

MISSION CREEK

NEWS

FALL, 2009



It's hard to believe we're about to wrap up our third summer of having trails through our neighborhood open space. Fall is in the air and berry picking in Mission Creek Park is GREAT (see photo). No matter what you call it, people continue to discover and enjoy it. Thanks to a host of willing stewards, garbage gets picked up from the trails and hidden party sites, and the ever-growing vegetation gets pruned back. Thanks to all who've had a hand in this!!

The neighborhood and the city have realized that to keep these tasks going and manageable, a more organized collaborative effort is needed. Last spring all agreed that the neighborhood would initiate the process by identifying priority park issues to bring to the city with a request for specific participation.

On May 18th, we had a meeting at Roosevelt Elementary School to solicit input for a plan to mutually nurture and protect the park, its wildlife, and the desired public uses. From that meeting came the following points of focus that neighbors would like to bring to the city of Olympia:

- Dogs and off leash options
- Park entrance neighborliness
- Signage – fun and friendly
- Garbage – receptacles and pick-up
- Education opportunities – water quality, environmental

It's now time to gather again to formulate collected ideas into a plan to bring to the city – a great opportunity to get more involved in your neighborhood! As added incentive, an exciting opportunity for the neighborhood is the possibility of restoring Mission Creek's status as a salmon stream. Efforts continue through partnerships between the City of Olympia, Port of Olympia, People for Puget Sound, South Sound Salmon Enhancement Group, and others to remove fish blockages and improve water quality. Several work parties have already removed tons of ivy and garbage from around the mouth of Mission Creek.

If you're interested in more information, joining the Mission Creek stewardship group, downloading a map of the park, or volunteering for work parties, look for the latest news and sign up at: www.neneighborhood.org and clicking on *Mission Creek* on the home page.

And THANK YOU for your part in:

- Picking up any garbage you find in your wanderings.
- Carrying clippers now and then to keep the trails open.
- **Picking up after your dog** and disposing of waste either in your home cans or at the San Francisco Street entrance.
- Being good Mission Creek stewards.

