



# ISSAQUAH ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL

PO Box 921 • ISSAQUAH, WA 98027

## Monthly Events

### January

**Sunday 1/16, 10am-2pm  
Work Party**

Ivy Removal along the Rainier Trail near the Community Center.

**Saturdays 1/22 & 1/29, 9am-1pm  
Plant Salvage**

Issaquah Highlands at Falls Drive

**Sunday, 1/30 3pm-5pm  
ANNUAL MEETING POTLUCK!**

King County Library Distribution Center, 960 Newport Way NE.

### February

**Sunday 2/27, 10am-2pm  
Work Party**

Planting along the Rainier Trail near the Community Center.

### March

**Sunday 3/20, 10am-2pm  
Park Pointe Exploration**  
Meet at the trailhead on 2nd Ave.

### April

**Sunday 4/17, 10am-2pm  
Work Party**

Scotch Broom removal at Central Park in Issaquah Highlands.

### May

**Sunday, May 22,  
10am-2pm  
Work Party**  
Scotch Broom removal around Lake Tradition at I-90, High Point exit 20.



Barbara Shelton and Cort Hammond play tug'o war with the ivy in the rain. Is weeding fun or what? (Ingi Johnson Park 2010)

## 2010 IEC Year of the Volunteer!

**T**his year the Issaquah Environmental Council sponsored 6 official volunteer work parties and a host of spontaneous weeding events throughout Issaquah in order to support our City Parks Department.

We totaled 297.5 volunteer hours removing ivy, picking up garbage, cutting and pulling broom and planting native vegetation to help nature jumpstart restoration.

For all of those who helped we offer you our thanks...

**Hint**

...and a new schedule for this coming year...



# Changes in City Council and Administration

## Maureen McCarry resigns from Council

Maureen McCarry resigned from Council because she has Lou Gehrig's disease. For Maureen and her family, this totally stinks, is rotten and unfair plus many other really bad words that I can't use in a newsletter.

**Thanks for all of your hard work on Council, Maureen!**



## Leon Kos retired as the City Administrator

Ah Leon, the master of the big deal. He was an institution in this town and his retirement leaves a hole in our city memory that will be missed.

He deserves much of the credit for the protection of Issaquah's open spaces. Thanks for our green spaces.

**Happy retirement!**



## Bob Harrison is the new City Administrator

If you haven't met Bob yet, he has indicated that he has an open door policy! Send him a note, or stop in and tell him what you think of Issaquah.

[bobh@ci.issaquah.wa.us](mailto:bobh@ci.issaquah.wa.us)



**Welcome, Bob!**

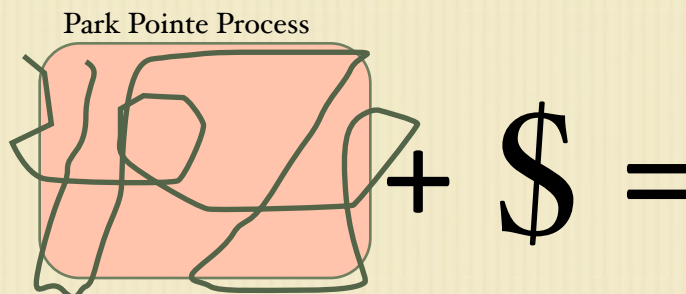
## PARK POINTE MAY SOON BE OURS...SHALL WE DANCE?

The Citizens of Issaquah may soon score a big victory with the preservation of the 104 acres behind Issaquah High School.

Who would have known 10 years ago when we were working to stop the SE Bypass that it would be possible to both stop the road and also save Park Pointe.

Is it time to dance for joy? Everyone that I spoke with gave me very cautious responses. "The conservation easement needs to be air tight", "Now we get to see what really will happen", "Who would have built on Park Pointe anyway?" and my own sense that we gave up too much of Issaquah Highland's open space to get the protection of Park Pointe.

You see, first Port Blakely gave the City the WSDOT acreage in exchange for an additional 500 units of density. Then the City negotiated a deal to get the Urban Growth Boundary moved, so they could sell the land, to get the money to buy Park Pointe. The organizational chart for these maneuvers looks like this...



So is this complicated package good or bad? (cont. on pg. 3)

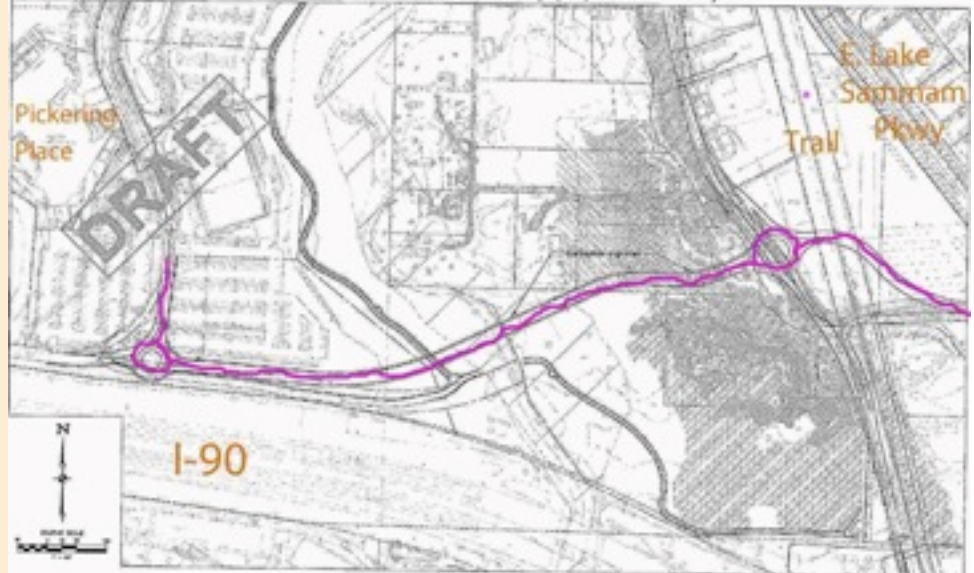
# I-90 Undercrossing and Costco Road Proposal

**The I-90 Undercrossing** is open. This as-of-January-1, narrow, icy little road is open. Why not try it? Rather than getting stuck in the SR 900 traffic while watching \$6M being spent on the pedestrian bridge, take the undercrossing from the post office to the Brown Bear car wash at SE 56<sup>th</sup> (the road that Costco is on). You can also turn right to get to E. Lake Sammamish Parkway at the entrance to Home Depot.

**The Costco Local Improvement District** is another complicated land negotiation in the works.

Basically, there is a bundle of improvements being studied in the rectangle bordered by SE 56th, I-90, E. Lake Sammamish and SR900. These improvements are being considered for a Local Improvement District. Most are long standing wish list items but there is no money available with which to build them.

North Issaquah LID: Potential Alignment of New Roadway (Improvement #1)



An L.I.D. shares the cost of the improvements according to how much benefit a landowner in that area would be getting from those improvements.

Most of these improvements seem necessary.

The largest improvement, however, is a monster. This (see map) would be an elevated road going through a large wetland and over both the main stem and the N. Fork of

Issaquah Creek. The proposed road would impact the current bike/pedestrian trail.

**The IEC is concerned with the environmental impacts as well as the cost estimates for this road. (It seems the costs and benefits are roughly equal. Are the improvements worth it?)**

## Central Issaquah Plan

The City of Issaquah is in the midst of planning for future development in the commercial area, designated the Central Issaquah Area. This includes over 900 acres located in the center of Issaquah on both sides of I-90--including areas along Gilman Blvd, Maple St, Newport Way SW, East Lake Sammamish Rd and the Lowe's/Costco area.

The Mayor's Central Issaquah Plan Advisory Task Force has put forth their version of the Central Issaquah Plan. <http://www.ci.issaquah.wa.us/page.asp?>

This is the version that did not provide for public input--other than the Mayor's 12 appointees.

According to the City website, a draft plan will now be created for review by the community, Mayor's Office, Planning Policy Commission and City Council.

**IEC looks forward to the process that includes public input.**



## Park Pointe cont.

The new development creates a 30-acre clear cut, but ...

- 100-ft buffers on the adjacent wetlands with restrictions on how much fill can be piled up on their edges.
- Trees that blow down will be tracked and replanted.
- The road is to be designed to retain the current flow of water to the wetlands.
- The Issaquah Highlands will have both increased density and a Bellevue College campus, increasing the likelihood of landing commercial and retail development.

**What is IEC's conclusion? Celebrate! ...and pay attention to the details!**

# Environmental Impact Statement for Hyla Crossing and Rowley Center

The Rowley organization is poised to embark on its largest development to date. This involves the areas west of SR900, the car dealership and small businesses and all the little buildings between Gilman & Maple west of Sports Authority.

To date, the process for creating an Environmental Impact Statement has been exceedingly UNwelcoming of citizen input. Accessing the information on the web was crazy hard and the scoping meeting was beyond intimidating. Add the holiday

season meeting and deadlines and you have a great barrier to input.

**IEC has concerns and is monitoring the following elements of the proposal:**

- It shows several 150-ft buildings--that's 15 stories, folks!
- There is no connection through the development from SR900 to Newport Way. Instead it creates a giant cul de sac in the area west of SR900, with a large increase in density, but access

only on already overused SR900.

- The view impact study is comedic and unrealistic.
- It proposes pumping most of the water runoff to Lake Sammamish through a big pipe.
- They give themselves substantial credit for internalization of trips
- Rowley is seeking a 30 year development agreement, which means they won't have to comply with future Code improvements.

## Cybil Madeline/Confluence/Downtown Park

The big green space on Rainier Blvd. across from Darigold, which surrounds the junction of the main stem and the East Fork of Issaquah Creek, is to be Issaquah's Signature Park!

The City has been planning this park ever since it got money during the "Park Bond". So far, it is great news!

First off, the Parks Department has done a tremendous job involving the public in their planning process:

- The park is to stay natural, with features that use land-oriented themes.
- The two creeks are to be liberated from their armoring (large rocks placed in the creek and up the banks) to allow for more habitat and channel migration.
- People are going to be able to see the creeks from a bridge that would cross both creeks, and some play areas will be encouraged creekside!

But...there is only \$1.6M dollars for improvements which are expected to cost much more.

**The IEC would prioritize the removal of armor from the creeks as a first step, then a pause, to understand what the water wants to do. Don't build or improve anything near the creek that is going to be impacted as the water finds its natural pathway.**

<http://www.ci.issaquah.wa.us/News.asp?NewsID=1885>

### **Become an IEC Member!**

Issaquah Environmental Council gives you up-to-date information through approximately monthly emails. We advocate on your behalf with local jurisdictions and regulatory agencies. We coordinate/cooperate with other environmental nonprofit organizations to conduct projects and events which benefit our community's quality of life. We work on a shoestring budget and need your support to continue these activities.

#### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Regular - \$25  Sponsor - \$100  Business - \$50  Other - \$\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Mail check to PO Box 921,  
Issaquah, WA 98027.

**JOIN US FOR A FUN POTLUCK AT OUR ANNUAL MEETING ON JANUARY 30 (see front page)**