

The Canopy

July 2026



Celebrating our exciting progress!

Trees protected
to date:

493,290

Trees planted
to date:

7,064

Tree Connect
Events to date:

230

In this issue:

- Many ways to make a difference this summer
- *Silent Friend* at the Pickford
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- And more!

Summer Shade Threatened By Ivy - YOU Can Help



English ivy is a real threat to the trees that keep our parks and trails shady and cool in summer. Help us free our shade-giving trees from ivy's strangling vines so they and other native plants can thrive and grow. Join us at one of our upcoming ivy removal work parties! Check out the schedule and links to register below:

Sneak Peak at the Fall:

We're planning a work party for National Public Lands Day on September 26, an ivy removal/planting party at Silver Lake Park on October 3, and ivy removal at Lincoln Park in Blaine for Make a Difference Day on October 24. Stay tuned!

July 30, 12-3pm
Interurban Trail *

Aug. 8, 9am-12pm
Halverson Park

Aug. 22, 9am-12pm
Euclid Park



WMTP Co-Presents "Silent Friend" at the Pickford Bay July 10 - 16



Thank you to our friends at Bellingham's beloved [Pickford Film Center](#) for co-presenting Silent Friend with WMTP at the Bay Street Theater July 10-16.

[View trailer](#)

[Review/Synopsis](#)

[Tickets & Showtimes](#)

This visually stunning film tells the century-spanning story of a tree that observes the transformation of three human lives as they unfold across the course of a century. The story begins in 1908, travels to 1972, then takes us to 2020 and the beginning of the pandemic. It's a beautiful story that you will feel and carry with you. Silent Friend is a 2025 live action historical drama written and directed by Ildikó Enyedi, playing at the Pickford's Bay Street theater July 10-16.



WMTP Advocates for a Stronger Landmark Tree Ordinance

On June 18, WMTP spoke against the proposed Landmark Tree Ordinance at the Bellingham Planning Commission meeting. The proposed ordinance did not provide clear guidance for essential projects like affordable housing, and it did not adequately protect trees. The Planning Commission asked staff to improve the policy and will review a newer version soon.

Our values should drive our policy, and this reprieve gives City staff time to align them. We have recently seen poorly designed projects move forward to the terrible detriment of our natural areas because the rules that should have stopped them were not strong enough.



We're eager to support the Bellingham Planning and Community Development Department's work to ensure that doesn't happen again. Thanks to everyone who submitted comments and worked to ensure Bellingham is not a city where affordable housing is pitted against protecting trees!

Stronger Landmark Tree Ordinance, Cont.



This recent advocacy success is an important example of one way WMTP protects Whatcom County's trees. We monitor and advocate for policies that both protect our tree canopy and build essential housing that we need. We know it's possible to protect our natural environment while increasing much-needed affordable housing supply with transparency and clear guidelines. This work takes a great deal of staff time and focus.

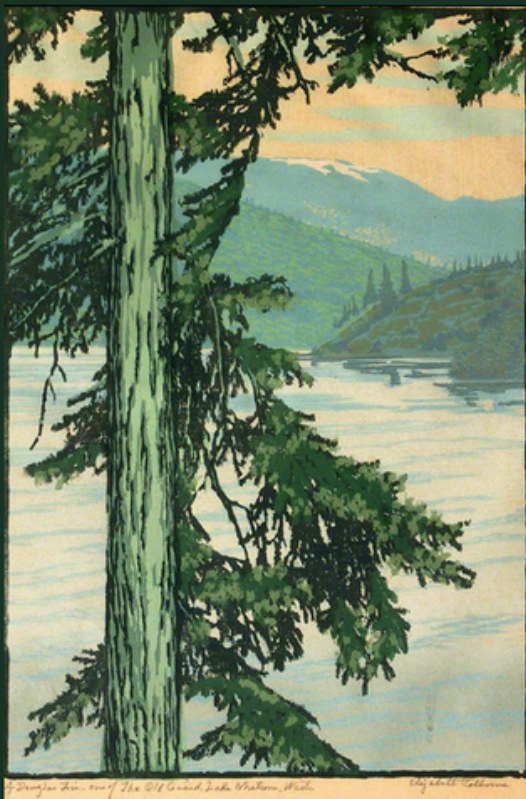
Our capacity to continue this work depends heavily on crucial support from community donations and business partners.

If you enjoy the many wonderful benefits that urban trees provide our community and dread seeing trees cut down unnecessarily, please consider making a one-time or monthly donation to help us continue local tree protection efforts!

**Donate to
Protect Trees!**



“Safekeeping: Prints From the Lake Whatcom Watershed” Next Month!



Elizabeth Colborne: "Lake Whatcom, Washington," circa 1929; color woodcut print; reprinted with permission of The Museo, Bellingham, Washington.

The forests of the Lake Whatcom watershed have inspired great works of art and inspired people to conserve and protect them. This fall, 128 acres of mature native forest in the Lake Whatcom watershed are scheduled to be auctioned off for a timber sale. This workshop will help us see and express many of the reasons these trees should be protected.

In this two-day workshop, students will examine the exceptional work of notable woodcut print artists who have worked in the Lake Whatcom watershed and learn about the watershed's forests and plant communities on a naturalist-led hike.

Students will then have the chance to transform what they observe into multilayered color woodblock prints of their own. Course will be taught by celebrated woodcut print artist Charles Spitzack as a fundraiser for Whatcom Million Trees Project. Open to all experience levels.

DATES: August 15 and 16

TIME: 10:00am-5:00pm PDT

TUITION: \$390 + \$40 material fees

LEVEL: All experience levels

AGE GROUP: Adults (ages 16+)

LOCATION: Museums in downtown Bellingham and Lakewood Boathouse, 2410 Lake Whatcom Blvd, Bellingham, WA 98229

Sign up!



Thank You, Birchwood Neighborhood Association!



We were grateful to be included in the Birchwood International Market on June 28! What a terrific, beautifully organized community celebration by the Birchwood Neighborhood Association! Thank you to everyone who came together and worked hard to make it happen. Thanks also to our outreach volunteers for representing us so well and to everyone who stopped by to learn more about our mission and get involved!



WMTP Welcomes New Planting Co-Coordinator



For most of WMTP's existence, our tree planting program has been superbly facilitated by our volunteer Planting Coordinator, Jim Smith, with the support of our dedicated team of Tree Wrangler volunteers.

Coordinating our planting program is a big job, and we're excited to announce the promotion of another long-time volunteer, Logan Dúnlaing, to Planting Co-Coordinator.

Logan Dúnlaing is a local potato and mushroom farmer. He teaches Irish at the Bellingham library and enjoys planting trees on the weekends. He has served as a volunteer with the Whatcom Million Trees Project since 2023 and is excited to join Jim Smith as planting co-coordinator come the 2026 autumn planting season.



Celebrate a Special Event or Milestone with a Gift to Trees!

Do you have a birthday, a graduation, a milestone, or other event coming up that you'd like to celebrate? Would you like to encourage your friends to do something impactful in your honor? Consider hosting a virtual fundraiser!



Facebook and Instagram both have ways to host fundraisers that support nonprofits so people in your network can use their social media accounts to easily donate toward a goal you set in honor of you. [Learn how.](#)

If social media fundraisers aren't your thing, WMTP would be happy to help you set up an online fundraiser to celebrate a special birthday, anniversary, graduation, or other occasion.

We can make you a customized graphic and a donation link that you can share with friends and family. You can set a fundraising goal and deadline and ask people to make a donation in your honor. We can provide them with a tax receipt, and we can also let you know how much you raised so you can celebrate your success!

If you have any questions or would like to celebrate your special day or milestone by supporting us, please let us know! You can start creating your personalized fundraiser by clicking the button. Thanks to everyone who's already celebrated special days by supporting us, and thanks to those who've honored them by making a donation!

**Create a
Virtual
Fundraiser!**



PICKFORD Film CENTER

GIVE IT!

VOLUNTEER. SHOW UP. GET REWARDED.



We're launching a new community initiative that celebrates giving back.



Here's how it works :

Volunteer in your community — whether that means helping at a local nonprofit, joining a neighborhood cleanup, supporting a food bank, or showing up for a cause you care about. After you volunteer, stop by Backcountry Essentials and tell us about it to unlock community rewards!



Volunteer One Time — Free slice at Pye Hole

Volunteer Two Times — Free movie ticket to Pickford Film Center

Volunteer Three Times — Backcountry Essentials swag

Email Info@BackcountryEssentials.net for more info.

If you volunteer with us this summer, you can participate in Backcountry Essentials' "Give It!" program, an initiative they recently launched to reward community members for volunteering!

Want to participate? Take a photo of yourself volunteering at a WMTP work party or outreach event and bring it to Backcountry Essentials and show it to a staff member. They'll record your service and help you receive the milestone rewards featured in the Give It poster. [View Back Country Essential's location and hours.](#)

Would you like to serve on WMTP's Board of Directors?

Join our board & support our success!



We're always looking for talented and passionate leaders. Please consider completing this quick form and we'll get in touch when we have an opening.

[Apply here](#)

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