



Northwest Trek  
Wildlife Park  
METRO PARKS TACOMA



**MAY 2018**

# We love our volunteers...



On Saturday, April 14, Northwest Trek staff came together to celebrate the impact that the volunteers have made within the community. Park staff served a delicious breakfast and heartfelt sentiments of love and appreciation to all the volunteers who attended the event. Those present received a mini terrarium and were also treated to a special behind-the-scenes tour of the new education office and the Animal Care Office and Veterinary Clinic.

The Staff at Northwest Trek wish to thank all the volunteers from the bottom of their hearts for going the extra mile to make Northwest Trek the amazing place that it is. You are truly appreciated!

## Special Points of Interest

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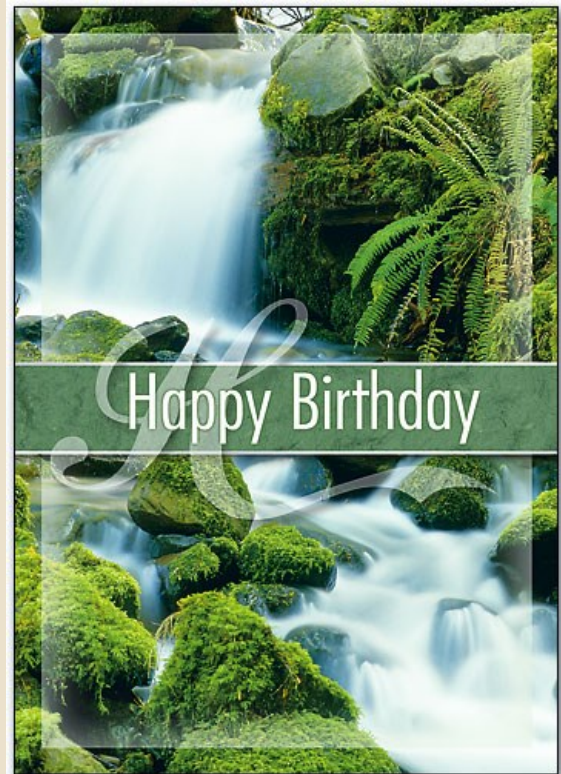
# "Print" NEWS...

A big thank you to the Camp Fire of Central Puget Sound volunteer group of 8 people. Together, they planted native plants and beautified around our new sustainable restrooms that collect rainwater to flush the toilets and solar power for all it electricity needs.



**ANGELA  
APONTE**

May 9th





## EAGLE PASSAGE

Eagle Passage, a home for several bald eagles that cannot be released to the wild, will open in Spring 2019. The magnificent wooded habitat will include towering evergreens amidst which the eagles might be viewed.

Beginning May 1, we will be asking our guests at the ticket windows to donate \$1 when they purchase their admission; make additional contributions if they are inclined; and put spare change in coin machines to help us bring bald eagles back to Northwest Trek Wildlife Park. These donations will help Northwest Trek build this world-class exhibit, which will engage our guests, tell the recovery story of this once-endangered species and help people learn how they can protect wildlife and wild places. The Northwest Trek Foundation is leading the fund-raising effort.

More information will be available at this link [nwtrek.org/eaglepassage](http://nwtrek.org/eaglepassage)





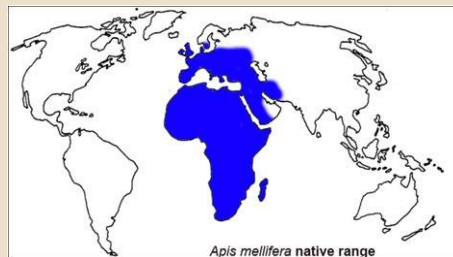
# Naturalist Now...

## The Mason Bees Are Coming:

By Jake Pool

Northwest Trek Horticulturist/ Arborist / Maintenance Lead

Pollinators need our help. Nearly 1/3rd of the worlds crops comes from pollinated sources. It would be a rough world indeed without these efficient powerhouses of pollination. Did you know that honey bees (*Apis mellifera*) are not actually native to the Americas? See the distribution map below (Alex Wild. Science-blogs.com. 2010).



We just don't rely on the honey bees for crops and wild plants to be pollinated. Diversity is the key in pollination. It turns out we have some native pollinators that are part of the needed pollination solution. Native Blue Orchard Mason Bees are docile solitary bees that can be easily raised and we can help them out. That is just 1 species out of 4,000 native bee species found in the United States or the 20,000 found worldwide.

As part of our conservation effort; we taught the public via hands on presentations during our first ever Spring Fling event. Invited guest speaker Mason Bee Mike was a rockstar. He sent people home with lots of love for mason bees and even houses and bees to get them started. Stations throughout the weekend were setup to have people make bamboo bee bundles and native seed soil bombs .

It doesn't just stop there. Coming soon to Trek is a "bug mansion" by picnic shelter , mason bee houses, and a "pollination station" demonstration area in wetlands exhibit complex. You will be able to see examples of what you can do at your own homes, business, and organizations.

Volunteers; like Sophia Fischer (pictured on next page), are hard at work to make it happen. Several mason bees houses have been constructed from left over construction materials and are already out with bees laying eggs in

their new homes. Much more to come as we work to educate the public in pollinator support. There is lots of simple actions we can all do in our everyday lives to make a difference. Check out some ideas below.



### **Here are seven ways to make your garden a haven for native pollinators**

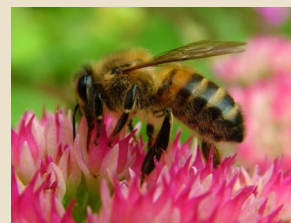
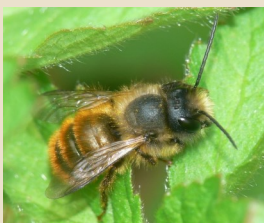
1. **Use pollinator-friendly plants** in your landscape. Shrubs and trees such as dogwood, blueberry, cherry, plum, willow, and poplar provide pollen or nectar, or both, early in spring when food is scarce.
2. **Choose a mixture of plants** for spring, summer, and fall. Different flower colors, shapes, and scents will attract a wide variety of pollinators. If you have limited space, you can plant flowers in containers on a patio, balcony, and even window boxes.
3. **Reduce or eliminate pesticide use** in your landscape, or incorporate plants that attract beneficial insects for pest control. If you use pesticides, use them sparingly and responsibly.
4. **Accept some plant damage** on plants meant to provide habitat for butterfly and moth larvae.
5. **Provide clean water** for pollinators with a shallow dish, bowl, or birdbath with half-submerged stones for perches.
6. **Leave dead tree trunks**, also called "snags," in your landscape for wood-nesting bees and beetles.
7. **Support land conservation** in your community by helping to create and maintain community gardens and green spaces to ensure that pollinators have appropriate habitat.

**Source: (NRCS: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/plantsanimals/pollinate/gardeners/>)**

To learn more:

- Xerces Society: <https://xerces.org/pollinator-resource-center/>
- Fish and Wildlife Service: <https://www.fws.gov/pollinators/pollinatorpages/yourhelp.html>
- TED Talk. Marla Spivak 2013: Why are the bees disappearing: [https://www.ted.com/talks/marla\\_spivak\\_why\\_bees\\_are\\_disappearing](https://www.ted.com/talks/marla_spivak_why_bees_are_disappearing)

Help spread the word and happy gardening!

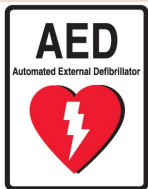


# Housekeeping...

## Park Hours

Monday to Friday - 8:30-4pm

Saturday to Sunday - 9:30-5pm



As a reminder, we have AED units in 3 locations. These are located in the front office, at the tram station, and in the free roaming area keeper truck.





# Upcoming Events...



Help Rainier AAZK help the Planet!  
Join us for an Earth Day Highway Litter Pick!

Meet us at Animal Ops @4pm on  
Wednesday April 25<sup>th</sup> and Thursday April 26<sup>th</sup>

All are welcome!



## May 19th

How cool is it to earn a Girl Scout badge while staring at a moose? With the park opening at 9:30 am and activities beginning at 11 am, Girl Scouts can explore habitats, discover animals like elk, beaver and bison, take a tram ride and do crafts and science, all while taking steps to earn badges. We will need extra education and special event volunteers for this event.

Shifts will be shown in Better Impact.

