



The Heron Reporter

Lake-to-Lake Greenway Trail Walk—15K and 6K



Did you know you can walk from Lake Washington to Lake Sammamish through Bellevue's beautiful park system? Join Bellevue Parks and Northwest Striders to hike one of the nation's most spectacular urban greenway trails. Both 15K and 6K routes are available. All participants must register the morning of the event. Route is not suitable for strollers or small children. No dogs allowed on shuttle bus.

When: Saturday, September 17
Where: Mercer Slough Blueberry Farm, 2380 Bellevue Way SE
Cost: Free for the general public, \$3 per person for Volkssport members
Registration: 15K between 8-10am and 6K open until 12pm

Shuttle Bus: Participants will be shuttled from 8-10am from the Blueberry Farm to the start of the trail at Weowna Park

Autumn Colors



During the fall, plants transform the park into a visual haven.

Vine Maple leaves turn a vibrant red (above) and Big Leaf Maple leaves change to shades of yellow, orange, and maroon. Frogs can often be heard croaking in the distance, and squirrels are busy storing food for winter. Discover the beauty of fall at Mercer Slough.

Upcoming Programs—Sept to Dec

The Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center offers a wide variety of programs, including our Adult Enrichment and Family Discovery Series. For program details, visit www.bellevuewa.gov/mseec.htm.

Visitor Center Open Daily, 10am-4pm



Mercer Slough Discovery Backpacks (\$5 donation)
Backpacks include all the activities and materials you'll need for launching a fun, self-guided tour through Mercer Slough Nature Park. Great for families, groups, and individuals.

Available daily between 10:30am - 3:30pm Year-round



Art in Nature Exhibit
These exhibits will display local artists' work inspired by the natural world. The artwork is available for viewing in the Visitor Center. New artwork featured throughout the year.

Environmental Education Programs

- * **Night Walks** (\$8) 7-9pm Sept 9, Oct 7, Nov 4
- * **Preschool Explorers** 10:30am-12pm Tuesdays (\$99 for 8 sessions) Sept 13-Nov 1



Adult Enrichment Series

- * **Lake to Lake Greenway Trail Walk** 8am-12pm Sept 17 (register on-site)
- * **Using Field Indicators for Hydric Soil** (\$75) (www.coastaltraining-wa.org) 9am-4pm Sept 27

Family Discovery Series

- Park Ranger Nature Walks** 2-3pm Saturdays
No walk September 17
- * **Canoe Mercer Slough** 8:45am-12pm Saturdays through Sept 24
Resident (\$14) Non-resident (\$16)
- Mushrooms of Mercer Slough** 1-3pm Oct 9
- * **A Night With Bats** (\$5) 7-8 pm Oct 14
- Family Ranger Programs**
 - Raptors 2:30-3pm Sept 4
 - Salmon of Mercer Slough 2:30-3pm Oct 2
 - Winter Wildlife 2:30-3pm Nov 6
- Movies at Mercer Slough**
 - The Great Salmon Run 5-6:30pm Sept 30
 - The Secret World of Bats 5-6:30pm Oct 28



* To Register for City of Bellevue Programs:

Call: 425-452-6885
Online: MyParksAndRecreation.com

To Register for * Environmental Education Programs with Pacific Science Center: www.pacsci.org or call 206-443-2925





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The Remarkable World of Bats

Bats affect our lives in more ways than we realize. They contribute to our quality of life on Earth and the welfare of humans and other species. The Mercer Slough is featuring two programs on bats this October. Join us to learn facts from myths as we meet some live bats with Barbara Ogaard from the Sarvey Wildlife Center at **A Night With Bats**. See spectacular footage of bats from all around the globe in our free family movie: **The Secret World of Bats**. All ages welcome.

A Night With Bats

When: October 14, 7-8pm

Where: Douglas Fir Community Room

Cost: \$5

Registration: Required

Call 425-452-6885 or visit www.MyParksAndRecreation.com

Course: #59320

Free Family Movie - The Secret World of Bats

When: October 28, 5-6:30pm

Where: Douglas Fir Community Room

Registration: Not required



Fall Mushrooms

While strolling the trails this fall, you may encounter many beautiful and fascinating species of mushrooms and other fungi. Please leave mushrooms where you find them, and remember that many wild mushrooms are poisonous to humans, including the Fly Amanita pictured here. Never eat a wild mushroom unless you are with an expert who can positively identify it. Join us for a free ranger program to learn why fungi are essential to our ecosystem, and how to identify some common mushrooms in this area.



Ranger Program - Mushrooms of Mercer Slough

When: October 9, 1-3pm

Where: Douglas Fir Community Room and Trails

Ages: Best for ages 10+

Raptors of Mercer Slough

Mercer Slough Nature Park is home to many species of raptors, or birds of prey, including hawks and owls. Learn who these predators are, then roll up your sleeves to learn how and who they hunt by dissecting owl pellets in this free ranger program:



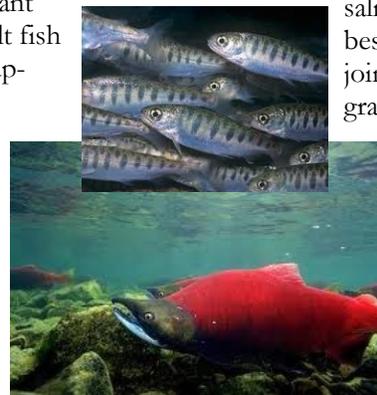
Family Ranger Program - Raptors

When: Sunday, September 4,
2:30-3pm

Where: Douglas Fir Community Rm
Ages: All ages welcome

Salmon Migration

The iconic salmon of the Pacific Northwest end their epic journey with a dangerous migration back to their home waters. The slough serves as an important migration corridor for adult fish (pictured below) heading upstream to spawn in Kelsey Creek and its tributaries, and for juvenile fish migrating downstream (pictured above). Migrating Chinook, Coho, and Sockeye salmon pass through the slough, as do migratory cutthroat trout and steelhead. The slough



also provides rearing habitat especially for juvenile Coho, and at other times, juveniles of other species. To learn more about salmon at Mercer Slough and the best times and places to see them, join a park ranger for this free program:

Family Ranger Program - Salmon of Mercer Slough

When: October 2, 2:30-3pm

Where: Douglas Fir
Community Room

Ages: All ages welcome

Go Paperless

If you would like to receive *The Heron Reporter* by email, send request to: MSEEC@bellevuewa.gov.

New: Follow us on facebook (Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center) or Twitter @MSEEC.

