

# Newsplash



FALL 2011

## BELLEVUE'S AQUATIC GEMS

Have you been stuck behind construction on 520 this summer? Some of that roadwork is improving culverts to provide fish, like this **cutthroat trout**, access to more habitat. This beauty currently lives just upstream of 520 and Northrup Way, near I-405.



**Juvenile coho salmon** stay in the shelter of our streams for a year before migrating out to saltwater. Some decide they like it here so much they stay a little longer like this yearling living in Kelsey Creek not far from SE 8th Street and 148th Avenue NE.



## WANTED: SALMON WATCHERS (and salmon)

Join this wonderful program to help us keep track of our local salmon returning to spawn! Chinook, coho, and sockeye all return to Bellevue streams to spawn each fall. **You only need to attend one training workshop to learn everything you need to know about these salmon and how to volunteer.** Staff with maps can help you choose a site to monitor at the workshop.

- 1. Register** for a training by contacting Stream Team at 425-452-5200 or [streamteam@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:streamteam@bellevuewa.gov).
- 2. Attend** just one training to learn all you need to know and select a site to watch for salmon.
- 3. Observe** your stream site for 15 minutes twice a week during the fall spawning season, September through December, and mail in your data.

### Attend a training near you!

All trainings are 7:00 – 9:00 pm.

- **Thursday, September 15: Bellevue City Hall, 450 110th Ave NE**
- Tuesday, September 20, Renton Community Center
- Thursday, September 22: Woodinville City Hall
- Wednesday, October 5: Seattle, Greenwood Senior Center

Your volunteer data is important for us to track the timing and distribution of salmon in our city. While we sometimes do professional surveys, they are limited to certain days and only a few designated stretches of stream. Volunteers expand our knowledge of salmon presence each year by reporting fish on days that staff are not watching and in locations outside of professional survey areas. Volunteers are often the first and last people to see fish in Bellevue. Volunteer data can also alert us to concerns about stream blockages.

Salmon Watchers is a great way to keep in touch with our local resources. Even on days when there are no fish, hanging out next to a stream is a wonderful way to reflect on your day. Volunteers usually spot a variety of birds and sometimes even a beaver, muskrat, or otter while watching their stream.

**Google "Salmon Watcher" to find us online and look at a map of sites, past reports, and a bunch of other fun fishy stuff.**



## THE SCOOP ON DOG POOP

Research conducted by the American Veterinary Medical Association shows that 37.4 percent of Washington State households own dogs, with an average of 1.5 dogs per dog-owning household.

There are over 50,000 households in Bellevue. That means the City has around 28,000 resident canines! At 0.33 pounds of solid waste per dog per day, **they produce 9,240 pounds of raw sewage every day.**

Pet waste is raw sewage that poses health risks for pets, wildlife, and people, especially kids. It can contain harmful microorganisms including E. coli, Salmonella, Roundworms, and Giardia. Some of these organisms can exist in our yards for a long time. Rain can easily carry them off of our yards into our storm drains which lead directly to our local streams and lakes, contaminating the water.

Biodegradable pet waste bags are confusing! While the bags may biodegrade, pet waste should NOT be composted. Compost from our yard waste bins or your home compost pile does not get hot enough to kill the harmful organisms. Whether you're using a biodegradable bag or a plastic grocery sack, **dog poop belongs in the garbage.**

Visit **SCOOPPOOP.ORG** so see Martin Luther & Lola do the Dog Doogity.



**Puget Sound**  
**Starts Here**

## BUSINESSES EMBRACE STORM DRAIN MARKING!

The City of Bellevue is marking several thousand storm drains at Bellevue businesses this summer and fall with the message, **"Don't Pollute, Drains to Stream."**

The purpose of the project is to raise awareness that whatever goes into a storm drain flows into nearby streams, lakes, and wetlands without going to a sewage treatment facility. The City must get written permission from business property owners before marking the drains, and so far the "Yes" response has been an overwhelming 60%!

If you are or know a Bellevue business property owner who needs their storm drains marked, please ask them to contact us at [utilities@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:utilities@bellevuewa.gov) or 425-452-6932. "Business properties" include churches, schools, apartments, and condominiums.

Program funding is provided by a grant from the King Conservation District. There is no cost to participate. The next time you see this marker, thank the business for doing their part to help reduce pollution in our local waterways.



## VOLUNTEERS IMPROVE HABITAT

Eighteen volunteers spent 2 hours installing 338 native understory plants near Coal Creek for Earth Day 2011. Sword fern, Oregon grape, fringe cup, and rushes were carefully planted around a new sediment pond downstream of Coal Creek Parkway.

**Thank you, volunteers!**





# LAWN & GARDEN TIPS FOR FALL

You and your yard will both benefit when you give your lawn and garden some TLC this fall. These natural yard care tips will help you get through the season and pay off handsomely next year with attractive plants, fewer weed and pest problems, lower resource use, and a healthier environment.

## BUILD YOUR SOIL

Healthy soil grows better plants with less work and fewer garden chemicals. Healthy soil also lets the rain soak in, reducing stormwater runoff from landscape areas. Mix in 1-3 inches of compost into new plant beds or when planting new lawns. For existing areas, spread a layer of mulch to smother weeds, feed the soil, reduce erosion, and cut back the need to water next summer. Spread 1-2 inches of compost as mulch on annual and perennial beds. For trees and shrubs, apply 2-4 inches of wood chips or leaves. Mulch your lawn by leaving the clippings and you will need less fertilizer.

## SLOW THE FLOW

Reduce watering of lawns and established plants by half in early September, and stop when the first soaking rains fall. Add a rain sensor to automatic in-ground irrigation systems to avoid watering during rainy periods. Learn about the FREE Rain Sensor Program: [www.cascadewater.org](http://www.cascadewater.org).

## PAMPER YOUR LAWN

Lawns need a little care now to renew their interest in life. Fertilize lawns with “natural organic” or “slow release” fertilizer in September to develop healthy roots and crowd out weeds. Improve thin areas of lawn in September-October by aerating, over seeding, and top-dressing with compost.

## EDIT THE YARD

Autumn’s warm soil, cooler temperatures, and ample rainfall make fall a smart time to plant. Look for high-performing plants that need the sun, soil, and water conditions your site provides. If you have plants with recurrent disease or insect problems, replace them with healthier, more resistant varieties. Replace high maintenance lawns with easy care, drought tolerant plants. Replace problem lawn areas in shade or on slopes with evergreen ground covers better suited to those conditions. For ideas, visit the Waterwise Garden at the Bellevue Botanical Garden. Photographs and plant attributes are available through the Bellevue Botanical Garden collection search at <http://bbgcollection.bellevuewa.gov>.

## GROW SAFE

Avoid using toxic garden chemicals—some of the most hazardous products used around the home. For disposal options, call the King County Household Hazards Line, 206-296-4692. For more natural gardening tips, visit [www.bellevuewa.gov/natural-gardening-resources.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/natural-gardening-resources.htm) or call 425-452-4127.



# Are you **BE A SALMON WATCHER.** lookin' at me?

Coming soon to a stream near you!



**Salmon Watcher Workshop**  
Bellevue City Hall  
Thursday, September 15  
7:00 – 9:00 pm

printed on 30% post-consumer recycled paper using soy inks. Design by: EcoChica Design - [www.ecochica.com](http://www.ecochica.com)



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If you are no longer interested in receiving Stream Team mail, please call or email the contact information above.