

PLDD Tackles Storm Water Issues

You don't have to own a backyard rain gauge to know the rainy season from the fall of 2016 through spring of 2017 has seen greater than normal rainfall. A Seattle weather blog reports that October 2016 was the wettest month on record with over three times the normal amount of rainfall. Additionally, the combined rainfall for February and March 2017 is the wettest these two months have been since weather records began in the 1890s. Lots of folks are noticing standing water around their property this year, perhaps more than has previously been observed.

Over the years, the Port Ludlow Drainage District (PLDD) has received numerous inquiries as to whether the District can help with private property water issues. The majority of our community is not built on soil that allows rain water to infiltrate into the ground. Instead it is underlain by glacial till consisting of a compact mixture of clay, silt, sand, gravel, and boulders that were deposited during the last glaciation. Till inhibits the flow of water into and through the soil layers which can result in standing water or surface runoff from uphill areas.

Water that has entered more permeable soils is trapped between layers of till soils and, when the soil conditions are right, the trapped ground water may be discharged from the confining till layers. This often happens where the till soils have been disturbed such as at the uphill foundation wall of our homes. Most all home owners have dealt with the need to install curtain drains (French drains) around the uphill side of their property.

The PLDD does not have jurisdiction to solve individual drainage problems or ground water issues. The District's mission is to alleviate storm water conveyance problems on community property, like the greenbelts. For those that live at the top of the hill, ground water is not as severe a problem as for those at the bottom of the hill. The District is often asked to review issues relating to a single property, and at times has been able to offer a suggestion for solution, but cannot provide advice or remediate individual issues.

There have been 18 Capital Improvement Projects undertaken and completed by PLDD that have contributed to the improvement of storm water flow over the years. These improvements have addressed community safety, preservation of property, and water quality for the benefit of all residents. The maintenance of PLDD projects and facilities is an ongoing focus of the District. The District's maintenance crew has worked hard during this historic rainy winter to ensure that the conveyance facilities are able to continue functioning under all conditions.

The PLDD Board meets at 10:00 a.m. on the second Thursday of each month at the Beach Club, and everyone is invited to attend.

Update from the Manager

by Brian Belmont, General Manager

Regardless of whether you are a member of Ludlow Maintenance Commission (LMC), South Bay Community Association (SBCA), or are involved in organizations such as Port Ludlow Village Council (PLVC), we all depend on volunteers to accomplish our charters and goals.

When you think about the various Port Ludlow groups, you'll note the wide range of opportunities to volunteer in one capacity or another. Perhaps your interest is in serving on a governing committee or running for a board. I know the LMC welcomes interested volunteers.

At this time, I would like to recognize and thank one of our Port Ludlow's little-recognized volunteer groups. Over the past year or so, I had an opportunity to observe the planning and construction of what I expect to be one of Port Ludlow's most popular and beautiful hiking trails. When completed, the trail will run through the length of the LMC greenbelt area that begins at the bottom of Osprey Ridge Drive and terminates near the intersection of Rainier Lane and Walker Way.

The "Osprey Trail" is set in a beautifully forested area that has remained untouched by North Bay development. Trails Committee Chair Larry Scott mapped out the initial trail route, and for the past month, he and his fellow members, the PLVC Trails Committee, have been working hard on the construction phase of the Osprey Trail.

Larry has sent me regular updates on his committee's progress, and it always amazes me how much they enjoy the progress they make each "Fun Day" as they work on trails.

I would like to thank and recognize the eager volunteers who helped make the new Osprey Trail a reality: Larry Scott, John Fillers, Doug Huber, Dean Morgan, Merrily Mount, Jim Mueller, Richard Myers, Dave Pendergast, Denny Schuch, and Sharlene Shiroma. Thank you for your contribution in making our great community even greater!

As always, if you have questions or comments about this article or the on-going work at the Beach Club, I can be reached at 360-437-9201 or by email at beachclub@olympus.net.