



YOUR COMMENTS ON CITY'S REZONING PLAN CRITICAL TO FAUNTLEROY'S FUTURE

By FCA Vice President Catherine Bailey

Major changes in housing density proposed for the Fauntleroy neighborhood could significantly change the size and appearance of the type of housing to which we have become accustomed.

The changes are outlined in Mayor Bruce Harrell's One Seattle Plan. If enacted as proposed, they would revise existing zoning in the Endolyne and upper Fauntleroy neighborhoods to allow multifamily housing up to five stories on a single-family lot.



ONE SEATTLE PLAN

At our November business meeting, FCA Board members and concerned neighbors had an informative and spirited discussion about the proposed changes and generated

several ideas meant to inform others and encourage more residents to submit public comments.

The comment deadline for this phase of the plan is **Dec. 20**, and commenting couldn't be more important.

What the plan would mean for Fauntleroy

Endolyne and upper Fauntleroy are areas designated for change because they are close to commercial activity, near a central intersection, and near a transit stop. For example, each area is within a four-minute walk of a Rapid Ride C line stop and a business center. These areas are newly defined "Neighborhood Centers."

Boundaries of the Endolyne neighborhood center include homes south of Wildwood Place SW between 45th Ave. SW to Fauntleroy Way SW (east to west) and SW Roxbury to the south. It also includes homes to the east of Lincoln Park along Fauntleroy Way SW. East of the business district at 45th, properties along Brace Point Drive to California Ave. SW (just past the Fauntleroy Schoolhouse) would be impacted.

The area in the upper Fauntleroy neighborhood center would be bounded by 37th Ave. SW to the west, 32nd Ave. SW to the east, SW Roxbury to the south, and SW Henderson to the north.

Within each of these geographic areas, a current

single-family lot would be rezoned LR3 to accommodate at least four units. Off-street parking would not need to be included in new development.

Public concerns

Several Fauntleroy neighbors attended an open session on Nov. 6 at Madison Middle School hosted by the city's Office of Planning and Community Development (OPCD). We asked questions and brought the information we gained to the aforementioned FCA business in November.



Those present and on Zoom overwhelmingly gave the proposal a thumbs down. Concerns included not only the obvious increase in population density but also the certain loss of neighborhood character.

Additional negatives include more noise and traffic, less privacy, fewer places to park, fewer yards for play and respite, and loss of tree canopy. *continued p. 2)*

FAUNTLEROY CREEK WELCOMES RECORD NUMBER OF SPAWNERS

By Judy Pickens

The first coho spawners in modern history came into Fauntleroy Creek in 1994 and have come in nearly every fall since. This year was no exception- except...

On Oct. 13, a record number (100) of people participated in the annual drumming to call in spawners, after which a record number (27) of volunteers began watching daily for fish after high tide.

On Oct. 30, they began seeing spawners getting a taste of freshwater where the creek courses over the beach in Fauntleroy Cove. Starting Nov. 1, they began coming through the culvert under Fauntleroy Way SW to the spawning reach. After the count *(continued p. 2)*



Spawners put on quite a show as they queued in the surf en route to the spawning reach. Photo by Kevin Freitas

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REZONING (continued)

Residents who enjoy territorial or water views now would be at risk of losing them. All told, the value of surviving single-family homes would likely decline.

Concerns were also expressed about whether the city's infrastructure (e.g., water, sewer, electricity) could adequately handle such an increase in development and density. Representatives from Seattle Public Utilities were not present at the Nov. 6 public meeting, and we have no indication that staff people there have weighed in on the proposed zoning changes.

OPCD officials admitted that the Endolyne business district is one of the smallest such districts affected by the city's proposed changes. At just one and a half city blocks, it presently has low-rise shops and eateries, an office building, and apartment units. While the proposed changes would likely be a boon for commercial activity, challenges related to eventual development of multifamily homes above the current scale would likely follow.

Endolyne neighbors pointed out that the area has a long history of parking problems, including RPZ 3 parking restrictions that are not enforced. Problems caused by ferry traffic are also historic. Washington State Ferries predicts ferry traffic to increase to 1.9 million cars per year by 2040, up from 1.6 million in 2017.

The One Seattle Plan does not take into account that Seattle City Council ordinance (SMC 23.54.015) requires multi-family buildings within 1,320 feet of the ferry terminal to provide one off-street parking space per unit.

Why this plan now?

The One Seattle Plan was prompted by House Bill 1110, which the Legislature passed during its 2023 session. The legislation requires all cities in Washington to develop more housing to accommodate the current and expected need for middle-income homes.

During the same session, legislators also approved two companion bills to address regulation of accessory dwelling units (HB 1337) and the design review process (HB 1293). This package of legislation was intended to streamline the development of middle-income, multifamily housing all over in the state.

Because of expected continued population growth, Seattle is expecting continued pressure on available housing. We all know about the current housing crisis and it's expected to worsen. The question remains about how to retain quality of life in neighborhoods while increasing housing for all.

With the Dec. 20 deadline for comment on the One Seattle Plan fast approaching, please visit the OPCD website at <https://one-seattle-plan-zoning-implementation-seattlecitygis.hub.arcgis.com/>. It displays all of the maps cited in this article. It allows and encourages multiple comments or questions.

I cannot overemphasize how important your commenting is, whether pro or con. When the plan comes before the City Council in March, Councilmember Rob Saka must understand the views of his district's current residents, so I encourage you to send your comments to him as well at <https://seattle.gov/council/meet-the-council#sakasaka>.



David Oliver was among the veteran salmon watchers who introduced students from The Bridge School to habitat in the spawning reach. Photo by Tom Trulin

RECORD SPAWNERS (continued)

stood at 19 for a week, the Fauntleroy Watershed Council ended the watch.

Knowing that 12-foot and king tides were in the offing and that second waves of spawners had happened before, a couple of veteran watchers continued checking. And, my, were they rewarded!

On Nov. 14, spawners began streaming into the lower creek. When the watch ended for good about 10 days later, volunteers had tallied a record 338. Similarly high numbers came in 2012 (274), 2021 (244), and 2022 (254).

In 2022, monitors counted 11 coho smolts leaving the creek for two years in saltwater. That means only 11 of this year's spawners could have originated here. The rest were likely released as smolts by fish hatcheries.

The fish ranged from about two to seven pounds. Some were bright and vigorous and some were battered by hazards they had encountered in saltwater. Mark Sears checked drift logs on the beach daily to keep the route to freshwater open for them.

"They would have sniffed for clean water before coming in," said veteran watcher Dennis Hinton. "The fact that so many chose this creek is a testament to decades of attention by the community and agencies to improving water quality."

Because each new batch of fish dug up thousands of fertilized eggs left by earlier arrivals, what they told us about water quality is a greater benefit than how many "home hatch" result.

Assuming some eggs survive, tiny fry will emerge from their protective blanket of gravel mid winter and grow in the creek until leaving for saltwater in spring 2026.

Over the course of this long watch, volunteers hosted at least 400 visitors in the spawning reach. They included 154 during a public "open creek" before the second wave and student groups ranging from preschool to high school.

HAZELWOOD PRESCHOOL ADDING PROGRAM CAPACITY

Plumbing and other work is under way on the fourth floor of Fauntleroy Church to enable Hazelwood Preschool to increase its capacity to serve area families.

The non-profit school for ages two to five opened in 2022 with two classrooms on the building's terrace level and soon had a waiting list of parents wanting to enroll their children as full or half-day students.

Set to open in January, the additional space will be used for a third classroom for toddlers and an art room for all ages. The expansion will bump enrollment to 40. Staffing will increase accordingly to six full-time and five part-time teachers, as well as two full-time office staff.

Four programs for young children currently operate in the heart of

Fauntleroy: Hazelwood in the church plus the Fauntleroy Children's Center, Urban Nature Preschool, and Lincoln Park Co-Op Preschool in the schoolhouse. In addition, WorldKids School opened several months ago up the hill at 36th Ave. SW and SW Barton.

Why so many early-childhood programs here? Hazelwood Director Jessica Beckwith thinks multiple factors have been at play.

"More families are moving to the south end of West Seattle and to White Center because housing is more affordable than elsewhere.

"We decided that enrolling five more children would allow us to serve more families, keep class sizes low, and give our teachers the raises and health benefits they deserve."



Getting a new classroom and art room ready for students started with cutting into walls to add hand-washing sinks.

Photo courtesy Salish Plumbing

GREAT PUMPKIN SEARCH ANOTHER WINNER

Undeterred by blustery wind and pouring rain, several enthusiastic families came out on Oct. 27 for FCA's annual Great Pumpkin Search.

Hamish had recently immigrated to this country with his family and learned what fun Halloween can be when he won a prize in last year's search. He returned this year and searched a long time before proudly claiming the grand prize: an elegant pumpkin generously donated by Avalon Glassworks.

Over the course of the two-hour event in the Endolyne retail area, other searchers found nine lesser prizes and 200 real pumpkins. Many volunteers assisted Candace Blue and Scott Wiesemann in pulling off the event, which they hope to schedule earlier next year for better weather.



HELP GREEN LINCOLN PARK

Monthly work parties hosted by Friends of Lincoln Park will continue through the fall and winter, according to Lisa McGinty, long-time volunteer and organizer with the Green Seattle Partnership.

Dates are not yet on the calendar but she will be posting them at greenseattle.org/get-involved/volunteer/. Contact her directly at flip98136@gmail.com with questions or to discuss bringing a group.

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YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD MARKET & KITCHEN

SDOT FLOATS PLAN FOR BRACE POINT STREET END

By FCA President Mike Dey

Representatives of FCA and the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) met in October to discuss improvements where SW Brace Point Drive ends at the beach south of the ferry terminal. It is one of more than 140 such locations in SDOT's Shoreline Street Ends Program.

We invited community residents we thought would be most affected to attend an SDOT presentation and provide feedback on the draft plan.

SDOT began by outlining project objectives: to define public areas, improve habitat with native plants, and provide seating. Questions (*in italic*) and responses were as follows:

■ *Who would do the planting and install the log benches?*

Volunteers, hopefully from the community. (Someone suggested contacting local scouting groups.)

■ *What is SDOT's plan for maintaining landscaping and log benches?* SDOT does not have a maintenance plan.

■ *What if high or king tides damage the installation?* SDOT does not have a maintenance plan. It is counting on the community to use the Find-It, Fix-It app to report problems



that SDOT would then try to address by sending someone out.

■ *Would signage stop those launching at the street end from blocking garages? Would signage distinguish the street end from private beaches?* SDOT would provide signage showing street-end boundaries and would need to approve any additional signage. If neighbors want a sign drawing attention to driveways, they will need to provide it.

■ *Would signage prevent late-night parties by indicating that the street end closes at dusk?* SDOT does not put curfew signage at street

ends. (An attendee pointed out that Cove Park is a street end that has signage limiting usage to between dawn and dusk.)

■ *Would the installation keep the dogs of those using the street end out of neighbors' yards?* Consistent with city law, dogs are not permitted on public beaches.

Not surprisingly, no one who commented during or after the meeting was excited about the draft "improvements," primarily because the city lacked a plan for long-term maintenance and because SDOT appeared unreceptive to suggestions that would benefit local residents.





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ORCAS TO BE CENTER STAGE DEC. 10

On Tuesday, Dec. 10, "Welcome the Orcas 2024" will celebrate the seasonal return of southern resident orcas to central Puget Sound. This annual gathering hosted by



The Whale Trail will be at The Hall @ Fautleroy, starting at 7 pm.

Capt. Alan Myers with the State Department of Fish and Wildlife will provide an update about the effects of distance regulations enacted in 2023 to limit how close boaters can come to orcas and preview the new

regulations that will go into effect in January.

Local citizen researchers Mark and Maya Sears will also be there to talk about the photo-identification, behavior documentation, and prey and fecal sampling they did when a larger-than-expected run of chum salmon brought southern resident orcas back to central Puget Sound for extended periods this year.

Partners, sponsors, and community organizations will have information tables, all fueled by light refreshments. Find ticket details at [Welcome the Orcas 2024](#).



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FROM PAST TO PRESENT

HOW WATER TANK HAS CONTRIBUTED TO NEIGHBORHOOD'S QUALITY OF LIFE

By Judy Pickens

The Great Fire of 1889 was a wake-up call to city leaders that Seattle needed a reliable municipal water system. Private suppliers had been pumping water from Lake Washington to a reservoir on Beacon Hill and also tapping into groundwater at various locations but the product wasn't always safe to drink and capacity was inadequate for a growing city.

Voters quickly authorized purchase of the upper Cedar River watershed and construction of a pipeline that in early 1901 began conveying river water to new reservoirs in Volunteer Park (then called City Park) and Cal Anderson Park (then called Lincoln Park). At about the same time, the city added a tank on Queen Anne Hill to increase capacity and improve water pressure.

Just eight years later, continued growth necessitated a second Cedar River pipeline, then a third in 1926. By then, the city had expanded so far geographically that neighborhoods such as Fauntleroy needed thousands of gallons of potable water close at hand every day.

Tapping into a reliable water supply was a big reason West Seattleites approved annexation to the city in 1907. That goal remained elusive, though, until the early 1920s when the city tunneled under the West Waterway, laid pipe, and added storage facilities.

Enter the 1,400,000-gallon SW Barton standpipe at 38th Ave. SW and SW Barton.

The squat metal cylinder began supplying both water and water pressure to this neighborhood in 1928.

In 2005, the city completed seismic improvements aimed at keeping the facility operational after a major earthquake. The work included bringing drain lines up to code, installing a circulation system to improve water quality, and painting the exterior (now in shades of green, thanks to graffiti).

The tank stands on a 25,527 sq. ft. lot with conifers along the northern boundary for screening, basic landscaping, and a concrete retaining wall. End of story? Not quite.

The tank doesn't have water in it anymore. Not a drop. Nada.

In 2012-13, Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) replaced this neighborhood water source with a "pressure regulating valve station."

Our water now comes from a standpipe at SW Charleston and 39th Ave. SW and from an elevated tank at SW Myrtle and 35th Ave. SW. Combined, those storage facilities hold 2.3 million gallons and, according to water-system specialists at SPU, they normally operate close to full capacity.

An SPU spokesperson explained that mothballing our tank and a few others over the past 20 years was not part

Standpipe: A reservoir that supplies water and maintains water pressure in a geographic area. Also a vertical pipe in a building that supplies water for firefighting or receives water if a floor drain backs up.



The city's SW Barton standpipe went into service in 1928. Photo courtesy Seattle Municipal Archives #6866, series 8200-13

of a trend but rather an effort to maintain a "resilient water" system while keeping rates affordable.

The city continues to maintain this tank because its capacity may be needed again to respond to an increase in housing density or some sort of emergency. For those same reasons, more such tanks might be needed across the city.

ABOUT WATER PRESSURE

SPU's policy is to provide water at a minimum of 20 psi (pounds per square inch). Property owners are responsible for installing pressure-reducing valves if it exceeds 80 psi.

Water pressure can vary by time of day and season, as well as by how much water is being used elsewhere in the system.

To do a quick check your pressure without a gauge, turn off all taps in your home, then place a 1-litre jug under one of them. Turn that tap on full and time how long the jug takes to fill. If it takes more than 6 seconds, your water pressure is low.

Sources: Seattle Public Utilities Water Division; Seattle Municipal Archives; Seattle Department of Neighborhoods; HistoryLink; West Side Story



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IDEAS AIRED FOR HOW FERRY TERMINAL MIGHT OPERATE DURING CONSTRUCTION

By Hadley Rodero, Washington State Ferries

In late October, Washington State Ferries (WSF) convened its community and technical advisory groups for the Fauntleroy terminal replacement project to discuss construction approach, how WSF will contract for design and construction, and impacts during construction on the community and ferry service.

While construction duration would differ for each of the seven design alternatives under consideration, WSF's strategy for maintaining service during construction would be the same: Build a temporary slip to use until the new terminal is operational.

Comments from both technical and community advisory group members included the following:

- Interest in how WSF would maintain essential ferry service during construction.
 - Questions about the temporary slip, including look, function, and potential environmental impacts.
 - Questions about construction work hours and plans to avoid and minimize impacts to fish and environmentally sensitive areas.
- Requests for active traffic management to prevent line cutting and other issues during construction.
- Requests for information about the timeline for providing input on terminal design and aesthetics.
- Interest in learning more about community access to Cove Park during and after construction.
- Interest in costs and the timeline for next phases.
- Questions about how WSF will use the property at 8923 Fauntleroy Way SW (the white house adjacent to Cove Park) before, during, and after construction.
- Comments about intersection improvements, including how they would support the terminal during construction and concerns about light pollution from traffic lights and how it might be reduced.

Recordings of advisory group meetings are posted in the community engagement section of the project website at wsdot.wa.gov/construction-planning/major-projects/sr-160-fauntleroy-terminal-trestle-transfer-span-replacement.

Community members may also register on the website to attend and listen to upcoming advisory group meetings. The next round will focus on WSF's level 3 screening process.



COMMUNITY MARKS CENTENNIAL

A variety of chili recipes fueled friendly competition in mid October to mark the Fauntleroy Church/Y centennial and raised money to retire \$200,000 in medical debt in King County. Photo courtesy Leah Atkinson Bilinski

FCA'S POSITION ON FERRY TERMINAL REBUILD

- YES** to pre-ticketing and automated toll collection.
- YES** to promoting transit alternatives to single-occupancy vehicles.
- YES** to improving seismic stability, elevating sea-level rise, and installing widely spaced piling.
- NO** to expanding overwater coverage to enlarge the trestle or add a second slip.

ON THE CALENDAR

FESTIVAL OF TREES: View the festive forest of trees in Fellowship Hall at Fauntleroy Church **9 am-noon Monday-Thursday** now through **Jan. 2**. Also **Saturday, Dec. 21, 6-7 pm**, and **Sunday, Dec. 22, 3-4 pm**.

PLANTER-BOX WORK PARTY: FCA's fall work party to tend the planter boxes in the Endolyne business area will start at **10 am** on **Saturday, Dec. 7**. For details, email kmfrost1965@comcast.net.

PUGET SOUND ORCAS: On Tuesday, Dec. 10, The Whale Trail will host "Welcome the Orcas 2024" starting at **7 pm** at The Hall @ Fauntleroy. Find details and ticket information at [Welcome the Orcas 2024](https://www.welcometheorcas.com).

CHRISTMAS CONCERTS: Fauntleroy Church will host two free performances of seasonal music for choir, soloists, and instrumentalists in the sanctuary: **Saturday, Dec. 21, at 7 pm** and **Sunday, Dec. 22, at 4 pm**.

FCA BUSINESS MEETINGS: Any resident is welcome to attend FCA business meetings on **Tuesday, Jan. 14, Feb. 11**, and **March 11** starting at **6 pm** on Zoom or in person at the Fauntleroy Schoolhouse. Email FCA President Mike Dey (msdey50@aol.com) to receive the Zoom link.

BALLET HOLIDAY SHOW: Students from Dance! West Seattle will perform on **Sunday, Dec. 22, at 1:30 pm** in the Highline Performing Arts Center. Find ticket details at [dancewestseattle.com/](https://www.dancewestseattle.com/).

206-935-0252 / theunsweetenedtooth.com

HOLIDAY SPIRIT ON THE PROWL

FESTIVAL OF TREES

Fauntleroy Church has assembled a festive forest of of a dozen non-traditionally decorated trees for the community to enjoy. Individuals and groups have made each tree a distinctive expression of the holiday season.

Just off the church/Y lobby in Fellowship Hall, the festival is open to the public 9 am-noon Monday-Thursday through Jan. 2. It will also be open an hour before each performance of the congregation's annual Christmas concert (Saturday, Dec. 21, starting at 7 pm and Sunday, Dec. 22, starting at 4 pm).

The festival and performances are free but you're invited to bring non-perishable items to "vote" for your favorite tree. Last year's festival collected nearly 1,000 pounds of food and hygiene products for the West Seattle and White Center food banks.

BALLET PERFORMANCE

On Sunday, Dec. 22, the curtain will rise at 1:30 pm for Dance! West Seattle's annual holiday performance in the Highline Performing Arts Center.

The show will open with students demonstrating what they've been learning in classes. After intermission, a multi-age cast will perform "Nutcracker Suites," a newly choreographed ballet that artistic director Kim Dinsmore describes as a "fresh, engaging, beautiful show filled with holiday spirit."

The studio has been serving students aged 3 to 12 in the Fauntleroy Schoolhouse for 20-plus years. Find show details (including ticket prices) and class information at www.dancewestseattle.com/.

Also, Dance! West Seattle is hiring. For details, email info@dancewestseattle.com.

CITY TAKES COMMENTS INTO ACCOUNT TO ADVANCE DESIGN OF 45TH CULVERT

By Jonathan Brown, Seattle Public Utilities

The 45th Ave. SW culvert replacement project has reached its next design milestone. We recently updated the community on it at the Fauntleroy Fall Festival and at a drop-in session at the intersection of 45th Ave. SW and SW Wildwood Place.

During previous outreach efforts, we heard mixed support for a proposed overlook space. Our re-designed plan for the 45th Ave SW Landing took this valuable feedback into account. Changes include

- reducing the size of the Landing.
- adding screening to reduce visual impact and restrict unauthorized access to the ravine.
- adding signage, low-maintenance planting beds, lighting, and boulders to enhance the area and complement the surrounding environment

We currently plan to start construction in the spring of 2026 and anticipate it will take two years. Keep up to date at seattle.gov/utilities/neighborhood-projects/fauntleroy-creek-culvert.

HOW TO HEAR FROM FCA

To hear from FCA by email, fill in the form and check your preferences at fauntleroy.net/flash. If you check "Neighbors Newsletter," you will start receiving it by email, NOT mail.


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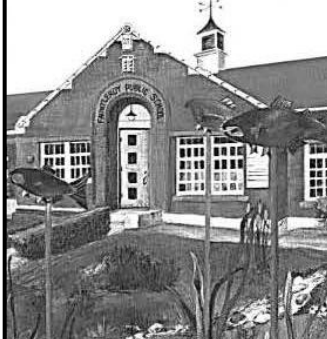
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TOGETHER, WE ARE MAKING FAUNTLEROY A GREAT NEIGHBORHOOD

By Mike Dey, president

As we approach the holiday season, we have much to be thankful for, including having a full house again on the FCA Board.

I am pleased to announce that Board member Alan Grainger has taken on the responsibility of being our treasurer. While the job is not high finance, it does require significant organizational skills and an eye to detail. Three Board members have been sharing this responsibility for over a year. So thank you, Alan; we are thrilled!

'Tis the season when we all can use an emotional boost to get through our wettest month and the shortest day of the year. Witnessing some of the 300+ coho that made their way under the ferry dock and Fauntleroy Way to spawning habitat in lower Fauntleroy Creek was that emotional boost to me. Thank you to all who have helped make our little creek attractive to so many salmon!

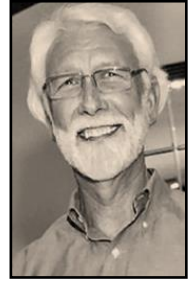
I for one am very grateful to all our Board members for their diligence in dealing with several controversial issues, including proposals for pickleball courts and an off-leash dog area in Lincoln Park, ongoing planning to rebuild the ferry terminal, upzoning proposed in the One Seattle Plan, and SDOT's proposal for the Brace Point street end.

The Board has also been engaged in a substantial internal project to create an automated membership database system. I'm pleased to report we have just a few final touches to go.

As 2024 nears a close, I thank not only our Board members but also the many other volunteers who worked

on projects that contributed to the vibrancy of our neighborhood, including our spring egg hunt and fall pumpkin search, the Fauntleroy Fall Festival, planter-box maintenance, pedestrian crossing flags, and our annual meeting and foodfest.

Thank you, one and all, for making this such a GREAT community!



FCA LEADERSHIP

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Catherine Bailey, vice president

Kris Ilgenfritz, secretary

Alan Grainger, treasurer

Meredith Sciarrio, residential membership

Amber Heinemann, business membership

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