

City of Bellingham Habitat News



Changing the world one stream at a time: Celebrate Earth Day at Little Squalicum Park



What better way to honor Earth Day than to improve habitat and water quality in a well-loved local park? Join the more than 1 billion people worldwide that celebrate Earth Day every year by participating in the City of Bellingham's annual work party on **Saturday, April 21 from 9 a.m. to noon in Little Squalicum Park**. Bellingham Mayor Kelli Linville will provide the closing statement.

Volunteers will remove invasive species, apply mulch and plant native plants to improve water quality in Little Squalicum Creek. No RSVP is required for this free, family-friendly event that is open to the public. Tools, gloves, instructions, refreshments and Papa John's pizza will be provided. Volunteers need only bring weather-appropriate clothing, closed-toe shoes and a positive attitude!

For more information about this work party or future work parties, visit www.cob.org/workparties or email cob@parks.org.

Thank you to Comcast employees and their families for making this event their Comcast Cares project!



Directions: There are several entrances to Little Squalicum Park. For this work party, the best entrance to use is located in the parking lot on the north side of Bellingham Technical College (BTC), located off of W. Illinois Street. To get here, traveling south on Marine Drive or north on Eldridge Avenue, turn east onto W. Illinois Street. Follow W. Illinois Street until you reach the entrance for the BTC parking lot. Turn right into the parking lot and follow signs to the work site. The entrance to the park is in the back corner of the lower parking lot. Please see the map above for guidance.

New beach is complete at Waypoint Park!

The City of Bellingham recently finished constructing a new beach as part of a waterfront park along Whatcom Waterway called [Waypoint Park](#). The park is located near Roeder and Central Avenue.



The park offered an opportunity to increase [nearshore habitat](#), a type of habitat that is severely limited in Bellingham Bay. As part of the park's construction, the City removed impervious surfaces and created more than 10,000 square feet of new pocket beach. Although small, pocket beaches such as the one at Waypoint Park provide important habitat for a number of [fish](#) and wildlife species.

Promising results from Year 1 of forage fish monitoring



A monitoring study completed by the City and its Washington Conservation Corps (WCC) crews revealed that surf smelt - a type of forage fish - continue to use Little Squalicum beach for spawning. Forage fish are an important food source for salmon and are known to spawn in the vicinity of

the [Little Squalicum Estuary](#) (LSE) restoration project, which is expected to help improve spawning habitat conditions. In preparation for project construction, the City is monitoring spawning activities to help document the project's success. The City and its WCC crews completed the first year of pre-project forage fish monitoring with monthly surveys between June and December 2017. The City will conduct at least three post-project annual forage fish surveys.

This study is one of many fish studies that the City conducts, which you can learn more about by visiting our [Habitat Monitoring](#) page.

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