



## Fish Ladder Viewpoint

Fauntleroy Creek flows year-round from Fauntleroy Park through a wooded ravine to enter Puget Sound near the ferry pier in Fauntleroy Cove. The creek survived the decades of development that created this residential neighborhood - but just barely. Steep culverts and degraded water quality left it little more than a drainage ditch.

In 1989, the community began working with agency partners to reclaim the creek as a natural ecosystem and make watershed residents aware of the critical role they play in its future. This effort included restoring habitat for coho (silver) salmon. Fingerlings released by schoolchildren began returning to spawn in 1994 but the steep culvert under Fauntleroy Way S.W. kept them near the beach. In 1998, Seattle Public Utilities replaced the failing culvert and built a fish ladder to ensure spawner access to suitable habitat. Commensurate with that project, the Seattle Arts Commission chose the area overlooking the fish ladder for a "1% for Art" project by Tom Jay.

The centerpiece of Jay's circular plaza is a large-scale relief "echoing" the creek channel 30 feet below. "Stream Echo" flows with images of the salmon lifecycle,

as well as symbols and text reminding visitors of salmon's historical and cultural significance. Small stones contributed by residents and schoolchildren fill the interstices. Oversized trout replicas of coho and cutthroat trout lend a sense of migratory movement.

The low wall defining the plaza includes four sets of cupped hands symbolizing stewardship by all peoples of the earth. To enhance this message, a sentinel stone uses the hobo symbol for clean water and a safe place to camp.

Jay later added two components. A school of smolt headed backwards to sea lends additional motion to the plaza and helps protect the wall from skateboards. And a stone etched with a leaping salmon serves as a focal point for schoolchildren studying the creek.

In the fall, neighbors gather in this special place to call coho spawners home with drumming, singing, and storytelling. Volunteers monitor every facet of the return and host field trips that enable scores of children to see the ancient salmon cycle unfold.



## Cove Park

In 1996, residents began transforming a litter-strewn street end on the north side of the Fauntleroy ferry terminal into a shoreline pocket park. Volunteers, government agencies, and donors worked together over many months to remove more than a ton of debris and craft Cove Park into an oasis for all to enjoy.

The popularity of "Stream Echo" across the street at the fish ladder sparked interest in engaging the same artist and landscape designer for the new park. King County recontoured the slope in conjunction with renovation of its underground wastewater pumping station at the site. Then as funds became available from city and private sources, volunteers installed plants, a fence, and a kiosk, and the artist set to work.

A serpentine path down one side of the park links "Stream Echo" with the shoreline. By embedding etched stones and many found objects and artifacts contributed by residents, Jay employed color, texture, and light to reflect history, culture, and nature.



A boulder at the foot of the path depicts the first sailing ship seen by native people as they gathered shellfish here. Other etched stones mark the beach habitat and document tribal use of the area.

Jay's replica of a Coast Salish sealing canoe dominates the high beach. Contrasting the canoe's bulk is the artist's painted-metal interpretation of Raven. The mythological bird perches on a nearby snag and holds a brilliant sun in its beak.

Art, landscaping, and view combine to offer an inviting place to sit awhile on the public beach immediately in front of Cove Park or to launch a kayak into the cove. Whatever your pleasure, we ask that you help keep the park an asset to the neighborhood; if you enjoy a snack or coffee here, please take wrappers and cups with you. And do come again!

### In Cove Park

#### *The Brig R. H. Fautleroy*



Etched in the “pecked stone” petroglyph style, this stone near the entrance to Cove Park recalls both Native American heritage and the age of discovery in Puget Sound.

#### *Sealing Canoe*



As Native Americans who beached canoes in Fautleroy Cove would have done, the canoe replica in Cove Park rests upside down to keep the interior dry. Both the canoe and the perch for Raven nearby are made of ferro-cement.

### At the Fish Ladder Viewpoint

#### *Leaping Salmon*



Students designed this stone to draw attention to the creek as salmon habitat. It is one of six such stones marking water-related habitats in the watershed.

#### *Sentinel Stone*



The process used to etch stones at the viewpoint - including the hobo symbol and text on this tall stone - involves making a rubber template of the image and then sandblasting through the template to etch only the desired image.

#### **About the Artist**

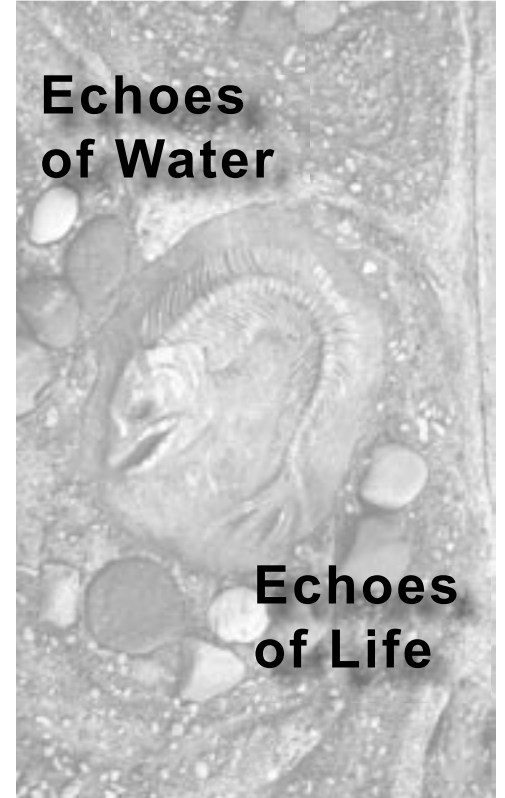
Thomas E. Jay has been an active member of the Pacific Northwest arts community since 1966, when he began to distinguish himself for fine bronze casting. He built the first casting facility for Seattle University and, while completing his MFA at the University of Washington, he built and supervised casting facilities there. In 1969, he established Riverdog Fine Arts Foundry in Chimacum, Washington, where he cast his own work and that of many other notable sculptors in the region. Tom and his wife, sculptor Sara Mall Johani, are now partners in The Lateral Line Bronze Casting Studio near Chimacum, where they teach and cast their public and private commissions.

#### **Contacts**

To learn more about Fautleroy Creek or opportunities to lend a hand in maintaining Cove Park, please visit the community Website at [www.fautleroy.net](http://www.fautleroy.net).

#### **Partners**

Fautleroy Community Association  
Seattle Public Utilities  
Seattle Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs  
(formerly Seattle Arts Commission)  
King County  
Washington State Ferries  
Seattle Department of Neighborhoods



# Echoes of Water

# Echoes of Life

*The Seattle neighborhood of Fautleroy is dominated by water and the myriad life that it makes possible. Two public art installations by Tom Jay emphasize the centrality of water to life and its importance to all who call this neighborhood, city, and region home.*