

City of Bellingham Habitat News



September Stream Tours: Learn about our local streams



Whatcom, Squalicum, and Padden Creeks are among Bellingham's most valuable natural resources, providing habitat for fish and wildlife and recreational opportunities for Bellingham citizens. Join us for our annual September Stream Tours to learn more about these waterways, how they have changed over time, what the City of Bellingham is doing to protect them and how you can help.

Tours are offered on three Thursday evenings in September, from 6-7pm. No cost, no RSVP necessary, all ages welcome.

Tours and dates:

- **Whatcom Creek Tour**, Thursday, Sept. 13, 6:00pm: meet at the [lower Civic Athletic Complex parking lot](#) at the corner of Fraser and Puget. Heading east on Lakeway Drive take a left onto Puget Street.
- **Squalicum Creek Tour**, Thursday, Sept. 20, 6:00pm: Meet at [Sunset Pond Park](#), across the street from Sunset Pond Business Park.
- **Padden Creek Tour**, Thursday, Sept. 27, 6:00pm: Meet at the [Trailhead for Interurban Trail parking lot](#) off Old Fairhaven Parkway just west of 20th Street.

For more tour information, please contact us at habitat@cob.org.

The City of Bellingham's Habitat Restoration Program is part of the Natural Resources division of Public Works. The Natural Resources division delivers meaningful, durable and cost-effective programs and natural resource services to the citizens of Bellingham to provide clean, abundant waters and intact ecosystems. Learn more at www.cob.org/environment.

Padden Creek smolt trap results are now available

In spring, out-migrating juvenile fish are monitored using smolt traps. In April 2018 the City installed the first known smolt trap in Padden Creek. A summary of the results from this unique effort is now available on our [Fish Studies webpage](#). Nearly 9,000 salmon and trout traveled through our smolt trap during its two-month implementation between April and June 2018.



In total, we counted 7,544 chum, making it the most abundant salmon species encountered by our trap. The results show adult salmon are successfully spawning in upper Padden Creek, and suggest recent restoration projects including the [Padden Creek Daylighting restoration project](#) are improving fish passage in this stream.

Annual salmon spawner survey update



During the 2017-2018 salmon spawning season, City staff surveyed portions of Whatcom, Squalicum, and Padden Creeks to better understand when and where returning adult salmon spawn in our City streams. A summary of results for each stream is available on our [Fish Studies webpage](#).

Beaver spotted snacking in Padden Creek!

Padden is home to many forms of fish and wildlife, but they are often challenging to see. If you watch and listen carefully as you walk the nearby trails, you might be rewarded with a wildlife sighting!

This July, a beaver was spotted snacking on the leaves of a willow tree at the mouth of Padden Creek. Check out [the video](#) that Bellingham residents Al and Catherine Major shared with us.



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