



HERE ARE EXPECTED CHANGES AS CULVERT-REPLACEMENT WORK NEARS STARTING LINE

By Jonathan Brown
Seattle Public Utilities

Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) will start the 45th Ave. SW culvert-replacement project this year in two phases. The first will be construction related to utility service along 45th and the second will be the start of culvert construction itself.

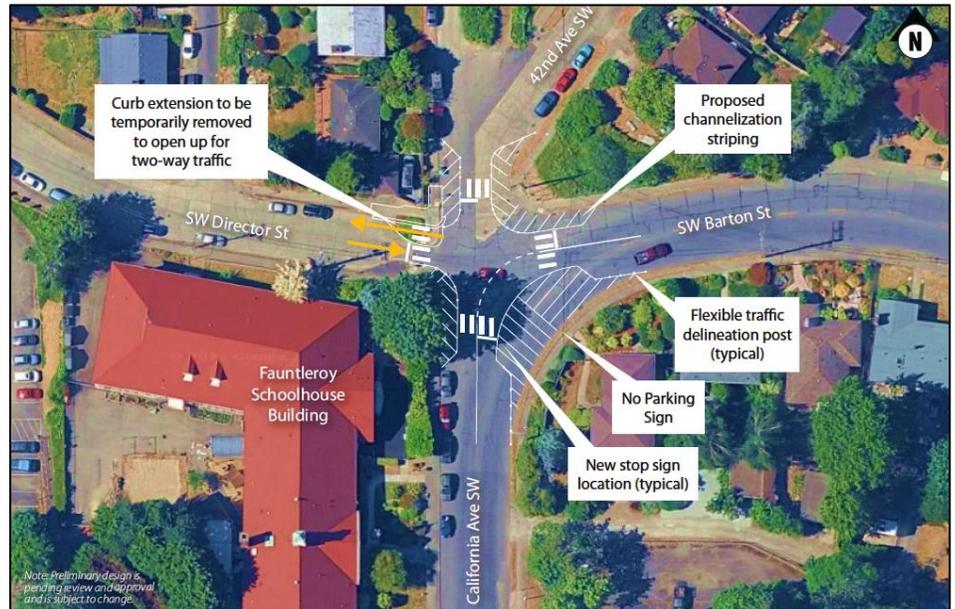
We expect utility construction to happen this summer through fall. It will include moving power poles and digging to underground power and communication lines for nearby buildings. Traffic flow and parking near the project area will be affected by short delays, including temporary lane closures on 45th.

Once utility work is done, culvert construction will begin late in 2026 and it may go on for up to two years. As soon as we have finalized the construction schedule, we will share it with the community.

During culvert construction, 45th will be closed to thru traffic and street parking between SW Wildwood Pl.

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and SW Director Pl., with local access only. Pedestrian access along 45th will also be interrupted but detour routes will be provided. Local vehicular access will continue to be available around the work area.

A detour route will be set up, with changes at the intersection of SW Director St. and California Ave. SW to allow two-way traffic on SW Director. Modifications to improve safety there will include a four-way stop, new crosswalks, and roadway paint to

clarify driving lanes and where pedestrians should cross.

We sincerely appreciate your patience through all the work ahead. Know that, when it's over, the new culvert will be structurally sound and provide barrier-free access for salmon to access both the middle and lower reaches of Fauntleroy Creek.

We'll be posting updated on construction impacts on our website: seattle.gov/utilities/neighborhood-projects/fauntleroy-creek-culverts.

BRING YOUR BEST NEIGHBORLINESS, CURIOSITY, APPETITE, VOTE TO ANNUAL MEETING & FOOD FEST



The 2026 FCA Annual Meeting and Food Fest is right around the corner, on March 24 (the fourth Tuesday this year), 6-8 pm in the Emerald Room at the Fauntleroy Schoolhouse

Come renew your FCA membership or join for the first time, browse a wide variety of information tables, enjoy free samples of sample the best local eateries have to offer, and catch up with neighbors.

The brief annual meeting will start about 7:00 and include voting on a slate of officers. If you might like to join the FCA Board as secretary, contact President Frank Immel at frankimmel62@gmail.com.

The Unsweetened Tooth will be back on March 24 with samples of tasty no-sugar-added desserts. 2025 photo by Jamison Johnson





FCA'S SPRING EGG HUNT IS ON!

Saturday, March 28, 1-2 pm

Equip your kids with one basket each, come to the playground at the Fauntleroy Schoolhouse, and stand back to enjoy the fun. Little ones age 4 and under will hunt first, then older kids will get their chance to find eggs filled with non-candy treasures.

Adults can get into the act, too, by helping hunt coordinators Candace Blue and Scott Wiesemann stuff the eggs or hide them on hunt day. Volunteer at blueyvette47@gmail.com or 209-401-8406.

SIGNAL INSTALLATION AT FERRY TERMINAL PENCILED IN FOR FALL

By Washington State Ferries

The final "planning and environmental linkages" study report for the Fauntleroy terminal replacement will be published very soon.

Work toward this milestone began in 2021 and, throughout the process, the project team engaged with community members, technical experts, tribes, agency partners, and elected officials to find the best design solution. In partnership with the Federal Highway Administration, Washington State Ferries concluded it is a longer, narrow dock that holds more vehicles and minimizes impacts to the surrounding environment.

To support safe and efficient loading and unloading before terminal replacement gets under way, the ferry system is planning improvements to the terminal intersection with Fauntleroy Way SW. The goal is to increase ease and safety for people driving, walking, biking, and rolling to get to and from bus stops, the terminal, and other destinations along Fauntleroy Way SW and beyond.

The project team is working with the Seattle Department of Transportation to add a signal to the intersection that will be designed and operated to balance the needs of neighborhood traffic, buses, and ferry traffic. To help minimize impacts to the area during the busy summer season, the work is scheduled to be done this coming fall.

Visit wsdot.wa.gov/construction-planning/major-projects/sr-160-fauntleroy-terminal-trestle-transfer-span-replacement for intersection details and to peruse the final study report when it is posted.



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FCA BOARD SEEKING DESIGN DETAILS

By Catherine Bailey, vice president

As reported in our December 2025 issue, the Seattle Department of Transportation has proposed a plan to improve the pedestrian crossing at SW Rose Street and Fauntleroy Way SW. The goal is for those leaving the bus stop on the west side of the arterial to cross safely.



A project representative presented a draft plan during FCA's October business meeting, which included a pedestrian-controlled signal, a raised crosswalk, and a concrete median between north/south traffic and the ferry queue. Board members and residents voiced many concerns, and we are still awaiting the city's responses.

After many years of advocacy, we are pleased that the city is finally addressing the safety issue. However, we want to hear from project management to be sure the final design meets community needs.

The *West Seattle Blog* pressed for details about how the city proposes to spend Seattle transportation levy funds this year and learned that the SW Rose project is in design, with construction possibly by year's end.



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FROM PAST TO PRESENT

FAUNTLEROY PARK EVOLVED FROM OLD GROWTH TO COMMUNITY ASSET

By Judy Pickens

Residents now know Fauntleroy Park as a pleasant place to walk the dog, watch the seasons unfold, and let nature refuel the spirit, but from a historical point of view, it hasn't been this way for long.

Fauntleroy Park might be termed “the little park that could.” At 33 acres, it is just a quarter the size of Lincoln Park. The land was designated for housing, and it's never had picnic shelters, athletic fields, or other features typical of public parks.

BECOMING A PARK

Coast Salish residents had a long history of hunting and foraging near the cove when commercial timber interests began logging off the land in the 1890s. Within a decade, most of it had been cleared and, in a booming Seattle, property around Fauntleroy Cove was ripe for residential development.

In 1905, John Adams purchased 300 acres near Fauntleroy Cove. Three years later, he donated a parcel for the chapel that evolved into Fauntleroy Church, then he turned his full attention to selling lots to create a neighborhood.

Fast forward to the 1940s. Everett Fenton borrowed \$10,000 in order to buy 65 acres of hillside from Adams, sight unseen. When the lender pressured him to repay the loan, he sold most of it to Arthur Webb, who went on to transform the hillside into Fauntlee Hills.

In 1954, Fenton sold two lots to Fauntleroy Church for parking and later donated a bit more of his acreage to the church at the east end of the main parking lot for what became Fenton Glen. Still wanting to scratch his developer itch, he hung onto the remaining 33 acres.

By the 1960s, locals referred to the wooded acreage as “Whiskey Gulch” - a place to hang out away from

watchful eyes. Fenton forged ahead with plans to build 25 houses there and in 1966 the city installed a sanitary sewer line to support them (see map).

The terrain proved to be too rugged, however, for housing. The idea died with Fenton in 1967 and his family offered the acreage to the city for a public park. In 1970, the legislature appropriated \$106,000 toward the city's purchase of it and, the following year, it became one of Seattle's few natural parks.

NATURAL ASSETS

As elsewhere in central Puget Sound, the land had once been blanketed by an expanse of old-growth temperate forest, including Western hemlock, Western red cedar, and Douglas fir. Such massive conifers were well suited to the mild, wet climate.

Despite all the logging at the turn of the century, forest remnants were here when David Galbraith (1922-2010) was a lad. The Southwest Seattle Historical Society archived his account about seeing one of the last old-growth trees come down:

We were walking down the lane to Fauntleroy School and came upon a crew of loggers cutting down a fir tree about nine feet across. To avoid injury, the loggers made us stay put until the tree was felled. We then convinced one of the loggers to come to school to explain why we were late. That tree was one of the last of the old-growth fir in these woods - and it was cut for firewood.

According to the city's 2003 vegetation management plan for the park, roughly 18 acres are hardwood and riparian forest and 5 acres are wetlands. Steep slopes make up more than 30 percent of the terrain.

The consultants who authored the plan for Seattle Parks declared the forest generally healthy and found the park serving “as an important habitat resource for terrestrial and aquatic wildlife.” (continued next page)

WILDLIFE POSTER DEBUTS

Visitors to Fauntleroy Park are finding a new poster in kiosks at the SW Barton and SW 97th entrances.

The poster spotlights wildlife species from the park's three distinct habitats: tree canopy, forest floor and understory, and Fauntleroy Creek and are ones that visitors are likely to see, hear, or find evidence of.

Volunteers with the Fauntleroy Watershed Council created the poster, and Minuteman Press West Seattle donated the printing.

The poster's debut prompted culling of other content on the kiosks, and Seattle Parks and replaced or cleaned the plexiglass and painted over graffiti. Photo by Dave Gershgorin



A PARK FOR THE PUBLIC

In the late 1990s, volunteers began augmenting city stewardship of the park. Some weeded alone, others turned out for planting parties, and still others won grants for specific projects.

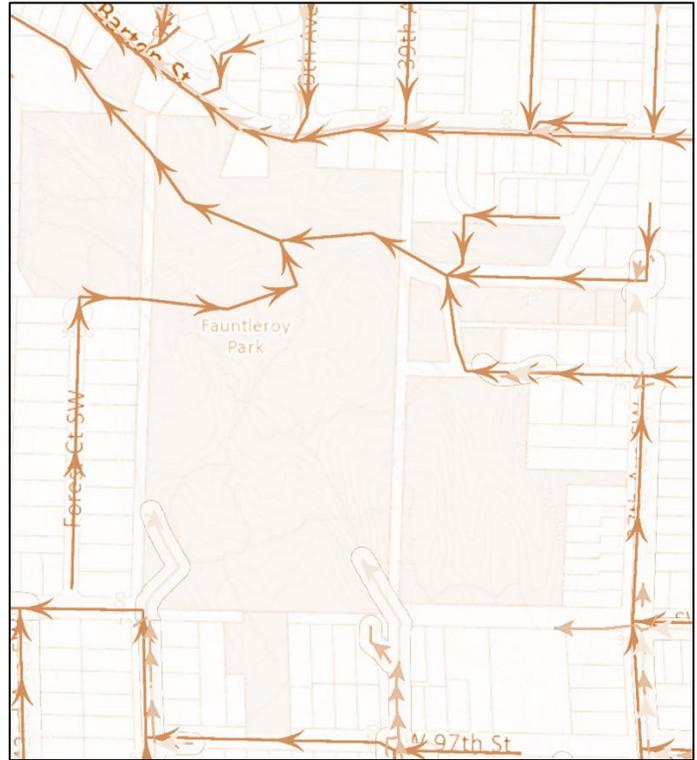
With increased public interest and use of the park as an outdoor classroom, Seattle Parks upgraded trails, did regular maintenance of the park's 1.5 miles of trails, and gave priority to visitor's reports of hazards and illegal or dangerous activities. Projects by Scouts, school groups, and other youth were also part of the mix.

Over time, invasive plants no longer dominated the landscape and efforts to reduce erosion into creek tributaries and along trails began to pay off. As conditions improved, so did responsible public enjoyment of the park.

Nature walks began acquainting visitors with what the park had to offer and trail projects enhanced public access, including for visitors reliant on wheels. The recent arrival of digital wayfinding and information about wildlife in the park added to the experience.

Check the city's website and you'll find the park now described as "a densely wooded patch of forest (with) a network of trails and paths great for wandering, hiking, and dog-walking." As Seattle Parks, the Fauntleroy Waterhead Council, and individuals continue to steward the park, "Whiskey Gulch" has faded into history.

Sources: Seattle Parks and Recreation, Seattle Public Utilities, Southwest Seattle Historical Society, Fauntleroy Church, *West Side Story*, *Fauntleroy Legacy*, Washington Trails Association



About 2,400 feet of 8" sanitary sewer mainline runs through the northern part of Fauntleroy Park. It conveys wastewater from just over 20 acres comprised of 90 single-family homes, plus Summit Atlas School. Courtesy Development Services Office, Seattle Public Utilities



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EMERGENCY HUB NETWORK OFFERS INTRODUCTION TO VOLUNTEERING

Did you know that Fauntleroy has an emergency hub where residents can go after “the big one” to exchange information and get basic aid until outside assistance can arrive? Chris Jaramillo wants you to.

As a volunteer hub captain, she is responsible for recruiting other volunteers to help at the emergency hub in the upper parking lot at Fauntleroy Church if and when disaster strikes.

If this could be a way for you to give back to your community, Seattle

Emergency Hubs network of West Seattle and South Park will host a free training for current and prospective volunteers on Saturday, March 14, 2-3:30 pm at the High Point Library. It will cover the basics of how a neighborhood hub works and include practicing a few scenarios so you can quickly jump in to support your neighbors post-disaster.

The network will have an information table during the March 24 FCA Annual Meeting and Food Fest.



Want to be better prepared? Seattle’s emergency hub program has a variety of resources available to help, including printable posters in many languages for home or office. Find them at seattleemergencyhubs.org/.

NEXT UP: CITY COUNCIL DEBATE ABOUT CHANGES TO NEIGHBORHOOD ZONING

By Catherine Bailey, vice president

After lengthy debate by the City Council last fall, an amended version of Phase One of the One Seattle Plan passed in December and went into effect in mid January.

Phase One focused on changes to neighborhood zoning that would allow greater density in residential areas, including multiple dwellings on what we consider a single-family lot.

The FCA Board successfully advocated for and amended important parts of the legislation affecting key areas here, such as along Fauntleroy Creek.



Find a summary of it at seattle.gov/opcd/one-seattle-plan.

This calendar year, a select committee of the Council will focus on Phase Two, which aims to rezone “neighborhood centers” across the city to expand existing business areas near frequent transit. Our Endolynne business area along 45th Ave. SW and SW Wildwood Place is an example.

The proposed zoning changes would allow increased building heights, for instance, and more retail businesses on the ground floor of residential structures. Check the website above to learn the Council’s timeline for debate.

NEIGHBORHOOD BUSINESS NEWS

DANCE! WEST SEATTLE HAS NEW DIRECTOR

For decades, students have been dancing for passion, exercise, and just plain fun at Dance! West Seattle in the Fauntleroy Schoolhouse. Now as the studio’s new director, Ana Noelle is making sure students don’t miss a beat. A dancer since age four, the classically trained performer, choreographer, and teacher has been with the studio for eight years, the last four as artistic director.

Anyone considering enrolling is welcome to stop by or call 206-938-3062 for details about doing a free ballet or contemporary dance trial, right in the neighborhood.

WILDWOOD MARKET NOW IN YEAR 10

In February, Wildwood Market marked nine years as Fauntleroy’s neighborhood grocery and eatery - and owners Lonjina Verdugo and Blaine Fielding moved into Year 10 by crediting the market team for nine noteworthy accomplishments during 2025:

1. Grew the grocery selection *and* kept prices competitive.
2. Launched delivery for online orders.
3. Created more party platters than they could count.
4. Expanded indoor seating.
5. Increased employee wages and improved retention.
6. Brought back Taco Tuesday.
7. Tasted countless wines to enhance the selection.
8. Added local gifts and cards for customer convenience.
9. Pulled 41,182 espresso shots!

“We are deeply grateful for this incredible community’s continued support, which makes a small business like ours possible” Lonjina said. “We could not do it without you.”

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ON THE CALENDAR

FCA BUSINESS MEETINGS: Any resident is welcome to attend FCA business meetings on **Tuesday, April 14, May 12, or June 9 at 6 pm** in the Fautleroy Schoolhouse or online. Email frankimmel62@gmail.com to propose a topic. Get the Zoom link at fautleroy.net/meetings.

FCA ANNUAL MEETING AND FOOD FEST: Doors to the Emerald Room at the Fautleroy Schoolhouse will open at **6 pm on Tuesday, March 24**. Come to renew/pay FCA membership dues, sample the best local eateries have to offer, browse information tables, and visit with neighbors. The meeting will start about **7 pm**. Free for all ages.

FCA SPRING EGG HUNT: Kids of all ages are welcome on Saturday, March 28, 1-2 pm on the playground at the Fautleroy Schoolhouse. Bring a basket for free fun!

TASTE OF ROSÉ: Wildwood Market will host "Taste of Rosé" on **Thursday, April 23, 5-7 pm**; \$5 for 5 tastes. A bonus that day: Happy-hour pricing will be 3-8 pm close.

RECYCLE ROUNDUP: The spring roundup will be **Saturday, April 25, 9 am-3 pm** in the Fautleroy Church parking lot. Watch the *West Seattle Blog* for an updated list of what you may bring for free, responsible recycling.

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 The Neighborhood Restaurant and Bar
 The Unsweetened Tooth
 Treo Organic Salon
 West Seattle Blog
 West Seattle/Fautleroy YMCA
 Wildwood Market

SUPPORTING WATERSHED STEWARDSHIP

By Judy Pickens, Fautleroy Watershed Council

Since 2018, donations from residents, businesses, and volunteers, plus modest local grants, have been funding maintenance along restored habitat in the Fautleroy Creek system.

Using gifts to the Fautleroy Watershed Stewardship Fund, the watershed council has been able to respond to habitat issues before they get worse, pay for skilled regular maintenance in the Kilbourne ravine, and supply what volunteers need to repair streambank erosion.

We initiated this fund when governmental grants became scarce. The past couple of years, expenses have been outpacing donations and available grants, making bolstering the fund imperative.

Find more about this fund and how to donate at fautleroywatershed.org/index.php/volunteer-donate/. We partner with EarthCorps, an environmental nonprofit, to administer gifts and, upon request, provide a charitable receipt that could open the door to an employer match.

Stop by the Fautleroy Watershed Council's information table at the March 24 FCA Annual Meeting and Food Fest with questions.



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ANNUAL MEETING & FOOD FEST A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO SELL NEIGHBORS ON FCA

By Frank Immel, president

Superbowl LX Champions has a nice ring to it! I not only enjoyed watching the Seahawks reach that pentacle but also all the people from the Peninsula who rode the ferry and Metro C Line to cheer them on throughout the year and especially during the playoffs.



We will soon be marking the arrival of spring by hosting our Annual Meeting and Food Fest on Tuesday evening, March 24. The food part is courtesy of the many local eateries who graciously provide samples, and I encourage you to support them throughout the year.

Also positioned around the Emerald Room at the Fauntleroy Schoolhouse will be information tables about a wide variety of community activities, and I hope you'll take this opportunity to check out each of them as they all touch our lives in some way.

Washington State Ferries will be there with details about upcoming traffic signals and signage that will affect traffic and pedestrians on Fauntleroy Way SW at the terminal. The emergency hub network, watershed council, and the Seattle Nature Alliance will be among other activities represented.

Once past this event, your FCA Board will give priority to increasing membership. Since you are receiving this newsletter, you are already among the nearly 250 households supporting this community through FCA. That's roughly eight percent, however, of the more than 3,000 households in our "catchment" area (roughly 35th Ave, SW to the water and SW Myrtle to the Arroyos).

Your board strives to keep the typical household membership at \$25 per year, so we must have enough members to make ends meet as well as maintain a strong voice for this community. As summarized in the enclosed annual report, we budget for many activities and assets, from maintaining the planter boxes in our retail area to supporting the fall festival, to publishing this newsletter.

To continue to do so, we are working on several ideas to demonstrate FCA's value to every resident and neighbors encouraging neighbors to join is one of the most effective. Let them know why you support FCA, ask them to join you at the Annual Meeting and Food Fest, and encourage them to join when they do.

FCA LEADERSHIP

Frank Immel, president; 206-571-4951

Catherine Bailey, vice president

Kris Ilgenfritz, secretary

Alan Grainger, treasurer

Meredith Sciarrio, residential membership

Amber Heinemann, business membership

Bill Wellington, webmaster

Bruce Butterfield ■ Susan Lantz-Dey ■ David Follis

David Haggerty ■ Reed Haggerty

Judy Pickens, writer/editor

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