



# Meadowbrook Farm Park



## Meadowbrook Farm Preservation Association Summer 2020

### Hello, Baby!

It's always fun to see a wild elk, but the warmer months are especially rewarding—the new elk calves are out and about with the herd! Elk cows typically deliver a single spotted calf in May or June, and the calves stay close to their mothers at first. In a month or two, they are a bit more independent and ready to play. While one cow watches for danger, other cows may feed, and you may see several babies frolic, leap and play together! The wild elk move on their own, but mornings or evenings are the best times to look for them. Drive slowly around the perimeter of Meadowbrook Farm Park, along Park Street/Boalch Avenue and SR 202, or walk quietly into one of Meadowbrook's hidden fields; if you don't see an elk right away, try again a bit later. Enjoy your visit to this unique public park!



### Wildlife Watching Tips

- Always observe from a distance, preferably downwind.
- Use binoculars or spotting scopes.
- Talk and move quietly; minimize sharp sounds.
- Early morning and twilight are ideal times to see animals; also check nearby fields for herds.
- Do not disturb animals in mating season, particularly bull elk in the fall rutting season.
- Never come between a mother and her offspring.
- If an animal becomes nervous or moves away, you are too close.
- Pets should stay home.



## Trail News

**Summer 2020** is a difficult time for all of us. Meadowbrook's summer event rentals, indoor classes and hikes have been canceled. But **the trails and fields are open**, and social distancing is easy as you explore the open spaces of Meadowbrook Farm Park.

Now is the perfect time to check out a new trail or unfamiliar Meadowbrook field or to re-visit a favorite place. The mud is gone, the elk are out, and blackberries ready to sample!



Here are a few of our favorites!

*Hikers enjoy Mount Si views from the Prairie Loop trail.*

### **Hike to the New Trail Bridge!**

Have you checked out the new trail bridge that connects Meadowbrook's trails with King County's regional Snoqualmie Valley Trail? **This is a family-friendly hike!** Young people particularly enjoy the combination of pavement, gravel and boardwalk on this level 1.5 mile loop suitable for bikes and strollers. Park at the Meadowbrook Farm Interpretive Center, and walk north on the paved trail along Boalch Avenue towards Snoqualmie. At the Dike Road sign kiosk, cross Boalch Avenue and head towards Mount Si (east) on the gravel trail into the Dike Road Field—you will pass the unique Mary Louie Art Calendar installation—and cross the new trail bridge to connect to the Snoqualmie Valley Trail. Head north (through the golf course) on the Snoqualmie Valley Trail, and watch people enjoy golf! Notice the special gates to keep elk off the golf course! At the golf course entrance driveway, cross Park Street to the paved trail and travel south (towards North Bend) to return to the Meadowbrook Interpretive Center. Watch for signs of wildlife!

### **The Prairie Loop Trail**

Snoqualmie, North Bend, Si View and the Meadowbrook Farm Preservation Association have a **pending grant application** to complete this 2-plus mile trail loop as a paved, ADA accessible trail! But you can scout out the route now, and summer is the ideal time to do it. Celebrating Meadowbrook's history as a maintained, food gathering prairie --Baq(w)ab in the Snoqualmie Lushootseed language-- this loop explores hidden fields, forested wetlands and amazing views on a combination of gravel, paved and grassy trail. Plan to carry toddlers partway; not for strollers (yet!)

Begin at the Meadowbrook Farm Park Interpretive Center. At the parking lot loop, travel west towards the woods and SR202, then follow the trail north along SR 202. After the Ryan Moore Eagle Scout project sign post, enter the woods and cross the foot bridge. Now on an unimproved trail, follow the path across the Camas Meadow field. As you exit the Camas Meadow, you can turn left to follow the tractor road to the Scout Field, and Snoqualmie Middle School, or turn right (east towards Mount Si) to follow the tractor road to the paved trail along Park Street. On the paved trail turn right (south—towards North Bend) to return to the Meadowbrook Farm Interpretive Center.



## About Our Logo . . .

The Meadowbrook Farm Preservation Association logo celebrates the present, past and future of this special place! Designed by artist, historian and educator K. Greg Watson, the drawing shows the Meadowbrook Farm Park of today, with elk grazing peacefully on an open meadow between the valley's borders, Mount Si to the east, and Rattlesnake Ridge to the south. The drawing includes elements of the distant past of Snoqualmie stories of the same land, when two sisters came to the prairie above the falls, to dig fern roots. They spent the night, watching two especially bright stars. After a visit to the sky world where they each married star husbands, they returned to their home, bringing with them baby Snoqualm, who grew up to become Moon the Transformer. He then changed the world and its creatures to their present forms we know today. After 13,000 years as maintained prairie, and 140 years as private farmland, we hope Meadowbrook's next thousand years as public open space always has elk grazing open meadows under moon and stars!



*Greg Watson*

## Summer Harvest!



How do you maintain 462 acres of open space cost-effectively? Meadowbrook's open meadows require periodic mowing to prevent invasive growth, since the ancient method of intermittent burning is now less feasible. Part of the strategy at Meadowbrook Farm Park is to continue some agricultural activity on the fields. This is now primarily hay since the thriving elk herd has a track record of eating other crops. Past partnerships with local farmers have traded field mowing for hay, greenchop (grass cut and hauled to cows who live elsewhere) or haylage (silage made from fermented grass, and stored in plastic.)

This year, MFPA board member and farmer Bill Whitaker has mowed, cured and baled hay, which he has sold out of the field to area horse and livestock owners. Imagine driving into a hot and sweet-smelling Meadowbrook field to pick up your winter's hay! The hay proceeds, donated to the MFPA for maintenance of the Park, are especially appreciated this year, with summer rental income cancellations affecting the maintenance budget. Thank you, Bill!

## Community Support: Scouting Projects

Hands-on work by local young people have greatly benefited Meadowbrook Farm Park with capital improvements over the past 15 years. Seventeen Eagle Scout projects involving enhancements such as benches, kiosks, trail bridges, and other amenities have improved the Park's visitor experiences. Eagle projects utilize the leadership of the Scout in planning, coordination with the MFPA board and suppliers, and heading a work force often involving many people, sometimes in difficult terrain. Other Scout projects have involved an entire troop over many days, and some, such as Girl Scout Troop 43995, who maintain the trail to the Big Cedar, have been a multi-year commitment. Thank you to these young people, who work to create lasting amenities for Meadowbrook Farm Park.



*Scouts and parents turn out to work with Mik Metzler (center) to create the trail to the Big Cedar.*



*Girl Scout Troop 40944 refurbished the Meadowbrook Interpretive Center sign in 2015. This year, troop member Carolee McCarty (right), now a Senior Scout, again restained and repainted the sign.*



*Eagle Scout Ryan Moore shows signpost parts for the Prairie Loop Trail.*

Let the MFPA know if there are amenities you would like to see at Meadowbrook Farm Park. Two new Eagle projects are now in the planning stages, and we keep an ongoing list of project ideas for Scouts and other community groups.

## Community Support: Whitaker Foundation Grant!

The Meadowbrook Farm Preservation Association was recently awarded a \$1,000 grant by the Whitaker Family Foundation, the second time the group has supported the MFPA. The foundation was started by long-time Snoqualmie family practice physician Dr. John Whitaker and his wife, Mary, who both had many interests, and supported a wide variety of charitable causes. Special interests included education, agriculture, including 4-H programs, and Catholic charities. Snoqualmie's Whitaker Park commemorates Dr. Whitaker's long career in the valley and the family's involvement.

The MFPA appreciates the support of the Whitaker Foundation, and the generous grant is particularly helpful in this financially difficult year where rental income is curtailed. Thank you, Whitaker Foundation!



*Dr. John and Mary Whitaker*

## Summer Nights at the (Drive-In) Theater

When you can't go to a concert, a restaurant, your favorite pub, or even a movie, what can you do? Hop in the car and go to the drive-in, of course! **North Bend's Downtown Foundation**, with sponsorship help from the Snoqualmie Tribe, the City of North Bend, and the North Bend Theater, staged "Galaxy Quest" – a science fiction spoof-- on Meadowbrook's large field near the Interpretive Center building on July 23. Using a 20 x 40' inflatable screen, the Epic Events company from Portland put on the movie for about 200 cars. Boy Scouts, Sea Scouts and Troop 466 parents helped park cars, and with Kiwanis members, did litter patrol. Enjoying popcorn from the North Bend Theater, patrons pronounced the evening a great success. The Downtown Foundation hopes to stage another drive-in event in September. Watch for tickets soon! **Si View Parks** plans a similar family-oriented drive-in movie night August 27, where an all-ages outdoor movie will be shown on the giant inflatable screen. Come join an evening of entertainment from the comfort of your vehicle! Pack along your own blankets, popcorn, snacks and drinks! Pre-registration is required to secure your parking spot. Check [www.siviewpark.org](http://www.siviewpark.org) for more details.



*Cars enter Meadowbrook's large event field for the Downtown Foundation's drive-in movie event.*



## Meadowbrook Farm Preservation Association

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