

Fish Use of Stream Drainage Basins in the City of Bellevue

April 2009

Background and Data Sources

Current knowledge of the species of fish in Bellevue's streams and their distribution is based on stream typing work conducted in the summer of 2001 (The Watershed Company 2001) that involved assessing culverts as to whether fish could pass upstream and electrofishing; an electrofishing survey conducted at five sites in the Kelsey Creek basin in 2007 (City of Bellevue, unpublished data) and fish moved prior to sediment removal from two sediment ponds along Coal Creek (The Watershed Company 2007a); salmon spawning surveys conducted annually during the fall between 2001 and 2008 (Taylor Associates 2002; The Watershed Company 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007b, 2009); and peamouth surveys and spawning observations conducted by Bellevue staff and volunteers between the late 1990s and 2008 (City of Bellevue, unpublished data). Lake Washington shore use by warm water fish was documented by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife in June of 2005 (Personal Communication, Chad Jackson, July 18, 2007). Fish use of the lake shore along Lake Sammamish has not been documented by the City of Bellevue.

East Creek Basin

East Creek flows into Richards Creek in central Bellevue, just north of I-90. The upper segments of the creek flow largely through deciduous forested areas, but the lower segments have been heavily channelized around property boundaries and roadways. The tree roots and wood from the riparian buffer have contributed to pool formation, and in general, fish inhabit all segments that contain sufficient flow.

Cutthroat trout, coho salmon, and lamprey have been documented in East Creek from the confluence to near SE 30th Street. Chinook and sockeye migrated up East Creek approximately 1,300 feet to an overflow confluence with Richards Creek. The headwaters flowing off the eastern hill south of SE 30th had step-pool habitat and might be capable of supporting fish. The westerly tributary had juvenile cutthroat trout use up to the two 300-foot culverts. Upstream of the culverts there was insufficient habitat to support fish. No other tributaries had sufficient flows to support fish.

See Bellevue's Basin Fact Sheet main web page for additional fish use information for Bellevue streams.

References Cited

Taylor Associates. 2002. Kelsey Creek and Tributaries 2001 Spawner Survey, Bellevue, WA.

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- Williams, R. W., R. M. Laramie, and J. J. Ames. 1975. A Catalog of Washington Streams and Salmon Utilization. Washington Department of Fisheries, Olympia, Washington