

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electrofishing; an electrofishing survey conducted at five sites in the Kelsey Creek basin in 2007 (City of Bellevue, unpublished data) and fish moved prior to sediment removal from two sediment ponds along Coal Creek (The Watershed Company 2007a); salmon spawning surveys conducted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and spawning observations conducted by Bellevue staff and volunteers between the late 1990s and 2008 (City of Bellevue, unpublished data).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.

Wilkins Creek Basin

Wilkins Creek originates near the top of the north-to-south till ridge that separates Lake Sammamish and Lake Washington, and flows east-southeast down a steep ravine to the base of the ridge; there the gradient lessens as it flows under West Sammamish Parkway and into Lake Sammamish. There is no historical or contemporary record of fish use of this stream. Williams et al. (1975) indicated that an impassable cascade in the ravine just upstream of West Lake Sammamish Parkway marked the natural limit to anadromous fish use of the system. City of Bellevue personnel indicated that the stream channel was extensively modified, with much of the flow bypassed in pipes (Morgenroth 2000). No fish were observed in Wilkins Creek during a qualitative electrofishing survey by The Watershed Company in 1997 (Johnston 1997b). Fish use was limited by steep gradient, low water flows, and barriers to fish migration from Lake Sammamish.

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

References Cited

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