



**NEWS RELEASE**  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Media Contact: Mary Brisson  
Phone: (425) 829-8110

**EASTSIDE AUDUBON APPLAUDS DECISION TO SHIFT FIREWORKS LOCATION**  
**Minor Move Will Be Big Boon to Baby Bald Eagles at Heritage Park**

KIRKLAND — The recent decision by Celebrate Kirkland! to shift the position of the Fourth of July fireworks barge will protect two baby Bald Eagles still in their nest at Heritage Park, and Eastside Audubon applauds the move.

“The Bald Eagle is our national symbol and the Heritage Park nest has a special place in downtown Kirkland and along the July Fourth parade route,” said Andy McCormick, president of Eastside Audubon. “We are very happy that Celebrate Kirkland! understood the benefit to the eagles of having the fireworks display farther away from the nest to reduce the risk of disturbing the two eaglets that have not yet fledged and cannot fly. It will be a great day to celebrate the birth of our country and the Bald Eagle.”

For Fourth of July celebrants who would like to see the baby eagles, Eastside Audubon will be at Heritage Park with spotting scopes pointed at the nest high in a fir tree over the lake. High-power scopes allow viewing at a distance with no disturbance to the nesting birds, and will be available after the parade and for two hours before the fireworks show.

Along with Mr. McCormick, Kirkland resident and Eastside Audubon member Nancy Roberts met with Penny Sweet of Celebrate Kirkland! last week to request the move of the fireworks barge. U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service guidelines require fireworks displays to be located at least a half-mile from an active Bald Eagle nest and recommend a distance of one mile.

As a result of the meeting between Eastside Audubon and Celebrate Kirkland!, the fireworks barge this year will be farther south and the fireworks shells will be directed away from Heritage Park in an effort to prevent frightening the young birds.

An adult Bald Eagle pair has been nesting in the park for at least three years and last summer successfully fledged one young bird. With two young on the nest this year, there is a greater risk of one falling out if they are disturbed, Mr. McCormick said.

“Moving the fireworks farther from the nest will contribute to the successful fledging of the eaglets,” he said.

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**About Eastside Audubon**

Eastside Audubon is the National Audubon Society chapter active in Bellevue, Bothell, Carnation, Duvall, Issaquah, Kirkland, North Bend, Redmond, Sammamish, Snoqualmie, Woodinville, and unincorporated East King County.

Eastside Audubon works to protect, preserve, and enhance natural ecosystems and our communities for the benefit of birds, other wildlife, and people. We welcome new and experienced birders on our birding walks and field trips and in our birding classes. Visit [www.eastsideaudubon.org](http://www.eastsideaudubon.org).

**Web Link for Event Information**

[www.eastsideaudubon.org](http://www.eastsideaudubon.org)

**Contact Info for Publication (if required)**

Eastside Audubon Office  
[www.eastsideaudubon.org](http://www.eastsideaudubon.org)  
[office@eastsideaudubon.org](mailto:office@eastsideaudubon.org)  
425-576-8805

**For Media Inquiries**

Mary Brisson  
Communication Chair  
Eastside Audubon  
[marybrisson@eastsideaudubon.org](mailto:marybrisson@eastsideaudubon.org)  
425-829-8110

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P.O. Box 3115  
Kirkland, WA 98083-3115  
phone 425-576-8805  
[eastsideaudubon.org](http://eastsideaudubon.org)