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CALENDAR LISTING: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### EASTSIDE AUDUBON PRESENTS THE MARYMOOR BIRD FESTIVAL

When: August 2, 2008, 10AM to 2PM

Where: Marymoor Park, Redmond WA

Contact: (425) 576-8805 or [EastsideAudubon.org](http://EastsideAudubon.org)

Join Eastside Audubon as we celebrate the grand opening of the Audubon BirdLoop Nature Trail at Marymoor Park in Redmond WA. Enjoy bird and native plant walks, food, entertainment, hands-on activities for children and adults, and informative displays. The opening ceremonies at noon feature a special appearance by King County Executive Ron Sims. Marymoor bird expert Michael Hobbs, who has been birding at Marymoor for more than 14 years, will also speak.

The Audubon BirdLoop is a two-year project built by volunteers and funded by a grant from King County WA. Eastside Audubon volunteers built more than two miles of trails, restored bird and wildlife habitat, and replanted native trees and vegetation. The nature trail also features two new kiosks and several interpretive signs designed by a local artist.

Eastside Audubon (formerly East Lake Washington Audubon) connects people with nature through bird and plant walks, conservation activities, and a wide variety of classes for both children and adults. The mission of Eastside Audubon is to protect, preserve and enhance natural ecosystems and our communities for the benefit of birds, other wildlife, and people. Eastside Audubon was established in 1980, and serves the urban and rural communities east of Seattle.

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## AUDUBON BIRDLLOOP NATURE TRAIL TO OPEN AT MARYMOOR PARK

### EASTSIDE AUDUBON AND KING COUNTY PARKS COLLABORATE ON TWO-YEAR, \$100,000 PROJECT

Kirkland WA, July 16, 2008 -- For the past two years, over 200 volunteers have put in more than 2300 hours of hard work restoring and replanting the interpretive nature trail at Marymoor Park near Redmond. The trail, now known as the Audubon BirdLoop, has been transformed into a showcase for the birds and other wildlife in our area.

King County Executive Ron Sims and Eastside Audubon President Christy Anderson will officially open the new Audubon BirdLoop Nature Trail at King County's Marymoor Park on August 2. The opening ceremonies will take place at noon, as part of the Eastside Audubon Bird Festival.

The 2.2-mile Audubon BirdLoop invites anyone with a taste for the outdoors to stroll through a grassy meadow, investigate a mysterious thicket and sheltering forest, experience the diversity of a rich marsh, stroll along the river, and savor a conifer grove.

The Audubon BirdLoop boasts extensive new native plantings, interpretive signs by artist Linda Feltner and writer Dennis Paulson, and two informative kiosks featuring photographs of the wildlife that might be seen along the trail.

Eastside Audubon has restored sections of boardwalk in the wetlands area of the trail, and removed large areas of invasive plants such as blackberries and scotch broom. According to Jim Rettig, Audubon BirdLoop project manager, one of the most rewarding aspects of the project for him has been the chance to witness the enthusiasm and perseverance of so many dedicated volunteers.

"It was such a great feeling to come out here on the first Saturday of December last year," Rettig says, "and find seven people ready to go to work despite the holiday season and the terrible weather."

Eastside Audubon began work on the idea of "adopting" the interpretive nature trail at Marymoor Park in September 2005. At the urging of Megan Lyden, an avid birder and frequent visitor to Marymoor Park, Eastside Audubon began work on a proposal for the King County Parks Community Partnerships and Grants (CPG) program.

In June 2006, Eastside Audubon received a \$100,000 CPG grant to restore and update the trail, and also signed a 5-year contract with King County Parks to take over stewardship of the area.

Marymoor Park bird expert Michael Hobbs, who has been doing weekly bird surveys at the park since 1994, is an enthusiastic supporter of the Audubon BirdLoop. According to Hobbs, Eastside Audubon's involvement reflects Marymoor Park's status as a premier place to view wildlife and experience nature.

"Over the years," Hobbs says, "Marymoor has gone from a place ignored by birders, to one that attracts people from all over the country."

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