

LFP Times



A publication of the City of Lake Forest Park • www.cityoflfp.gov • 206-368-5440 • 17425 Ballinger Way NE • Lake Forest Park, WA 98155

Mayor's Corner - Thank you for Helping Make Our Streets Safer



Mayor Tom French

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to the residents of our community for their efforts in slowing down and helping reduce the average speed on NE 178th Street. Thanks to your conscientious driving, the average speed has decreased from over 31 MPH to just above 23 MPH. This is a significant improvement that directly contributes to the safety of our streets, especially in areas with high pedestrian traffic.

Revenues from fines assessed in school walk zones will be reinvested directly into important pedestrian safety

capital improvements that enhance the safety of our walkways, crossings, and other pedestrian and cycling infrastructure.

Additionally, we want to remind everyone that speed limits across the city have been reduced to 25 MPH on collector and arterial roads, and 20 MPH on neighborhood streets. These changes are part of our ongoing efforts to prioritize safety for all road users, particularly pedestrians, children, and seniors.

Thank you for playing an important role in creating safer streets for everyone. Your attention to speed limits is making a difference. Together, we are building a safer, more pedestrian and bicycle-friendly community.

With appreciation,

Tom French, Mayor

Lake Forest Park Shares Survey Results and Next Steps

The City of Lake Forest Park has released findings from its November 2024 community survey, highlighting residents' priorities and budget concerns. With a 17% response rate, the survey reflects strong civic engagement and a shared commitment to the City's future.

Encouragingly, 79% of respondents believe the City is on the right track. However, the survey also underscored a pressing annual budget shortfall.

The City's primary funding source is a general property tax levy. The state reduces the levy rate as property values rise to limit the City to roughly the same amount of revenue per year, plus 1% as allowed by law.

In 2024, that property tax revenue increase amounted to \$34,500. Meanwhile, costs for essential services such as 911 dispatch increased \$284,000, jail costs increased over \$197,000 in one year, and insurance costs increased \$109,000, to list a few examples. The City made significant cuts to staffing, fleet, and operations,

but a more sustainable, long-term solution is needed to continue providing essential services.

Residents identified key priorities, including maintaining a strong police department, keeping parks and trails well-maintained, improving sidewalks near schools, and hiring a grant writer to maximize funding opportunities.

"We thank those who participated in this survey," said Mayor Tom French. "This feedback helps us focus on what matters most to our residents, and their priorities will guide our next steps as we address budget challenges."

To close the funding gap while maintaining services, the City Council is considering options, including a temporary levy. No decisions have been made, and the City remains committed to transparency and public input throughout the process.

For more details about the survey results and upcoming opportunities for public input, please visit www.cityoflfp.gov. The City values residents' voices and looks forward to working together on solutions that keep Lake Forest Park a safe, beautiful, and thriving place to call home.

Drive Safe, Arrive Safe: New Speed Limits in Lake Forest Park

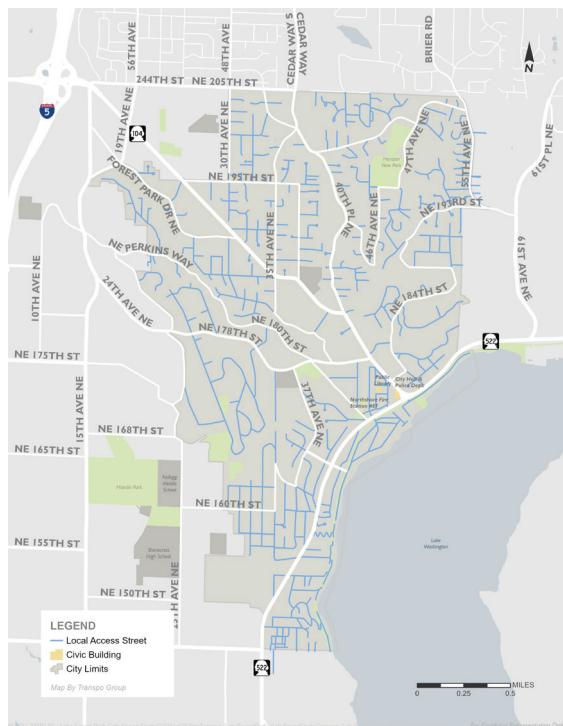
Starting February 6, 2025, the City introduced new speed limits across Lake Forest Park to ensure safer streets for everyone.

What's Changing?

- **Local Access Streets:** New limit: **20 mph** (map 1)
- **Arterials/Collectors:** New limit: **25 mph** (map 2)

Why the Change?

- To reduce accidents and protect pedestrians, bicyclists, and drivers.



Map 1

- To foster a more livable, walkable community where everyone can feel at ease.
- In response to community input and the latest research and safety studies.

Help Us Keep Our Community Safe!

- Follow the new speed limits.
- Stay alert and mindful of your speedometer.
- Encourage friends and neighbors to do the same.

By embracing these new speed limits, we're creating safer neighborhoods, protecting our families, and strengthening the sense of community pride that makes Lake Forest Park a wonderful place to call home.



Map 2

Soaking Up Spring Showers

When rain falls on impervious surfaces such as rooftops, roads, parking lots, and driveways, stormwater runoff is created. Stormwater runoff picks up and carries pollution such as fertilizer, pesticides, sediment, oil, bacteria, and toxic chemicals into our streams and salmon-spawning creeks.

Soil is a natural sponge. It soaks water into the ground and naturally filters out pollution. Add in a rain garden and this natural sponge can soak up even more rainwater, transforming stormwater from a destructive



carrier of pollution into a source of sustenance for plant and wildlife habitats. By reducing stormwater runoff through bioretention, rain gardens can be a valuable tool to help protect our watersheds.

While an individual rain garden may seem like a small thing, collectively they produce substantial neighborhood and community environmental benefits. By capturing runoff in shallow depressions and letting it soak into the ground, rain gardens also help recharge stores of groundwater in aquifers.

If you're interested in finding out more about rain gardens you can stop by City Hall to pick up a Rain Garden Handbook.

Public Works Project Updates

The Public Works Department has some large projects on the horizon that will make our roads safer, improve our sewer infrastructure, and create more salmon spawning habitat.

Roundabout Project

The City is building a roundabout on Ballinger Way NE (SR-104) at the intersection of 40th Place NE and NE 184th Street. The project will include a single-lane roundabout, new sidewalks and shared use pathways, four new pedestrian crossings with refuge islands, and improved street lighting.

Looking towards the future with safety, efficiency, and the environment in mind, this project will allow our community to grow mindfully while also providing infrastructure that supports non-vehicular travel along the corridor. Construction is expected to take place from late 2025 to early 2027.



Roundabout at Ballinger Way NE, 40th PL NE & NE 184th St

Lift Station and Sewer Improvements Project

The City owns and operates two lift stations, both of which are located on Beach Drive NE. While they remain operable, they are well past their service life. These lift stations connect to a sewer main that runs along the edge of Lake Washington, a configuration that does not meet current environmental standards.

The City will be replacing these two lift stations with one and will be relocating the sewer main into the Beach Drive NE right-of-way. This project is still in the early stages of design. Construction is expected to take place in 2026.

L90 and L100 Culvert Replacement Projects

There are two adjacent culverts along Lyon Creek near the intersection of Ballinger Way NE and 35th Avenue NE that have been identified as fish-passage barriers. By removing fish-passage barriers like these and others, the City can increase the area of salmon spawning habitat in our creeks.

The L90 culvert carries Lyon Creek under NE 185th Street and is owned by the City. The L100 culvert carries Lyon Creek under Ballinger Way NE and is owned by WSDOT. The City and WSDOT are working together to replace these culverts. WSDOT's culvert replacement will take place first, during the second half of 2025. The City's culvert replacement will happen a year later during the second half of 2026.

For more information on these or any of the Public Works Department's projects, please reach out to Katie Phillips at kphillips@cityoflfp.gov. For more information on upcoming road closures related to these projects, please see Council Vice-Chair Tracy Furutani's Council Corner in this newsletter.

Changes Coming to Ballinger Way

TRACY FURUTANI, COUNCIL VICE-CHAIR

Commuting? Hosting guests this summer, especially from out of town? Planning to use heavy machinery for home or property improvements this fall? Two upcoming projects along State Route 104 (Ballinger Way NE) have the potential to disrupt normal traffic flow from the second half of 2025 through early 2027.

The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) will replace the culvert under Ballinger Way NE at NE 185th Street and 35th Avenue NE to improve fish passage and enhance flood control. Construction is expected to begin in Summer 2025 and end by Winter 2025. During this time, there will be a five-week full closure of Ballinger Way NE.

The City of Lake Forest Park will be installing a roundabout at the intersection of Ballinger Way NE, 40th Place NE, and NE 184th Street to improve safety for pedestrians, cyclists, and vehicles. Construction is expected to take place from late 2025 to early 2027. Timing for all closures and partial closures is yet to be determined.

The City will provide more detailed information about potential closures and detours along Ballinger Way NE in the coming months, especially for those who live on or near this roadway. For more project details, please refer to the Public Works Project Update in this newsletter. Updates related to WSDOT's culvert replacement can be found on their website.

DIRECTORY

CITY HALL

17425 Ballinger Way NE
Lake Forest Park, WA 98155
M-F: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Phone: 206-368-5440
Email: cityhall@cityoflfp.gov
Web: www.cityoflfp.gov

PERMIT COUNTER

Mon-Th: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

PASSPORTS

By Appointment Only -
Schedule Online at:
<https://www.cityoflfp.gov/124/Passports>
M-F: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Sat: 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Phone: 206-957-2834

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MUNICIPAL COURT

M-F: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Phone: 206-364-7711
Fax: 206-364-7712

POLICE

Emergency: 911
Non-emergency: 425-577-5656
Records: 206-364-8216
Domestic Violence
Victim Advocate: 206-964-8277

SEWER BILLING

Phone: 206-368-5440 x132
Email: sewerbills@cityoflfp.gov



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Lake Forest Park, WA 98155

LFP Early Registration for Summer Camp and Recreation Programs with the City of Shoreline Begins March 13 and May 22



Live in Lake Forest Park? Take advantage of recreation programs through the City of Shoreline! LFP residents get early registration (24 hours prior to others) and an 8% discount on all program fees (excluding rentals) year-round. Early registration for LFP residents for Summer 2025 begins March 13, 2025, at 8:00 a.m.

The City of Shoreline is separating Summer Camp registration from general Spring/Summer programs. LFP residents can register for Summer Camps on March 13, 2025 at 8:00 a.m.,

and for Summer Recreation Programs on May 22, 2025 at 8:00 a.m. Get reminders via the City's website, Facebook, or Twitter.

For more details, visit www.shorelinewa.gov/recreation or call at 206-801-2600.

LFP offers scholarship reimbursements for eligible youth and specialized recreation participants who reside in the City and are registered for and attend cultural, recreation, or aquatic programs and camps. For more info, visit www.cityoflfp.gov or call City Hall at 206-368-5440.

City Council Meetings

City Council Regular Business Meetings

2nd & 4th Thursdays, 7:00 p.m.

City Council Work Session Meetings

2nd Thursday, 6:00 p.m.

City Council Committee of the Whole Meetings

Monday before the 4th Thurs., 6:00 p.m.

City Council Budget & Finance Committee Meetings

3rd Thursday, 6:00 p.m.

Please check our calendar online for the most current meeting updates.

www.cityoflfp.gov

