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VISIT OUR WEBSITE [www.groundswellnw.org](http://www.groundswellnw.org)

# GROUNDSWELL NW

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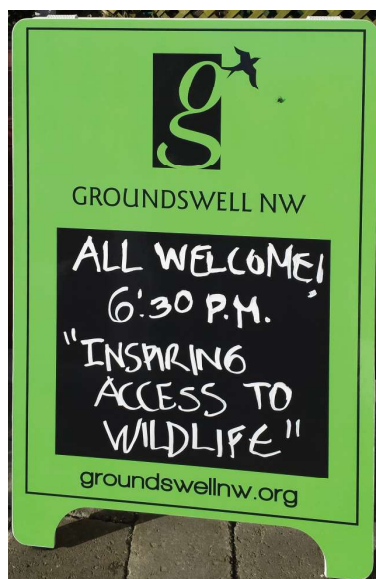


## JOIN IN ON MORE GROUNDSWELL NW FUN!

Looking for a weekend volunteer opportunity at a NW Seattle project or event? Does your teenager need high school service hours?

Sign up for the Groundswell NW monthly newsletter to receive regular event updates:

[groundswellnw.org](http://groundswellnw.org)



## GROUNDSWELL NW MICROGRANTS

Need a bit of 'SEED' money to get your neighborhood project off to a FLYING START? Or perhaps your NW Seattle school green team needs tools for a new project. These small start up projects are the backbone of our communities & **Groundswell NW wants to help**. Check out our simple, streamlined seed money application at: [www.groundswellnw.org/microgrants](http://www.groundswellnw.org/microgrants)



# GROUNDSWELL NW 2020 PROGRESS REPORT



## SALMON BAY PARK ACTIVATION

by Sylvia Koodrich and Katie Roberts

Under the mentorship of Groundswell Northwest's Dawn Hemminger, Salmon Bay Park Stewards (SBPS) was founded in March 2018 by two local Moms--Katie Roberts and Sylvia Koodrich. The group's goals were to activate and care for Salmon Bay Park, located in the heart of Ballard's Loyal Heights neighborhood. Over the past two years, SBPS has hosted two community picnics, two outdoor movie nights, a concert in the park, two Halloween celebrations, two garden work parties, a Winter Lights event, two block watch and safety meetings, two disaster preparedness lectures. All of the group's events are free and open to the public. The group has also lobbied for park and playground improvements, including mobilizing voters for the 2018 Your Voice, Your Choice! competition which resulted in the installment of two additional park benches. In 2019, SBPS hosted Salmon Bay Bark, our inaugural event for pet lovers, in partnership with local businesses 'All the Best Pet Care' and 'Downtown Dog Lounge.' 'Dog Gone Seattle' also joined in an effort to educate the neighborhood on pathways to pet adoption.

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## POSTCARDS FROM GEMENSKAP\* PARK

by Dawn Hemminger

*\*Gemenskap, pronounced Yuh-MEN-skawp, is the Swedish word for community.*

This past November marked the 2nd annual Fall Festival in Gemenskap Park, complete with a people and pet costume parade, pumpkin patch, pumpkin decorating, story telling, a Dia de Muertos altar, crafts, lawn games, and lots of neighbors spending the day together. A community park, true to its name\*.

This lively park, which used to be a parking median and street right-of-way, has been transformed in just one year of construction, into a daily congregation space for neighbors and their pets to play. The small hills are covered with kids rolling down in the summer and sledding in the winter. It's become a place where Girls Scouts paint colorful canvases on the lawn to earn their art badge, where games of bocce ball and corn hole are casually played, and blankets are laid out for picnics, reading, and napping in the summer sun.

We've come a long way from that cold winter's night January 24, 2012 when the East Ballard community came together in St. Alphonsus School Cafeteria with Seattle Parks, Mithun, and Fehr & Peers to give feedback on 3 design concepts for a 2 block linear park along 14th Ave NW. We were already 7 years into this process and 6 years from completion of our park. At the end of this meeting, we were each handed a blank post-

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GEMENSKAP PARK  
(Photo by Chris Hemminger)



## SALMON BAY PARK ACTIVATION

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With each event, we see new neighbors pitching in to lend a hand and our online community has grown to include nearly 300 monthly newsletter subscribers and more than 100 followers each on both our Instagram and Facebook accounts. Thanks to **GNW's initial micro-grant and ongoing mentorship**, SPBS has been able to not only get off the ground, but continuously improve and expand our work in partnership with a generous and active community.

## BALLARD P-PATCH OPEN SPACE

by Renee Dagseth

The land on which the Ballard P-Patch has existed for over forty years (Northwest 85th Street and 25th Avenue Northwest) is at risk of being sold and developed into an alternate use in the near future. The Ballard P-Patch provides many benefits to our neighbors and Groundswell NW supports the Ballard P-Patch as important open space:



(Logo: ballardppatch.org)

- Green space for community gardens, community gatherings and educational programs.
- 1,300 pounds of organic produce donated each year to the Ballard Food Bank.
- Access to 90+ families, including low income, seniors, renters, differently-abled.
- An Emergency Preparedness Hub.

Yet there is still potential for the P-Patch to be so much more. For more information about helping visit [www.ballardppatch.org](http://www.ballardppatch.org) and come to the Groundswell NW community meeting in January 2020 to learn more about this effort.

### SEEKING GROUNDSWELL NW BOARD MEMBERS

Do you want to help make a difference in NW Seattle green spaces? Join the GNW board! We are a positive, committed group seeking ways to make NW Seattle a greener, more livable community. Contact us at: [groundswellnw@gmail.com](mailto:groundswellnw@gmail.com).

## POST CARDS FROM GEMENSKAP PARK

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card and were asked to write a note to a friend about life on 14th in the future. Recently, I re-read these postcards and was heartened by how prescient our neighbors were:

*"They took back part of the street and put in a park! It's like the reverse of that Joni Mitchell song!"*

*"Traffic is slow, there's bikes, kids, strollers, & dogs"*

*"Hey.. neat thing happened to me on my way home It took me an hour extra - I stopped to listen to some folks doing a jam session, and got caught up in a conversation with neighbors."*

*"Really great seeing/hearing neighbors and catching up - All on the way home from the store."*

And I was reminded that we have more work to do ...

*"I just wandered over to 14th Ave and they are finishing up the last block of the whole mile - it's fabulous! We can walk all the way down to the ship canal and stop for play time along the way!"*

It's been a thrill to see our park come to life and the great community that is building around it. We want to continue to host year round events and need your ideas, connections, and expertise to help us organize & to complete the full mile.

And most of all, come play with us in the park.

Reach out to us at: [eastballard@gmail.com](mailto:eastballard@gmail.com), [www.eastballard.org](http://www.eastballard.org), [www.facebook.com/eastballard/](https://www.facebook.com/eastballard/), [#eastballard](https://twitter.com/eastballard) and [#gemenskappark](https://twitter.com/gemenskappark).



GEMENSKAP PARK  
(Photo by Jan Satterthwaite)



**INCITE ACTION. CREATE COMMUNITY. CELEBRATE!**

**GUEST SPEAKER: COURTNEY SULLIVAN**  
National Wildlife Federation Senior Manager  
Regional Education Programs

**JANUARY 29, 2020 | 6:30 PM**

**PHINNEY RIDGE COMMUNITY CENTER**  
[brick building]  
6532 Phinney Ave N, Seattle, WA

Join us for a celebratory community meeting as we highlight Groundswell NW community partners and further explore how programs such as the National Wildlife Federation's Community Wildlife program can help turn the corner to a **healthier and vibrant community**.

After a short Groundswell business meeting, guest speaker **Courtney Sullivan** will share the National Wildlife Federation's (NWF) **Top 10 City for Wildlife** designation for Seattle. This designation recognizes cities that are not only taking direct action to help wildlife, but whose residents **are also creating wildlife habitat in their backyards, balconies, at schools and throughout their communities**. After our keynote speaker, we will recognize our local heroes with time to mix, mingle, enjoy refreshments and visit our community partners.

The Seattle region currently has a total of 974 Certified Wildlife Habitats. Sustainability plans such as the Seattle Climate Action Plan and the Seattle 2035 Comprehensive Plan seek to restore green spaces, creeks and urban areas. *"Seattle maintains over 6,400 acres of park lands, 2,500 of which are forested and undergoing intensive restoration efforts,"* (Seattle Parks.) With large, contiguous parks such as Discovery, Lincoln and Warren G. Magnuson Parks, as well as smaller gems distributed throughout the City, Seattle provides habitat for a wide variety of wildlife species. Being both an Urban Bird Treaty City and a Bee City, Seattle acknowledges the **value of wildlife and healthy habitats**, and is working to provide a safer home for wildlife through its policies and actions.



Courtney Sullivan (left) has been developing and managing programs that offer sustainable educational opportunities for communities for over twenty years. Courtney joined the National Wildlife Federation in April 2008, where she engages and develops community stewards and formal and non-formal educators, advocates for educational policies, and supports coalitions for sustainable environmental education and stewardship.

For more information visit: [www.nwf.org/Garden-for-Wildlife](http://www.nwf.org/Garden-for-Wildlife)