

Newsplash

SPRING 2011



Join Us For Earth Day

Saturday, April 16
8:30 – 11:00am
Coal Creek

Registration required – contact Stream Team at 425-452-5200 or streamteam@bellevuewa.gov

Grab your boots and a shovel to dig into our restoration project along Coal Creek! We'll enhance the site with sword ferns, salal, and salmonberry. Rushes and sedges will be carefully planted along the sides of a pond. Dogwood and willow stakes will be planted along the stream to stabilize the banks. We will also rescue a couple trees from ivy!

ATTENTION VOLUNTEERS:

You must register for this event to find out the exact location! Space is limited. We need folks to register so we can be prepared. Bring work gloves and a shovel if you have them. Dress for the weather – we'll plant rain or shine.

Volunteers are also invited to attend the Earth Day / Arbor Day Celebration with a ceremony, displays, and activities being held at the Bellevue Botanical Garden following the planting.



Sign Up to Spot Peamouth

Peamouth Patrol Workshop
Tuesday, April 12, 6:30 – 7:30pm
Bellevue City Hall, 450 110th Ave NE
Registration greatly appreciated!

Volunteers are needed to help document the spawning of thousands of peamouth minnows in Kelsey Creek! You'll learn everything you need to know at this one-hour workshop. Volunteers are asked to visit the stream for 15 minutes at least twice a week, when convenient, through June. It's that simple!

Peamouth are easy to spot and fun to watch! They average a foot long and often spawn in groups of hundreds of fish at the same time. However, spawning fish only stay in the stream for 12-48 hours at a time. Volunteers are needed to record when fish are present and make notes of eggs and any wildlife seen. Raccoon, blue heron, and bald eagle have all been recorded during peamouth spawning season. When fish are spotted, all volunteers are notified so no one misses out on the event.

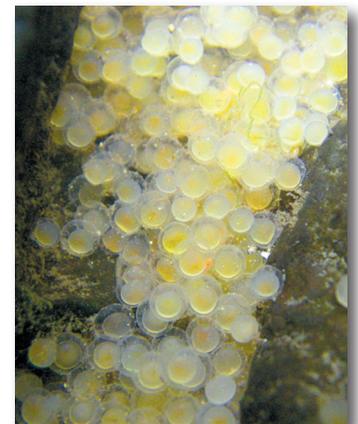
Peamouth may not be as well known as salmon, but they are an interesting part of the Kelsey Creek ecosystem every spring. Countless numbers of tiny peamouth hatch out into the stream and pour into Lake Washington at the same time that salmon smolt are making their way out to Puget Sound.

Volunteer as an individual, a family, or with a friend. Peamouth Patrol is a perfect excuse to get outside this spring and enjoy local streams and fish. Register with Stream Team at streamteam@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-5200.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



Your shoes can get wet from the splashing fish if you stand too close to the stream during a large spawning event.



Peamouth coat the bottom of the stream with their sticky eggs that can mature in only a week!

Kelsey Creek Watershed Outreach Campaign Wins Award

A Stream Team campaign to prevent water pollution in Bellevue's Kelsey Creek Watershed won an award from the Puget Sound chapter of the Public Relations Society of America. PRSA's 2011 Totem Award was given based on the research, planning, execution, and evaluation of the project.

Over 10,000 pledge cards were mailed to all residents in the Kelsey Creek Watershed in spring of 2010, offering tips and tools for preventing water pollution such as picking up pet waste, washing cars at a commercial car wash, and using fewer chemicals on yards. Residents were also reminded that what washes into storm drains flows to streams untreated and that Kelsey Creek is home to chinook, coho, and sockeye salmon, as well as other wildlife. 500 pledge cards have been returned--reaching the campaign's five percent response goal. Each pledge card states which actions the resident will take to help prevent water pollution.

The campaign was partially grant funded by the King Conservation District. Stream Team plans to apply this successful campaign to other Bellevue watersheds in the future. Keep an eye on your mailbox this spring if you live near Coal Creek!



Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers!

Invasive species may be hiding in your gear! Felt soled boots, already banned in Alaska, will be forbidden in Maryland and Vermont this year. Invasive species such as the algae *Didymosphenia geminata*, also known as "rock snot," can travel on boots and other gear. **Are you doing everything you can to prevent the spread of invasive species?**

Didymo, also called "rock snot," can form thick mats of yellow brown algae on the bottom of streams and rivers. These algae blooms could damage the habitat of native stream bugs like caddisfly and stonefly who live in the spaces between rocks. Gear not properly dried out or disinfected could possibly transport other organisms or diseases between waterways.

Check your kayak, trailer, and lifejacket for debris. Felt soled boots provide a particularly perfect hiding place for "rock snot" and other invasives. Felt soled boots can be very difficult to dry, clean, or disinfect. Brush sediment and debris off of all your gear and let items like boots bake in the sun to dry completely to prevent transporting invasives.

Businesses Can Help Prevent Stormwater Pollution

Distribute a brochure all about preventing stormwater pollution to your staff. You can also put up posters in the workplace on how to properly empty wash buckets, wash your fleet, and clean up spills. Materials are available in Russian, Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, and Spanish.

Request FREE copies at Utilities@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-6932.





Fish Prefer Commercial Car Washes!

Wash your car at a commercial car wash because they send the dirty water to the sewer for treatment. Dirty runoff water from car washes should never go down storm drains. Storm drains flow directly into our local streams, lakes, and wetlands without treatment.

Soaps dissolve the protective mucous layer on fish and natural oils in the gills making fish more susceptible to diseases. Even biodegradable soap pollutes water. It requires the microorganisms in soil to properly break down. Car wash runoff also contains petroleum hydrocarbons, heavy metals, phosphorous, nitrogen, and fine sediments which can all damage habitat and impair aquatic life.

Still want to wash your car in the driveway? Google "waterless car wash" to find car washing products that do not require water. This is fantastic fish friendly way to wash your car if you're trying to wash away everyday road grime and prevent pollution.



Holding a fundraising car wash? The most fish friendly option, and a great way to earn a lot of money, is to sell car wash coupons. You can get them from Brown Bear www.brownbear.com/charity or the Puget Sound Car Wash Association www.charitycarwash.org.

Summer Job Opportunities for Teens with Bellevue Parks

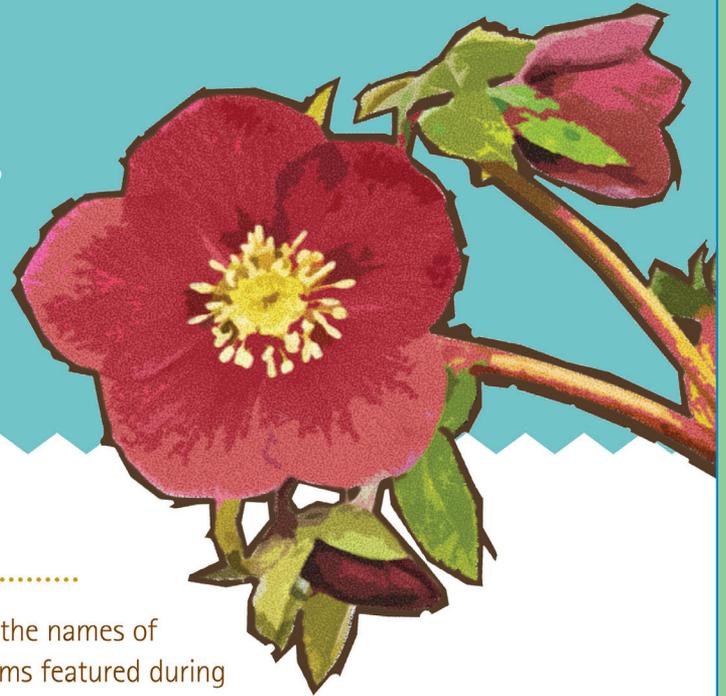
Need a summer job? Bellevue Parks is hiring teens for **THE WELL KEPT (KIDS ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT TRAINING) PROGRAM**. The program is designed to provide Bellevue youth with environmental education experience, develop practical job skills, and learn the foundations of park resource management. Well KEPT crews work on projects like trail construction, forest and wetland enhancement projects, and small construction projects. The program is offered by Bellevue Parks and managed by the Natural Resource Division of the Parks Department.

ELIGIBLE WELL KEPT TRAINEE APPLICANTS LIVE IN BELLEVUE, ARE ENROLLED IN HIGH SCHOOL, AND ARE BETWEEN 14 AND 18 YEARS OLD. In addition, applicants must possess enthusiasm for working outdoors and should have an interest in learning about the environment and park management activities. No prior work experience is required, as the position is intended to be a learning experience. For more information about the program and to receive an application, please contact Christina Brown, 425-452-4195, or by email at CKBrown@bellevuewa.gov.



Spring into Spring...

with Natural Yard Care Classes!



You could win free
natural yard care products!

At each workshop we will randomly draw from the names of everyone present for great natural yard care items featured during the programs. Earn an entry at every workshop you attend for the final drawing for a natural yard care consultation!
(Must be present to win.)



City of Bellevue Utilities
450 110th Avenue NE, Bellevue, WA 98004

FREE!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Program Details

Applies to all classes

Time: 7-9 pm

Place: **Bellevue City Hall**
450 110th Avenue NE, Room 1E-108
For directions: www.bellevuewa.gov/parking-directions.htm

Registration: **Required**
Email: klafranchi@bellevuewa.gov
or call 425-452-6932 today!
Alternate formats available: Voice 425-452-6800
or TTY relay: 711

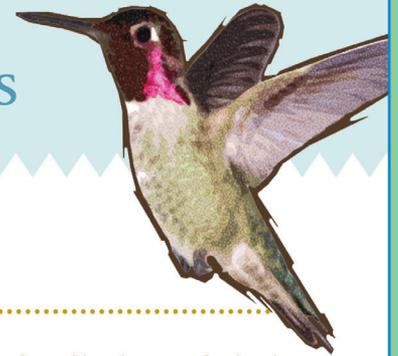


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**NATURAL
YARD CARE
NEIGHBORHOODS**

Before you tackle the yard this spring, join us for...

Spring Natural Yard Care Classes



Spring into spring with some of Puget Sound's most notable natural yard care experts. Learn how easy and rewarding natural yard care can be. The workshops are

**fun,
informative
and FREE!**

Start Right: Design & Soil

Tuesday, April 12, 7-9 pm

Beautiful landscapes start with good design. Landscape architect Doug Rice shares professional advice and resources. Lisa Taylor of Seattle Tilth will also discuss the importance of growing healthy soil. Learn how to improve your yard's soil - and grow more attractive, robust plants—by mulching and composting.

Spring Yard Care

Tuesday, April 19, 7-9 pm

Ladd Smith from In Harmony will help you get your lawn and garden back in shape after the long winter. He will provide timely tips on plant and lawn care, fertilizing, mulching, mowing, lawn alternatives, and other natural ways to grow a beautiful, healthy yard.

Plants to Know & Grow

Tuesday, April 26, 7-9 pm

Horticulturalist Peggy Campbell will share her favorite plant picks and teach you how to choose striking plants that will thrive in your yard's soil and sun condition. Learn how to give your plants a good start. Take home inspiration and plant resources you can use to grow your own natural garden.

Watering, Weeds & Pest Control

Tuesday, May 3, 7-9 pm

Watering expert Howard Stenn from Stenn Design offers smart watering tips to help you conserve water and lower summer water bills. Landscape designer Emily Bishton will also share natural solutions to common garden problems. Take home tips for growing a healthy, pesticide-free garden that attracts beneficial wildlife.

Edible Landscapes

Tuesday, May 10, 7-9 pm

Edibles are a perfect fit for any natural yard! Landscape designer Emily Bishton will help you find the right site for a garden, build and maintain healthy soil, and select plants that are well-suited for our climate. Take home design and care tips, as well as crop rotation and other natural pest control strategies for your garden.

These workshops are brought to you by:





Join Us For Earth Day!

Saturday, April 16, 8:30 – 11:00am

Can U Find Me?



PEAMOUTH PATROL WORKSHOP

Tuesday, April 12, 6:30 – 7:30pm

BUGGIN' OUT

SATURDAY JULY 30, 2PM-3PM

LEWIS CREEK VISITOR CENTER FREE - COURSE #58204

REGISTRATION REQUIRED, CALL 425-452-6885

Get an up-close look at our local aquatic insects with the Stream Team! Watch live "bug TV" as we take a close look at the critters from our wetland under a video microscope. Ages 6Y and up.

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Bellevue Utilities
Stream Team Program
PO Box 90012
Bellevue, WA 98009-9012



streamteam@bellevuewa.gov
425-452-5200

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