

## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

**1 BRUGGER'S BOG PARK** is a little hidden gem. From the street you see a large grassy open space. But on the other side of a footbridge over meandering little Ballinger Creek there are picnic areas, a tot lot, and swing sets. You'll often meet **friendly neighbors from Ballinger Homes** to the west who access the park via an upper trail. **Geocachers** have also been spotted searching for treasure!

Historically, Brugger's Bog was a bog with acidic soils. Vegetation includes small willow trees, cottonwoods, madrones, red alders, twig dogwoods, and huckleberries. Alas, invasive species threaten this oasis in the form of blackberries, illegal dumpers, vandals who drive cars over the footbridge to tear up the grassy knoll, and taggers. Our vigilance and neighborhood restoration work will help preserve this rare jewel for future generations.

**BALLINGER CREEK** is a tributary to Lyon Creek, originating north of Shoreline in Snohomish County. The creek daylight in Brugger's Bog Park and flows to the southeast. As it enters the park it meets with an unnamed stream flowing from the west. Ballinger Creek flows southeast across Brugger's Bog and picks up flow from two unmarked tributaries flowing in from the east. At the southeast corner of Brugger's Bog Park, Ballinger Creek enters a network of pipes at 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE. The creek daylight on the southeast of 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE and flows under Ballinger Way into the City of Lake Forest Park, flowing parallel to NE Ballinger Way, entering Lyon Creek near NE Ballinger Way & 35<sup>th</sup> Ave NE. Lyon Creek enters to Lake Washington at Sheridan Beach in Lake Forest Park.

**2** This **SHORELINE SCHOOL DISTRICT** 6.7-acre site served as Kellogg Middle School and Aldercrest Elementary School for many years. Neighbors to the north and east often use the property as a shortcut to Brugger's Bog and amenities along Ballinger Way. The property has an oval walking track, baseball diamond, and soccer field. The open space is frequented by many dog walkers, and has been proposed as a promising pilot site timed use / traditional dog park by the off-leash dogs study advisory group. To submit your comments on the proposal, visit [www.cityofshoreline.com](http://www.cityofshoreline.com) and click on the link to Parks Bond Projects on the Parks and Recreation webpage.

**3** **BALLINGER HOMES**, is Ballinger's largest apartment complex, built by the King County Housing Authority as town home residences for 110 families. The Center for Human Services operates "The Homework Factory" onsite, providing programming for young children, youths and adults, including after-school mentoring, counseling, parenting classes, adult ESL classes, life skills classes, citizenship classes and adult basic education classes. Volunteer tutors are needed. To inquire, call **Center for Human Services Ballinger Family Home Center** at 206-631-8864.

**4** You'll want to walk both sides of the street to take in all the amenities **BALLINGER BUSINESS DISTRICT** has to offer. We boast more than 60 great businesses and several great eateries. Be sure to stop in at our sponsoring businesses along both sides of Ballinger Way to have your passport stamped!

**5** **BRIGHTWATER PROJECT BALLINGER WAY PORTAL** on the south side of Ballinger Way NE, just west of 19th Ave. NE intersection is part of a system of pipes that will convey wastewater to the new Brightwater treatment plant and treated wastewater to Puget Sound. Conveyance pipelines are being built below ground in tunnels 40-440 feet below the surface. Ballinger Portal is one of the access shafts where workers, machines, soil, and equipment enter and exit the tunnels during construction. Tunnel boring machines are being used to build the tunnels between Point Wells and Kenmore. The machines will meet at the Ballinger Way Portal and will be pulled from the ground at this portal after tunneling is complete. Ground freezing is being used to help construct the 25-foot diameter, 200-foot deep retrieval shaft. After all of the underground work is done, the portal shaft will be sealed, and a 300 square foot odor control facility with a 15-foot tall stack erected. Upon completion, the facility will be attractively landscaped. Be sure to stop by the **Brightwater Project exhibit at the Brugger's Bog** to ask questions and learn more about this fascinating technology.

**6** **McALEER CREEK** (pronounced Mac-a-leer) is a salmon bearing stream that flows 6 miles from Lake Ballinger under Interstate 5 and through the northeast corner of Shoreline to Lake Forest Park, where it enters Lake Washington. Histories written of this local brag of the plentiful salmon and game to caught along its banks. McAleer Creek was formed by lake and stream waters preceding the advance of the last glacier to invade Puget Sound. McAleer ravine was formed by melting glaciers during the subsequent ice retreat.

**10** In 2007 four spawning Coho salmon counted in McAleer Creek. However, like many Northwest water bodies, the levels of fecal coliform and heavy metals are increasing – the result of urban density. For ways that you can help protect our creeks for the enjoyment of future generations visit the **Washington State Department of Ecology** at [www.ecy.wa.gov](http://www.ecy.wa.gov), and **Streamkeepers of Lake Forest Park** at [www.lfpstreamkeepers.org](http://www.lfpstreamkeepers.org).

### HISTORICAL MARKER LAGO VISTA SPRING

THIS MARKS THE LOCATION OF AN UNDERGROUND SPRING. ABOUT 1910, THE RESIDENTS OF LAKE FOREST PARK USED A SURVEYOR'S LANE THROUGH THE WOODS TO THE TRUNK ROAD, NOW AURORA AVE. ON THEIR RETURN TRIP THEY STOPPED HERE FOR A SUPPLY OF WATER. TEN YEARS LATER WHEN THE FOREST WAS LOGGED OFF, THE SPRING SUPPLIED WATER FOR THE LOGGING CREWS. DURING THE THIRD DECADE, WHEN HOUSES WERE ERECTED WITH A GOOD VIEW OF LAKE WASHINGTON, THIS AREA WAS NAMED LAGO VISTA; "LAKE VIEW." FOR SEVERAL YEARS, MANY OF THE RESIDENTS OF LAGO VISTA CAME HERE FOR CLEAN, GOOD WATER, AS DID SOME TRAVELERS. WITH THE STREETS BUILT AND CITY WATER LINES IN, THE NAME LAGO VISTA SPRING BECAME HISTORY.

SPONSOR: THE LAGO VISTA IMPROVEMENT CLUB  
DESIGNED BY PAT NICKELSON. ERECTED BY THE  
SHORELINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY IN 1963.



*This real estate sign at the entrance to Lago Vista community at NE 192<sup>nd</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Ave NE, advertised prices for 1/4-acre lots as low as \$159. If that wasn't enough to pique your interest, then surely the lovely ushers waving brochures would be!*  
(1927 photo courtesy of Shoreline Historical Museum)

## Ballinger Tragedy

On opening day of the Seattle World's Fair, April 21, 1962, an Air Force fighter pilot was enroute to Paine Field in his Delta Dagger after performing an aerial salute above the fairgrounds. He lost power over downtown Seattle, and ejected safely from his jet over Lake Washington. The unmanned plane, instead of ditching into the lake, gained altitude and crashed three miles farther north. It slammed into an unoccupied home at 20044 24<sup>th</sup> Ave NE, before careening across the street and into the home of Raymond and Lillian Smith at 20201 24<sup>th</sup> Ave NE. The couple, in their 60s, burned to death in an explosive ball of fire that shot high into the sky, igniting two adjacent homes. The explosion shook buildings and rattled windows more than a mile away.

## HISTORIC LAGO VISTA

The historic **LAGO VISTA** section of Ballinger Neighborhood is not on our tour today, as it is dangerous for pedestrians to cross 15<sup>th</sup> Ave NE near the access to Lago Vista. The Ballinger Traffic Safety Advisory Committee has identified revision of the "Y" intersection at 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> Avenues NE as a high priority. Instead, we recommend that you explore by vehicle. (To share your comments on recommended traffic safety improvements and traffic safety concerns in Ballinger Neighborhood, plan to attend the upcoming **Ballinger Traffic Safety Open House on Tuesday, September 9, 7:00 pm** at Lake Forest Park Montessori. For details, visit [www.ballingerneighborhood.org](http://www.ballingerneighborhood.org).)

Established in 1927, Lago Vista was built as a weekend resort for wealthy Seattle families. With old-growth trees logged, Lago Vista boasted spectacular views of Lake Washington. Still existing today:

- 7** **LAGO VISTA SPRING MARKER** at NE 195<sup>th</sup> St and 15<sup>th</sup> Ave NE was where early residents of Lake Forest Park stopped for a supply of water on their way to and from the Trunk Road (now Aurora Ave N). See inset at left - monument is inaccessible.
- 8** **SHORELINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY** historic marker at 19541 14<sup>th</sup> Ave NE commemorating the site of the organization's first meeting in 1959. This is one of a series of six markers erected in Shoreline by the Society. Three of the others were erected at Ronald School, Richmond Beach School and Lake Forest Park School.
- 9** **LAGO VISTA IMPROVEMENT CLUBHOUSE** at 1227 NE 198<sup>th</sup>, is now a private residence. A number of nearby homes were expanded from the first small cabins.

## ~ OUR SPONSORS ~



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**THANKS ALSO TO THESE SUPPORTING BUSINESSES**

**Shoreline Bank**  
**Pagliacci's**  
**Village Thriftway**  
**Starbuck's**



*Ballinger Neighborhood Association exists solely to benefit citizens of our community. We seek to capture the best of community life. Believing that neighbors need neighbors, we embrace our urban diversity, and all who call Ballinger Neighborhood "home." We connect neighbors who share similar interests and passions by creating opportunities to gather.*

Visit our website at [www.ballingerneighborhood.org](http://www.ballingerneighborhood.org) or email us at [info@ballingerneighborhood.org](mailto:info@ballingerneighborhood.org).