

Newsplash

SPRING 2014



Join Peamouth Patrol!

Would you like to see thousands of fish spawning in a local stream? Join Peamouth Patrol and help monitor Kelsey Creek for the annual return of native peamouth minnows. No prior experience is necessary. Just join us for this one workshop and learn everything you need to know. Volunteers are asked to check the stream for peamouth twice a week for 15 minutes whenever you have time through early June.

Thousands of peamouth return every spring between late April and early June. We've observed 3-5 spawning events per year, but each one usually only lasts 12-24 hours before the fish return back to Lake Washington. The more volunteers watching the better so we don't miss the fish! You can participate as an individual, family, or with friends.

Peamouth are about a foot long so they are really hard to miss where there's a crowd of them. Volunteers often observed wildlife while looking for peamouth. The fish and their eggs attract bald eagles, blue heron, various ducks, raccoon, and river otter.

It's a wildlife party at the stream!

Thursday, April 17th, 6:30-7:30

Bellevue City Hall room 112

Registration appreciated!
Contact Stream Team at
streamteam@bellevuewa.gov
or 425.452.5200.

Volunteers Needed for KELSEY CREEK RESTORATION

Earth Day Restoration Event

Saturday, May 3rd, 8:30 – 11:00

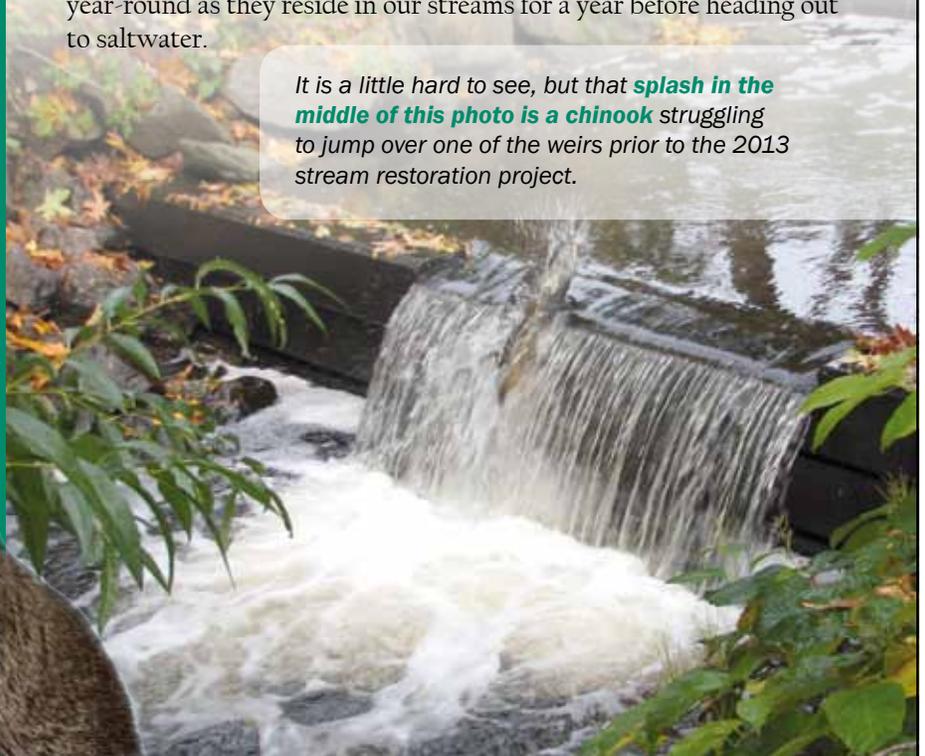
Please register to receive location details. Contact Stream Team to sign up at streamteam@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-5200.

Grab a shovel and a shrub! The banks of Kelsey Creek need more plants to hold the soil in place and improve habitat. We'll be installing mostly red osier dogwood and sword fern, two native streamside favorites.

Our site was a Bellevue Utilities Capital Improvement Project last summer. Large wood and boulders were placed around the stream to help improve fish passage over old concrete weirs. Now the banks of the stream are in need of more plants.

This area is popular spawning habitat for adult salmon returning to the city in the fall. Throughout the year, the stream is full of cutthroat trout, long nose dace, and lamprey. Juvenile coho salmon are also here year-round as they reside in our streams for a year before heading out to saltwater.

*It is a little hard to see, but that **splash in the middle of this photo is a chinook** struggling to jump over one of the weirs prior to the 2013 stream restoration project.*





Coastrange Sculpin from Kelsey Creek

Cute is a Relative Term

I find sculpin to be quite cute. I'm not sure if it is their big lips, bugged out eyes, or giant flaired (another relative observation) pectoral fins, but I'm smitten with this fish.

Sculpin often flow into my net while I'm collecting macroinvertebrates for water quality testing in Coal Creek. I have to carefully clear the little fish out of my sample without harming them or losing any of my target critters. With measuring cups and filtered water, I gingerly separate the sculpin from mayflies that may be hiding in their camouflage. This diversion can add a lot of extra time to my process. Luckily, macroinvertebrate collections are only done at the end of summer when the days are warm and the streamside is one of few cool refuges in the city. The sculpin force me to slow down, pay close attention to what is in front of me, and pause to admire each fish.

We have Coastrange, Prickly, Riffle, and Torrent sculpin in Bellevue. Most will only reach a maximum length of 5-6". The fish pictured above, found in Kelsey Creek under the Wilburton Trestle, is likely a Coastal sculpin. These cute little fish are a reminder that healthy streams are not just all about salmon. Our streams and the surrounding habitat are full of fish and wildlife.

I hope you can get outside this spring and walk along one of our local streams. I'm sure you'll find something to admire and maybe even something that is cute.

- *Laurie Devereaux*
Stream Team Program Administrator and Fish Admirer

P.S. I don't think all fish are cute. Although a pikeminnow is related to one of our other cute locals, the peamouth minnow, I don't know anyone, especially a fisherman, who would say pikeminnow are cute.

SALMON PREFER COMMERCIAL CAR WASHES



Commercial car washes, both the drive-through and do-it-yourself kind, are required to send their dirty wash water to the sewer system for treatment before the water ever returns to our environment.

Storm drains flow directly into local streams, lakes, and wetlands without treatment. Bellevue residents own about 100,000 cars. All of that dirty car wash water adds up to a lot of pollution.

- Dirty car wash water contains petroleum products, heavy metals, phosphorus, nitrogen, and fine sediments that can harm wildlife and destroy habitat.
- Soaps dissolve the protective mucous layer on fish and natural oils in the gills, making them more susceptible to diseases.
- Even biodegradable soap pollutes water.
- Water heats up while flowing over pavement on sunny days. The warmer the water the less oxygen it holds putting further stress on aquatic life.





Summer Job Opportunities for Teens *with Bellevue Parks*

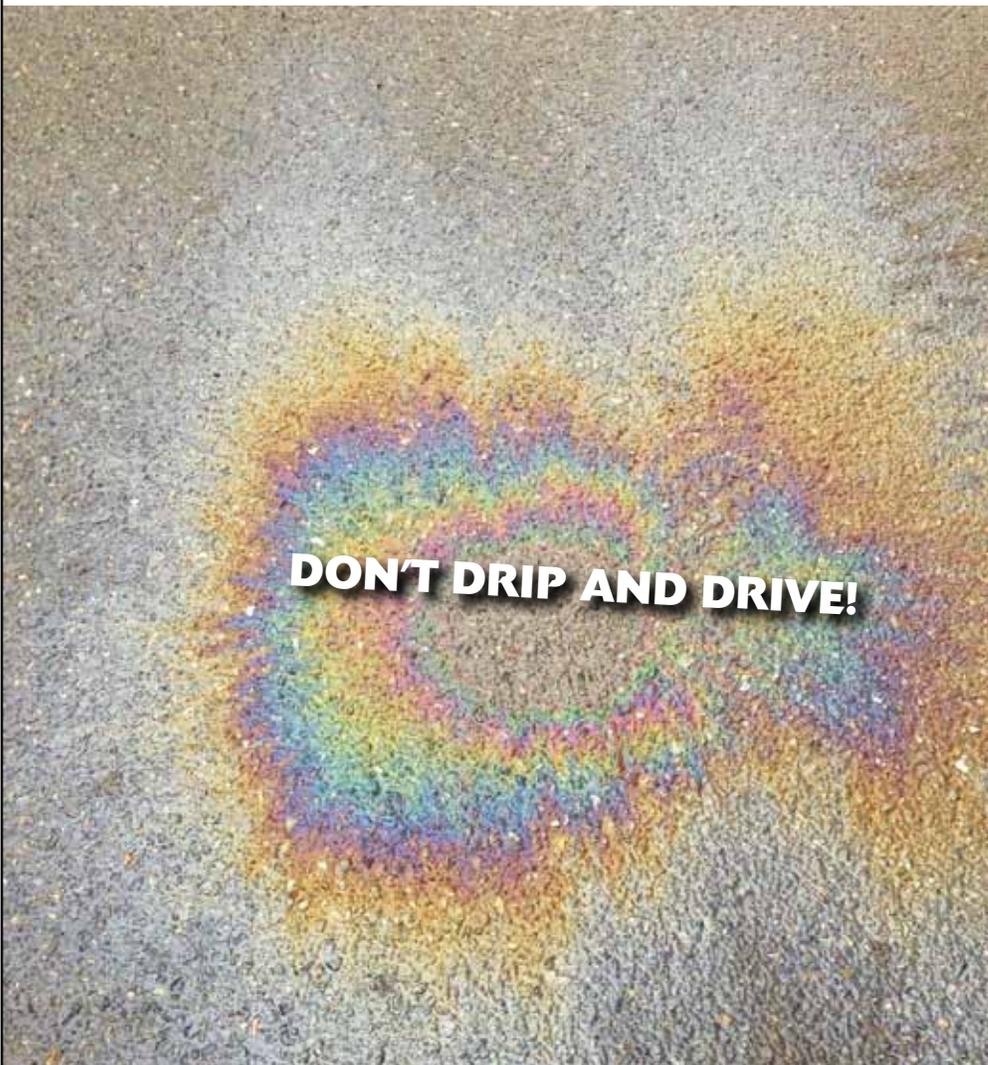


Need a summer job? Bellevue Parks is hiring teens for the Well KEPT Program (Kids Environmental Project Training). The program is designed to provide Bellevue youth with environmental education experience, develop practical job skills, and learn the foundations of park resource management. Well KEPT crews work on projects like trail construction and forest

and wetland enhancement. 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, please contact Curtis Kukal, 425-452-4195, or by email at CKukal@bellevuewa.gov. Applications are accepted in late spring.



Oil allowed to flow down storm drains contaminates our local streams, lakes, and Puget Sound. *Does your car have a leak?*

- **Step 1. Check for leaks**
Slide a big piece of cardboard under your car. We recommend you do this when your car is still warm as soon as you turn the motor off.
- **Step 2. Check back for leaks in an hour.**
- **Step 3. Fix leaks!**



2014 SEATTLE MARINERS

Puget Sound Starts Here



FELIX HERNANDEZ

ROBINSON CANO



SAT., MAY 10
6:10 PM



Event Details

Join us on Puget Sound Starts Here Night at Safeco Field on Saturday, May 10 as the Seattle Mariners take on the Kansas City Royals. Receive a FREE Seattle Mariners Puget Sound Starts Here T-shirt when purchasing tickets through this special online offer!

Pricing

- View \$20
 - Main \$34
- A portion of the proceeds will directly benefit local non-profits working to protect Puget Sound

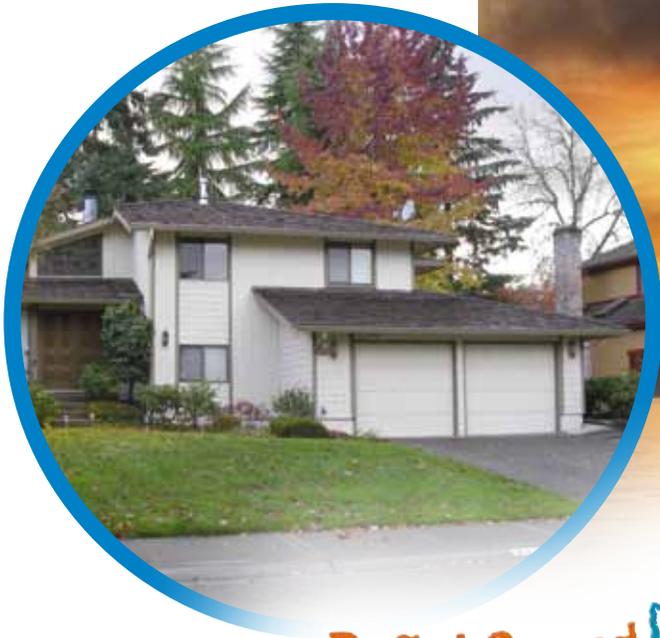
Reserve your tickets

Deadline: Friday, May 9th – 5:00 p.m.

Visit: Mariners.com/PugetSound
Password: Salmon

FOLLOW THE STEPS BELOW TO PURCHASE TICKETS:

1. Visit the link: Mariners.com/PugetSound
2. Select "Buy Tickets" then enter **SALMON** as your Special Offer Code.
3. Purchase and print your tickets instantly.



MAY IS **Puget Sound** Starts Here MONTH!

Puget Sound has 2,500 miles of shoreline. It is home to countless species including orcas, sea lions, salmon, and shellfish as well as 4.5 million people who live, work, and play here.

Every year, millions of pounds of toxic pollutants enter Puget Sound. Much of that pollution comes from runoff. Every time it rains, water flows over hard surfaces like houses, parking lots, driveways, lawns where the soil has been packed down, and streets picking up pollution along the way. Just in Bellevue, we have over 30,000 storm drains leading runoff directly to our local streams and lakes on its way to Puget Sound.

IT ALL ADDS UP!

Our actions today determine the future of our health, economy, culture, quality of life, and the legacy we leave the next generation. Simple actions you can take include:

AROUND YOUR HOME:

- Pick up pet waste and place it in the trash.
- Maintain your septic system or side sewer.
- Never dump anything – liquid or solid – into a storm drain or drainage ditch.
- Use natural yard products like compost and mulch. If you use chemical pesticides and fertilizers, follow the directions and use them sparingly.
- Store and dispose of household chemicals according to the instructions on the label.
- Landscape your yard with native plants and trees that soak up rain and slow the flow of runoff.

WITH YOUR VEHICLE OR BOAT:

- Take your car to a commercial car wash instead of washing it in your driveway.
- Fix auto leaks right away and take any used fluids to a recycling center.
- Boaters can protect valuable habitat by using pump-out stations for their sewage, using caution in eelgrass areas, and being cautious when fueling and cleaning their vessel.





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.*

printed on 30% post-consumer recycled paper using soy inks.
Design by: EcoChica Design - www.ecochica.com

The poster is divided into two main sections. The left section features a raccoon wearing an orange party hat with white stars, standing on a rocky stream bed. The text "PEAMOUTH PATROL" is written in large, white, slanted letters across the raccoon. Below the raccoon, the text reads: "April 17th, 2014", "Bellevue City Hall, Room 112", and "6:30 - 7:30 p.m.". The right section is a vertical strip with a green background, showing a collage of photos of people participating in stream cleanup activities. The text "Join us for EARTH DAY!" is written in white, followed by "May 3rd, 2014", "8:30 - 11:00 a.m.", and "Register for location and details".

PEAMOUTH PATROL

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