

## Lakewood Sanctuary

A special place for beaver, birds, juvenile salmon and more

Lakewood Sanctuary is a quiet nook of Lake Washington tucked between Lakewood Moorage and the S. Adams St. boat ramp. By dint of its unique location the area is naturally protected from human intrusion. With trees, woody debris, overhanging foliage, lily pads, and shallow water, it is a natural refuge for beaver and a beaver lodge as well as turtles, red-winged blackbirds, great blue herons, osprey, geese and ducks, and baby salmon making their way to the sea. The sanctuary contributes to the qualities that help make the area – which includes Andrews Bay, Seward Park and Lake Washington Boulevard – so special and popular with people.

The beaver lodge is located just north of the pier to Ohlers Island/Lakewood marina in the sanctuary; it is the only beaver presence south of the 520 bridge. The lodge has been in place for several decades. For at least that long there has been a sign in the water saying, “Keep out, no hunting, fishing or trespassing.” Boats are not supposed to enter. At the shore, there are trees and brush preventing access. However, in the past four years, the brush has been penetrated by social paths. People increasingly traipse through to cast fishing lures or throw sticks for their dogs. Small boats sometimes paddle past the do-not-enter sign.

The hope is that this special natural area, the Lakewood Sanctuary, can be officially protected before the situation and the habitat further deteriorates.

We would like to see better signage identifying the area as a refuge and the new social paths closed off, perhaps by some fencing. There’s plenty of shoreline all around for human usage.

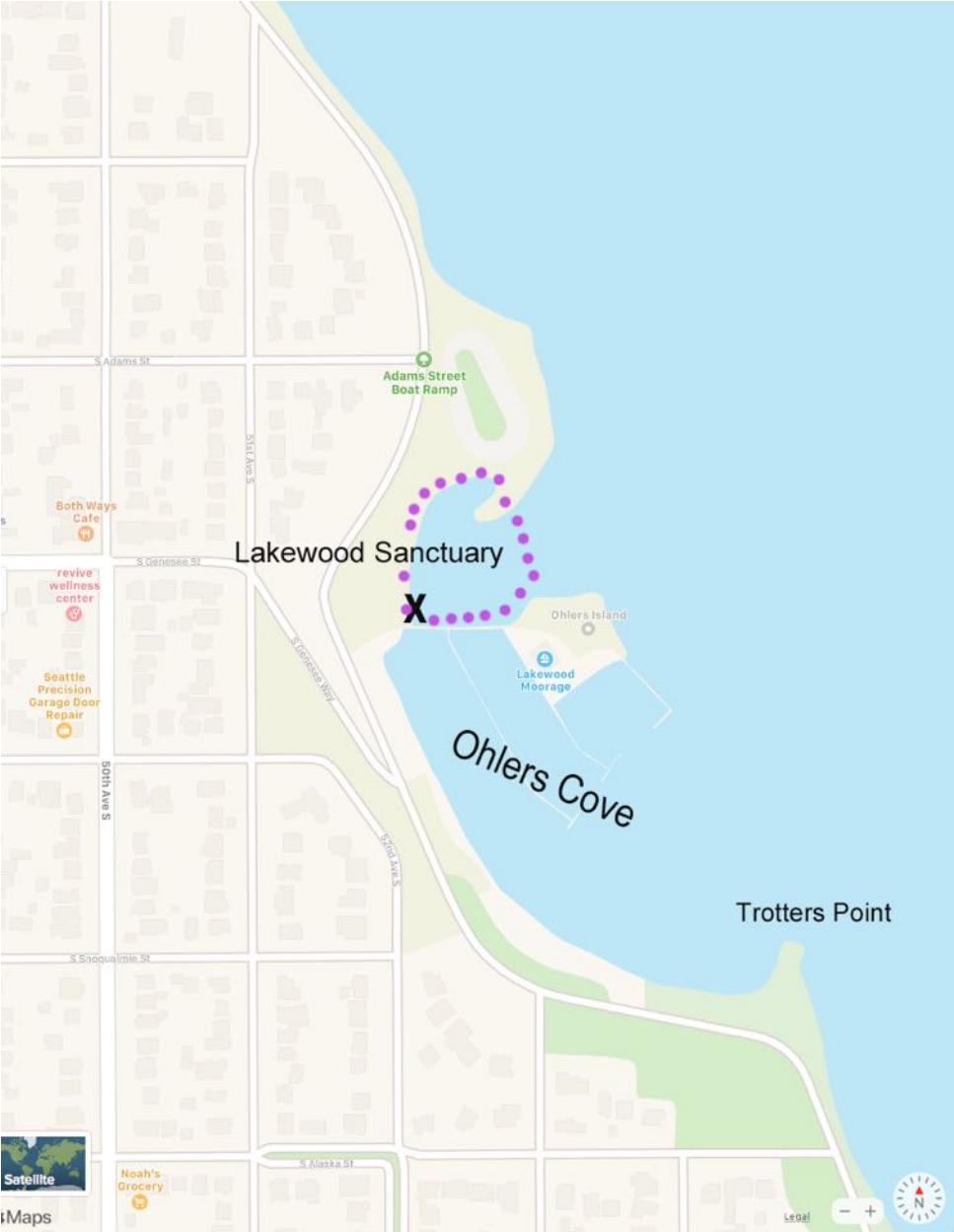
The entire area around Lakewood moorage was a bird sanctuary in the 1930s under the management of Seattle’s parks department. After the moorage was created around the late 1950s, the small adjacent area, the sanctuary, continued to be protected and off limits. Thus this special area has a nearly 100-year history.

It is also worth noting that beginning in November 2022 the pier from shore to Ohlers Island/Lakewood Marina will be open to the public, providing a terrific vantage to view the beaver lodge, birds and Lakewood Sanctuary.

Following are maps and other information concerning the Lakewood Sanctuary.

**1. Map Showing Lakewood Sanctuary Location between Ohlers Island and S. Adams St. Boat Ramp.** The water in the cove behind and around Ohlers Island we are calling OHLERS COVE, and the area in OHLERS COVE north of the bridge we are calling the LAKEWOOD SANCTUARY. The existing beaver lodge is just north of the pier at the shoreline, and is marked with an X. Lakewood Moorage was established around the mid 1950s or early 1960s. As per the map in #2 below, Seattle Parks & Recreation has authority over the shoreline and water around Lakewood Sanctuary and all of Ohlers Cove.

X = Beaver Lodge



2. **Map of Andrews Bay/Seward Park area.** Green indicates where Seattle Parks & Recreation has authority. The map shows that SPR has authority over the shoreline and near shore waters of this area including all the water around Lakewood Moorage and Ohlers Island (top left corner of map). Seattle Parks & Recreation presented this PPT slide to the City Council in 2018 in regards to the lease of Andrews Bay to SPR by Dept. of Natural Resources.

### Andrews Bay

- Andrews Bay is located between Seward Park peninsula and Lake Washington Blvd.



3. **Sign in the water at entrance to Lakewood Sanctuary** saying “Keep Out, no hunting no fishing, no trespassing.” The sign or one like it has been there for decades by neighborhood witness, and everybody, for example at the Lakewood Marina, “just knows” that no one is supposed to enter this area, and disturb the beaver, birds, fish and turtles. Below is a picture of the sign. You can see the entrance gate to Lakewood Marina at the far left center, and just to the right of it a pile of sticks at the waterline. That is the existing beaver lodge.



4. **Picture of a Lakewood Sanctuary beaver** published March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021 in *The Seattle Times*. The beaver lodge has been there several decades, since approximately the mid or late 1990s according to neighborhood residents.

Pacific NW Magazine

## This adorable beaver's face is sure to put a smile on yours

March 31, 2021 at 7:00 am | Updated April 6, 2021 at 11:51 am



(Jeff Chin)

By [Travis Ness](#) 🐦

*Seattle Times photo production*

**Photographer:** Jeff Chin

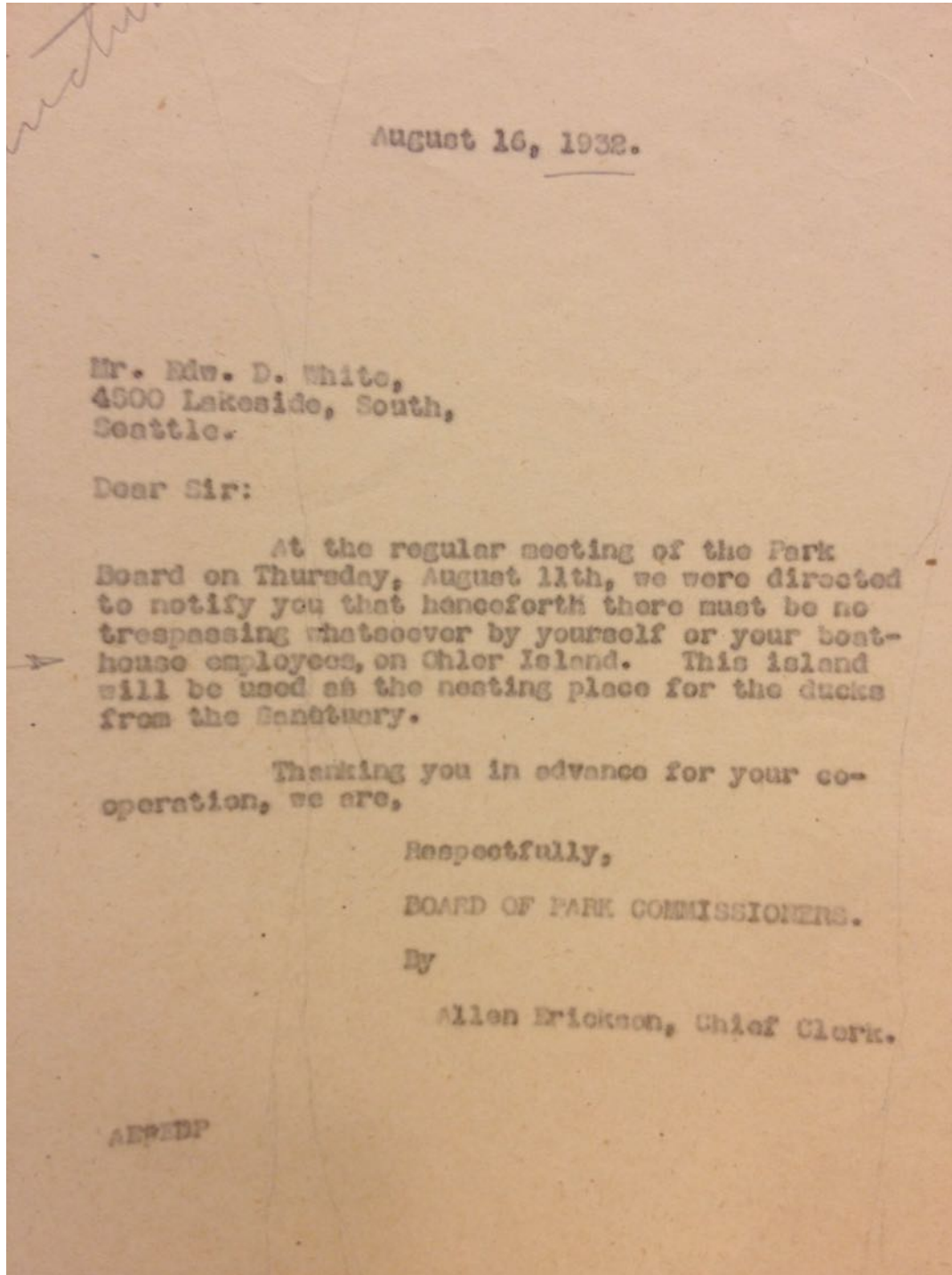
**Photo taken:** March 3, 2021, at Lakewood Marina on Lake Washington

**Photographer's description:** "This happy beaver is not shy at all. Spotted while walking our dog. He was munching away on lily pads. Fuji X-H1 100-400 zoom lens."

**Critique:** "I hope and expect this will bring a lot of smiles to people's faces. One of the keys to photographing animals (and often people, as well) is the face, and this is an excellent example of great animal-face photography. Luckily for Reader's Lens readers, our buddy seems utterly unfazed and happy to 'pose' for a photo. Super fun; thanks for sharing."

*Below is a gallery of previous Reader's Lens picks. Share your recent photo*

5. **History of this area.** Ohlers Island appears on a map circa 1893 though the island may have been seasonal depending on lake height. By 1932, the lake had been lowered, and Ohlers Cove area was used as a “wild bird sanctuary” according to the Board of Park Commissioners; Ohlers Island was reserved for ducks and other birds and used as a nesting area and feeding station, supported by Mr. Donald E. Frederick of Frederick & Nelson fame. After Frederick’s death and sometime in 1938 the bird feeding station and sanctuary were moved to Seward Park.



Park Department Annual Report.

3-15-38

(Head Gardener's report completed on previous page)

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#### W. P. A. IMPROVEMENTS:

Mr. W. C. Hall, Junior Park Engineer, has had a report of the W. P. A. improvements mimeographed, copy of which is hereto attached.

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#### WILD BIRD SANCTUARY:

At this time we wish to pay tribute to Mr. D. E. Frederick, who, we regret to state, passed away on July 6, 1937. We feel his passing to be a distinct loss to the City of Seattle and to the many friends who knew him.

It was at Mr. Frederick's suggestion and through his offer of financial assistance that this bird sanctuary at Lakewood first became a reality. Mr. Frederick paid for the construction and erection of the granary and the fence, and of the boom used in this connection, and up to the time of his death, all the feed was furnished by him.

Since the death of Mr. Frederick, we have been successful in continuing the feeding of the birds through the assistance of Seattle Sportsmen. This contribution has been gratefully received, since no provision was made for the continuance of the feeding, nor did our budget cover this item.

Early in 1937 we discussed with Mr. Frederick the matter of moving the sanctuary to its present location at the north end of Seward Park on Lake Washington, which met with his approval. We had received so many complaints about the birds, from residents in the vicinity of Lakewood, that we found it advisable to make the change, which is proving highly satisfactory.

This feature of the park system continues to prove a source of great interest to wild game lovers, and we receive numerous requests for information as to the time of feeding, etc.

CARKEEK PARK - C. C. C. Camp: - This camp was abandoned by the government some time ago, and permission finally secured to use or dispose of the buildings, which were taking up much needed space.

Carkeek is one of our out-of-town parks, just north of Seattle, on the Sound, and is becoming quite popular with picnickers.

#### G O L F

In the following statistics for 1937, a considerable increase in play over 1936 will be noted, in spite of the fact that both courses were closed nearly four times as many days:

#### JACKSON GOLF COURSE:

Total attendance, 60697; average daily play, 192, based on 317 days' play the course having been closed 48 days out of 365, due to heavy rainfall or snow; largest attendance for any one day was 472 on May 23.

6. Satellite picture of Beaver Cove and Lakewood Moorage, taken in warm weather when the lily pads are growing.





7. Boundary in red dots below mark the proposed sanctuary which is the existing legacy sanctuary. Trees and thickets protect the shoreline, and a sign in the water keeps out boaters. However, in the past five years, social paths have appeared and fishers, dog walkers, and so on have begun to compromise the sanctuary from the land. Also, the ever-increasing kayakers and paddleboarders sometimes ignore the sign in the water. We would like to see the Lakewood Sanctuary protected by closing the social paths, and by better signage on land and water identifying the area as a refuge for beavers, birds, salmonids and other fauna and flora.



**8. Precedents and Examples.** There are some other protected urban beaver lodges on Lake Washington including the Beaver Lodge Sanctuary near Madison Park (on SDOT land), Yesler Swamp by the Center for Urban Horticulture and Magnuson Park Constructed Beaver Ponds (see this [map](#) for Active Beaver Colonies). These beaver colonies are stewarded and protected. Lakewood Sanctuary/Beaver Cove is to our knowledge the only beaver lodge in the southern half of Lake Washington. We believe it should be stewarded and protected.

When Madrona Creek was restored, fencing was established where the creek meets Lake Washington, to protect juvenile salmon. This is a precedent for protecting sensitive public shoreline natural areas from access. In fact, the Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed WRIA 8 Plan has a goal “to double the length of natural lake edge habitat and the amount of riparian vegetation within 25 feet of the shoreline south of I-90 by 2025 (from 2015 conditions),” according to Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz, Salmon Recovery Manager, Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed (WRIA 8).

**9. Community Input.** **Aaron Evanson**, president of the Lakewood Seward Park Neighborhood Ass., is enthusiastically supportive of the Lakewood Sanctuary, as is the LSPNA. Also, **Joey Manson**, director of Seward Park Audubon Center, endorses the proposal. **Paul Talbert**, president of Friends of Seward Park and author of *Wild Isle in the City* also supports protection.

There are a variety of stakeholders in the area, including Friends of Seward Park, Friends of Lakewood Moorage, Save Andrews Bay Committee, and Lakewood Seward Park Neighborhood Ass. (LSPNA), Watershed Resource Inventory Area 8 Salmon Recovery (WRIA8). Though each has different interests, all understand south Lake Washington is one interconnected natural habitat, and recognize how protecting one small area is important and contributes to the health of the whole.

We don't believe there is any opposition to the Lakewood Sanctuary.

It is already a de facto sanctuary and has been for many years.

The beaver lodge is something the neighborhood is proud to have. The beavers to date have not been a problem.

We believe the area should be officially protected and stewarded.

There is community energy to establish a Friends of Lakewood Sanctuary to steward the area and adjacent S. Adams St. Boat Launch.