register an event or for a list of Restoration Walks across the Northwest, see [sernw.org](http://sernw.org)

