

City of Bellingham Habitat News



City of
Bellingham
WASHINGTON

HABITAT NEWS

Help us improve, protect and monitor restoration sites throughout Bellingham

Celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day at a 'Party with a Purpose'



Celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service by joining the City of Bellingham and the Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association (NSEA) for a community work party on Monday, Jan. 15 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Volunteers will plant native plants around the Whatcom Creek estuary in Maritime Heritage Park, contributing to ongoing efforts to restore salmon habitat in the heart of Bellingham. This work will help improve critical habitat for a number of

fish species, including steelhead trout, coho, chum, pink and Chinook salmon.

Tools, gloves and instruction will be provided. There will also be pizza donated by Papa John's and a raffle hosted by NSEA. The event is located in Maritime Heritage Park, at 1600 C Street. Meet us at the tents near the fish tanks when you arrive. You can check out the [event map](#) for more details. If you have additional questions, please contact Rae Edwards at (360) 778.7105 or redwards@cob.org.

"What's That Thing in the Stream?" Help us protect streamside habitat this Spring

This spring the City of Bellingham plans to install a smolt trap on Padden Creek. "Smolts" are young salmon and trout during the life stage when their scales turn silvery and they begin their migration from freshwater down to the estuary and marine environment. A smolt trap is a standard tool used to count how many smolts are in a creek system. Smolt traps have been conducted in several [other City streams](#), but this will be the first trap ever installed on Padden Creek.



The trap is a stream-wide V-shaped structure that funnels fish into a holding box while allowing stream flow to continue downstream. The fish are kept safely in the holding box until they are identified, counted and then released. The trap is checked multiple times each day.

We need YOUR help protecting Padden Creek while the smolt trap is installed. The newly planted area around the creek is very sensitive, so we want to protect it by limiting off-trail stream access to City staff only. We ask that you please stay on all designated trails while enjoying the Padden Creek area.

Your photos can tell a story about Bellingham restoration projects



Do you want to help monitor the changes occurring at our restoration sites? Now you can! While using trails around Squalicum and Padden Creeks, you may notice the City installed photo monitoring stations at the Squalicum Creek pedestrian bridge near Sunset Pond Park and the Padden Creek pedestrian bridge near the Rotary Trailhead parking lot. These stations are part of our Citizen Photo Monitoring

Project, which is an opportunity for citizens to participate in monitoring efforts.

The photos you take will help us monitor changes since completion of the [restoration projects](#) in 2015. The photo brackets provide a fixed platform so perfect repeat photos can be taken from the same position. We will create an annual time-lapse video featuring your photos and post the video on our website. To participate in the project, you can visit the monitoring stations and follow the instructions on the signs.

Learn about the salmon in your streams

During the 2016-2017 salmon spawning season City staff surveyed portions of Squalicum and Padden Creeks. Spawning activity was observed in the new stream gravels within both the Squalicum Creek Re-route and Padden Creek Daylighting projects, a sign that our restoration efforts are working! Check out a summary of the [monitoring results](#).



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