

Wilderness Property Owners'
Association

WPOA

SPRING 2025
NEWSLETTER &
MEETING NOTICE

SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING

May 13

6:30 PM

Fellowship Hall

Grace Community Covenant Church
5501 Wiggins Rd SE

AGENDA

- ✓ 2025 activities update
- ✓ Firewise 2025
Presentation

VOLUNTEER BOARD

OFFICERS

John Cusick
President

Brook Allan
Vice President

Ben Edwards
Treasurer

Albert Rios
Secretary

MEMBERS AT LARGE

Larry Rus
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Nick Quinn

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MESSAGE FROM THE WPOA PRESIDENT

As we all welcome spring's warmer weather, bird song, and vibrant colors, we offer a brief update on the activities of WPOA volunteers since our last newsletter. Once again, our activities have been primarily focused on maintaining and enhancing our greatest asset, the greenbelts and their forests, which make Wilderness the place many want to live. This includes developing a new forest management plan, and the arborists began their initial site review assessments just last week. Be sure to read the additional highlights below.

Our other focus has been on the boring administrative stuff that nobody really wants to do! Our most recent effort has been to secure written consent from members to receive meeting notices electronically, following up on the change made to our bylaws last year. Thank you to everyone who has provided their consent via "RabbitSign." If you haven't yet, please do sign the document that was emailed to you earlier this month to help reduce our mailing and printing costs.

Last fall, we hoped to find an alternative to QuickBooks desktop for our data and account management. Unfortunately, our evaluation of QuickBooks Online earlier this year only revealed the functionality we would lose. The Board has discussed at length and collectively agrees that we need to pursue external management of our data and accounting. This duty has become overwhelmingly complex and time-consuming. The Board is actively reviewing multiple community management companies that provide this service. This would most likely result in a step up in dues to cover these services.

TRAFFIC CALMING

Thurston County currently estimates construction of the approved speed humps will commence "late summer." This will now include an additional hump on Donnelly Drive between Canady Court and Wilderness Drive as the county determined there is adequate site distance at that location. You can see the original traffic calming proposal here:

<https://wildernesspropertyowners.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/wilderness-traffic-calming-proposal-2024.pdf>

The county is just wrapping up an earlier project and needs to look at its remaining budget to see what it can accomplish this year. They will, however, initiate construction this year and, if necessary, complete construction next summer.

GREENBELT MANAGEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

The greenbelt management team has been busy. We completed the ivy gapping in all 28 acres of our greenbelts. Ivy gapping removes the twining ivy growing up our greenbelt trees, which will help the trees to survive and thrive for years to come. We've also cleared and planted the LBA Woods Trailhead area at the top of Highline Dr. and Frontier Dr., and with the help of one of our talented homeowners, we'll have a new kiosk installed at that location soon, where we'll post information about the plantings and other community-related information. We've also been engaging with community partners to help us make our neighborhood safer in the event of a wildfire. These partnerships have saved the HOA nearly \$7000 by helping us remove fire danger in some of our greenbelt. We've also been awarded a \$4000 grant from the Firewise USA program and have used it to purchase 60 blue reflective "Speedy Spotter" signs for 60 lucky Wilderness homeowners. We hope to complete a similar purchase next year. Finally, we are happy to have engaged a local company to develop a 1, 3, and 10-year forest management plan to help us plan, budget, and better manage our greenbelts in a way that will be sustainable into the future.

STORMWATER DRAINS

All of the roads in our neighborhood have grated drains that help collect water from the roadways and carry it into stormwater drainage pipes. That water eventually makes its way to a nearby stormwater pond, where the water can slowly filter into the ground. Without these drains, our streets flood and become dangerous to navigate.

Please look around your street to see if you have one of these drains, and be sure to clear it of debris regularly so that water can be carried away safely.

And remember, these drains carry pollutants from our cars, fertilizers and pesticides from our lawns and gardens, fecal bacteria from our pets' waste, and more, which damages salmon habitat and can contaminate the groundwater we drink.



Clear Stormwater Drain



Blocked Stormwater Drain



Results of a Blocked Stormwater Drain

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INFORMATION

- EMAILS.** Please send us your email address to help reduce costs to the Association for mailings and ensure you receive messages from the WPOA Board. Send your email address to WildernessBoard@gmail.com.
- COMMUNITY FEEDBACK.** If you have feedback, the best way to reach the Board is via email at WildernessBoard@gmail.com. We welcome your ideas, thoughts, and suggestions.
- NEIGHBORHOOD AWARENESS.** As the days grow longer and more of us are walking our beautiful neighborhood, please watch for people, critters, and other cars as you drive through the area.

REMINDER

Per our ***Covenant B-2 Architectural Control***, if you are planning to make architectural changes to your property, you need to submit a form detailing the planned work so that the Committee can review the proposed changes prior to work beginning. Visit the **Resources** page on the website to download the form.

