



Volunteer Event Information – Big Finn Hill Park, September 5th 9-1pm

Day of Event Contact – Lina Rose, 206.491.5014

King County Parks

King County's award-winning Parks and Recreation system consists of 200 parks, 175 miles of trails and 28,000 acres of open space. In our 200 parks, you'll find ballfields, playgrounds and pools, as well as lush forests, quiet meadows, and many other Northwest ecosystems.

Why your Volunteer Service is Important

Forests need to have diversity in order to be healthy and thrive. When forests are thriving, they can provide many benefits to our community like filtering pollution, mitigating erosion and storm damage and providing habitat for wildlife and green spaces where people can connect with nature and the outdoors. Aggressive noxious weeds like English Ivy and Himalayan Blackberry were brought to this area and planted by for their desirable characteristics of staying green all year round or tasty fruits. These plants have upset the balance that our forests need to survive and thrive. Removing these aggressive plants and planting native plants can help restore the balance to a damaged ecosystem.

Big Finn Hill Park is 220-acre multi-use park. It is an active recreation site and a wooded urban oasis along Juanita Drive. To the east of the road, the park offers recreation facilities including ballfields, a play area, a rustic picnic shelter (no water/power) and) multi-use trails; to the west of the road, trails loop through the forest. The trails are frequented by mountain bikers, dog walkers, and hikers. Trails at Big Finn Hill Park connect with trails at St. Edwards State Park to the north. Steep climbs in the north and south combine with moderate rolling terrain on the ridge tops. With its variety of flora and terrain, visitors occasionally spot deer, owls, hawks and eagles.

What to Expect

Please divide students into **3** groups of roughly 20 students in advance of the event. When the bus arrives, students will unload and break into their groups. Each group will be giving one King County Parks staff leader and will work as a team for the day in a specific site. We will provide all tools, restoration instruction, work gloves and a water jug with cups. Since teachers and parents will know the students best, we look to them to support general group management, serve alongside students and work with us to keep students engaged and motivated. We will begin the event at 9am, aim to take a 30-40 minute lunch at about 11 and wrap up at 12:45pm to get students back on the bus by 1pm. Our project for the day is to work on removing invasive plants from an area in the park and some groups may be spreading woodchip mulch.

What to Bring

Our events run rain or shine so please arrive prepared for the weather. We want you to enjoy your time with us!

- Layers of warm clothing that can get dirty.
- Closed-toed shoes are essential. Sturdy sneakers, rain boots or hiking boots are ideal
- Jeans or thick pants are ideal, stretchy leggings, shorts or capris are not recommended
- Full water bottle and snacks
- Rain jacket and rain pants/sun hat and sunblock
- Lunch

Please do not use GPS or Google Maps alone to navigate to parks. If you use GPS, please double check against this map and/or these directions to ensure the GPS is sending you to the correct meeting spot.

Big Finn Hill – Directions to West Entrance* - from 405 N.

- Exit 405 at 20A, for NE 116th St.
- Keep left at the fork to continue toward NE 116th St.
- Turn left onto NE 116th St.
- NE 116th St. turns slightly right and becomes NE Juanita Dr. then becomes Juanita Dr. NE
- Continue on Juanita Dr. NE
- Turn right (east) onto NE 138th St. into park
- Drive through first parking area, turn left into second parking area and look for our registration table near the shelter.

****Note that there are several entrances to the park, please follow these directions to reach the correct meeting spot***

