

Restoring PADDEN CREEK

Bellingham Public Works Natural Resources has completed a major habitat restoration project on Padden Creek to help restore healthy water quality and habitat to our community for people, salmon, and wildlife.

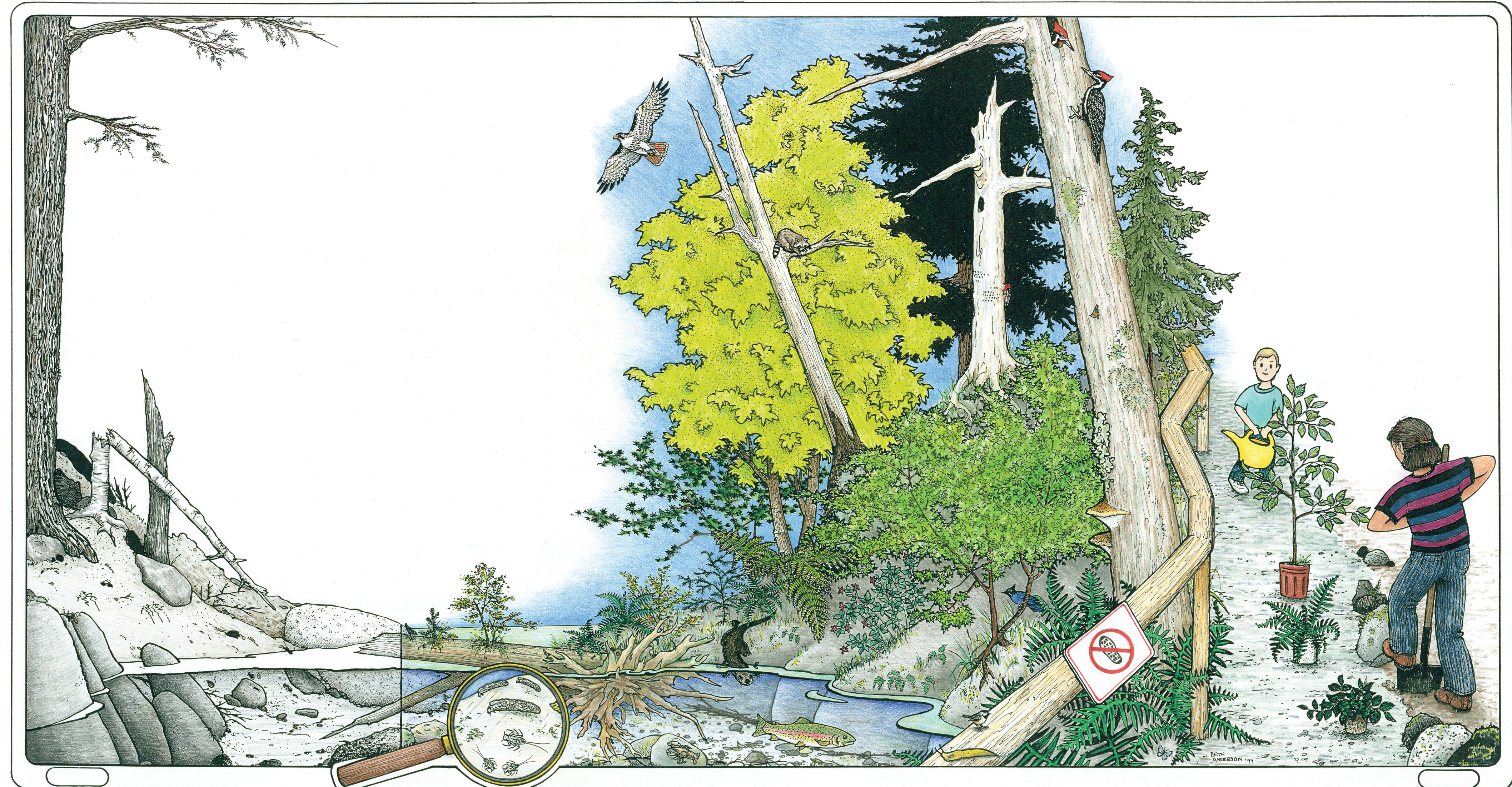
Habitat restoration improves water quality

Where water once flowed through a monotonous flat tunnel, water now flows over the diverse textures of gravel beds and large woody debris, helping oxygenate the water for a healthier aquatic environment.

Established trees and shrubs along with new native plantings on the restored streambanks provide shade and bank stabilization to help keep water cool and clear.

Large woody debris provide habitat for adult and juvenile salmon to rest and hide and help stabilize the stream banks while native plantings become well-established.

Visit cob.org and search "Padden Creek" to learn more.



Native plants play a key role

- Shade from trees helps keep water cool.
- Colder water retains more dissolved oxygen.
- Roots from trees hold dirt in place, helping keep water clear for salmon gills and navigation.
- Native plants help remove excess nutrients from runoff, reducing pollution entering the stream.
- Leaves and bugs from trees supply important nutrients to the stream ecosystem.

Black cottonwood



Ninebark



Nootka rose



Salmonberry



Willow



Red osier dogwood



Western red cedar



Examples
of native
plants

You can protect Padden Creek

Stormwater is one of the largest sources of pollution to our waterways.

- Check your car for leaks twice a year and repair them as soon as possible.
- Wash cars on the lawn or at a carwash.
- At home, scoop your dogs poop at least weekly, ideally daily.
- Plant native plants in your own yard and remove invasive plants like holly, ivy, and butterfly bush.
- Volunteer to help restore local creeks with organizations like Bellingham Parks and NSEA.



Habitat restoration by Bellingham Public Works.

Restoration funded by the City of Bellingham's storm and surface water fund with support from the Washington State Department of Ecology and the Washington State Department of Transportation.