

The Heron Reporter



Learning to See by Looking — Digital Photography



Accomplished photographer, Chad White explores how humans interact with nature through photography. This introductory course teaches nature photography techniques, provides one-on-one instruction and time to practice your skills outdoors. Participants must bring their own digital camera. Pre-registration is required. Please call 425-452-6885 or visit [www. MyParksAndRecreation.com](http://www.MyParksAndRecreation.com). Age: 18+

When: Saturday, July 16 1-3pm
Where: Douglas Fir Community Room and trails
Cost: \$5 **Course #:** 57870

Natural Resource Week

The goal of Mercer Slough's Natural Resource Week is to educate tomorrow's leaders to appreciate, conserve, and wisely manage our region's precious natural resources. This May, we provided environmental education at no cost to over 300 Bellevue 5th graders. Bellevue Park Rangers worked collaboratively with several local natural resource management agencies to teach curriculum on wetlands, wildlife, and forestry. Our large and diverse park presents a spectacular opportunity for resource professionals to bring to life the essence of these themes through education. In over 20 years, this event has reached more than 12,000 Bellevue students, building a legacy of leaders equipped to understand and conserve our region's natural resources.



Upcoming Programs

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

Adult Enrichment Series

- * **Aquatic Plant Identification**
Free 10am-1pm July 9
*Email Katie.messick@kingcounty.gov to register
- * **Digital Photography**
\$5 1-3pm July 16
- * **Nature Printing**
\$5 registration, 1-3pm August 13
\$10 Materials fee at door



Family Discovery Series

Free

Nature Walks	2-3pm <i>* No walk July 16, August 13</i>	Saturdays
Local Area Hike: Mercer Slough Nature Park	10am-Noon	July 23
Ranger Programs		
Map & Compass	2:30-3pm	June 5
Animal Tracking	2:30-3pm	July 3
Knots in the Outdoors	2:30-3pm	August 7
Movies at Mercer Slough		
Beavers-The Biggest Dam Movie You Ever Saw	5-6:30pm	June 24
Baby Tales	5-6:30pm	July 29
Life of Birds-Signals & Songs	5-6:30pm	August 26
* Canoe the Mercer Slough	\$14 (R), \$16 (NR) 8:45am-12pm	Saturdays May-Sept

Environmental Education Programs



Family Workshops (\$7 individuals, \$10 families)	11:45am -12:45pm	2nd Saturday each month
* Wild B'earthday	11am or 2:30pm	Weekends
* Scout Program	11am or 2:30 pm	Weekends

* To Register for 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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Ranger Programs

Join a Park Ranger at Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center the 1st Sunday of each month, for a FREE program. Topics explore many fun environmental themes and change every month. This season we are featuring:

Map & Compass

From backyard to back-country, navigation is an essential skill. Learn to use map and compass to better explore your surroundings and challenge your navigation skills.

When: Sunday, June 5
2:30-3:00pm

Animal Tracking

Learn 5 techniques for animal tracking so you can identify who made the tracks, what direction they were going, and how fast they were moving through the Slough.

When: Sunday, July 3
2:30-3:00pm

Knots in the Outdoors

Knots have been fundamental to human survival since prehistoric times. They are still used today. Try your hand at common and complex knots.

When: Sunday, Aug 7
2:30-3:00pm

Our programs are great for families, groups, scouts, and individuals. Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. Remember to dress for the weather, as a portion of the program may be outside. No registration necessary.



Northern River Otters

Summer is the best time to catch playful river otters splashing in the waters of the slough. Unlike their relatives, skunk and mink, the Northern River Otter is most active during the day, giving us a better chance of seeing one in action.

You might catch them sliding down muddy banks into the water or performing a few water acrobatics.

Canoe the Slough



Explore the beautiful Mercer Slough by water. Bellevue Park Rangers lead this 3-hour canoe trip from Enatai Beach Park. You'll see how this amazing ecosystem functions as you travel into the heart of Mercer Slough Nature Park, a 320-acre wetland. With a little luck, you may catch a glimpse of the otters, herons, turtles, and other wildlife of Mercer Slough.

Please dress for the weather and bring water. Paddling experience is strongly recommended. Participants paddle the entire distance of 4 miles. Basic safety talk, paddling demonstration, and equipment provided. Trips continue rain or shine but may be cancelled in the case of lightening, high winds, and/or waves.

When: Every Saturday (May–Sept) * No program Aug 6

Where: Enatai Beach Park, 3519 108th Avenue SE

Cost: \$14 Bellevue Resident, \$16 Non-Bellevue Resident

Age: 5+. One adult present for every two youth. Up to three people per canoe, under 550lbs.

Pre-registration is required. Space is limited. To register, call 425-452-6885 or visit www.myparksandrecreation.com.

Go Paperless

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

