

# Maple Hollow is the newest addition to KP parks

By Danna Webster, KPNews

On May 18, Key Pen Parks celebrated the opening of Maple Hollow Park with a ribbon-cutting ceremony, barbecue lunch and guided tours. Five pairs of scissors snipped the ribbon. The tools were in the hands of the president and vice president of the parks commissioner board, Greg Anglemeyer and Bill Trandum; the president of the Key Peninsula Business Association, Ed Robison (who also serves as a parks commissioner); Debbie Austin, who represented Jan Angel's office; and Pierce County Councilman Stan Flemming.

Maple Hollow Park is open to visitors as a passive-recreation park on 58.5 acres with a three-quarter-mile moderate trail down to 1,400 feet of shoreline and beach along Carr Inlet.

The opening was coordinated with the regular lunch meeting date for the Key Peninsula Business Association and lunch was provided by Key Pen Parks and catered by Greg Murphy of Murph's BBQ. Representatives from programs like West Sound Watershed and the Washington Sea



Photo by Danna Webster, KP News

**Guests of the Maple Hollow ribbon cutting ceremony Jake and Will Henley, learn about the living creatures in west Puget Sound along with their mother, Kellie Henley and Pierce County Councilman Stan Flemming. Harbor Wild-Watch president, Joyce Murray, tells them how crabs grow out of their shells.**

Grant at WSU-Kitsap Extension served as trail and beach guides, explaining the natural shoreline recovery processes. Harbor WildWatch provided a "Touch the Creatures from the Beach" exhibit at

the picnic area.

The park was secured as a 50-year lease from Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in 2009. It was one of the original canoe and kayak water accesses developed by DNR in the late '70s.

The property was closed around 1990 due to lack of funds for maintenance. The area suffered the abuses of an abandoned property for two decades, creating many issues for Key Pen Parks to resolve

prior to getting it ready for public use. Various sources of funding were sought and matching grants were secured from the DNR creosote recovery program, the Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account and the Salmon Recovery Board. Improvements included the removal of the original bulkhead and old creosote steps, cleanup of trash and dump sites and the building of a trail, part of which is wheelchair-accessible.

According to Key Pen Parks executive director, Scott Gallacher, the removal of the bulkhead allows for the runoff of fresh water into Carr Inlet through various natural processes. Other parks in Kitsap County and also Penrose State Park are considering the removal of their bulkheads.

"This beach is a case study for the natural processes that occur. We are working with Mother Nature for our project," Gallacher said. He explained that armoring a shoreline with a bulkhead is needed only for property with structures and houses.

The trail head for the park is near the street parking at 4441 Van Beek Road, about one-quarter mile east from the Key Peninsula Highway intersection. This area is furnished with a concrete picnic table and wheelchair-accessible vault privy. There is a half mile long trail, also wheelchair-accessible, which was built as an Eagle Scout project. This trail leads to an overlook with a potential view of Mount Rainer on a clear day. Recycled asphalt was used for the path and most building materials used for the park are also from recycled sources.

Once again, the park provides kayak and canoe access to the Carr Inlet and South Puget Sound. Visitors are welcomed by giant moss-coated maple trees along the winding trail between the trail head and the beach and in the springtime, they are treated to a carpet of trillium blossoms.

The park will be busy this summer with several weeklong day camps that involve Legos, theater and ecological studies planned by Key Pen Parks Recreation Coordinator Jessica Smeall. The summer camp program information is listed on the park website at [www.keypenparks.com](http://www.keypenparks.com).

Gallacher hopes for high use of this park, both for public pleasure and to keep the site safe from vandals. "The best deterrent for vandals is public use and many eyes," he said.

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## Guild in need of more Angels

The Angel Guild is looking for a few more good members to help run the store. The thrift store has added one day to the summer schedule with the hope of increasing revenue. The new summer hours at the thrift store in the Key Center Corral are Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The additional hour will help the nonprofit bring in more revenue; however, it also means volunteers will be working double or triple shifts. For more information about becoming a member (dues are \$5 per year), call 884-9333 or email [angelguild9013@hotmail.com](mailto:angelguild9013@hotmail.com).

Read a complete story about the Angels and recent changes in next month's edition.