

Meet the New Miller/Walker Creek Basin Steward

Article for the Normandy Park Community Club Newsletter

August 3, 2011

Elissa Ostergaard is our new Miller/Walker Creek Basin Steward. She started in early July, and is taking over for Dennis Clark.

Elissa originally hails from the Seattle area. She went to school at The Evergreen State College, where she studied birds and plants, and has a Master's degree in Wildlife Science from the University of Washington. She has worked on streams both in the field and on many outreach and planning projects since 1994. She was previously an Ecologist with King County, an urban wildlife biologist for the Arizona Game and Fish Department out of Tucson, Arizona, and most recently worked as a stormwater specialist for the City of Bellevue. She enjoys working with people to improve the environment, especially conditions for fish and wildlife. In her spare time, Elissa enjoys gardening, cooking, playing ultimate frisbee, birdwatching, and getting outside with her dog.

As the Miller/Walker Basin Steward, Elissa hopes to inspire and inform residents to continue improving the habitat conditions in the two creeks. Many small actions by a group of people working together can make a huge difference. By removing invasive plants such as ivy, planting native trees and shrubs, cleaning up the water, and reducing the amount of water that rushes to the stream with every rainfall, she believes the residents of the watershed can restore a complex food web and a thriving salmon population.

Opportunities to help restore native plants along the creeks and look for spawning salmon will be coming up as early as this fall. If you would like to participate, please call Elissa at (206) 296-1909, or send her an email at elissa.ostergaard@kingcounty.gov. See past projects in the Miller/Walker basin at <http://www.kingcounty.gov/environment/watersheds/central-puget-sound/miller-walker-creeks.aspx>