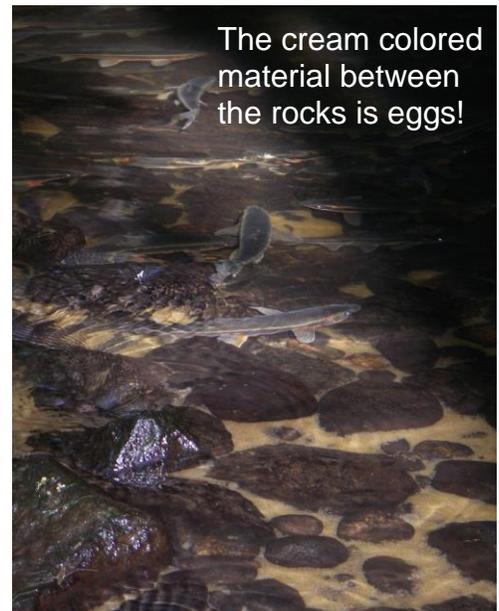


Watch Peamouth Minnow Spawn in Bellevue!

It's that time of year again! Countless numbers of Peamouth Minnows should be returning to Kelsey Creek to spawn any time between now and mid June.

Peamouth are only here for 12-48 hours so if you want to see them you have to be there at the right time. Volunteer are currently monitoring streams for returning fish. They will help us document each spawning and notify Stream Team so everyone gets a chance to see fish.



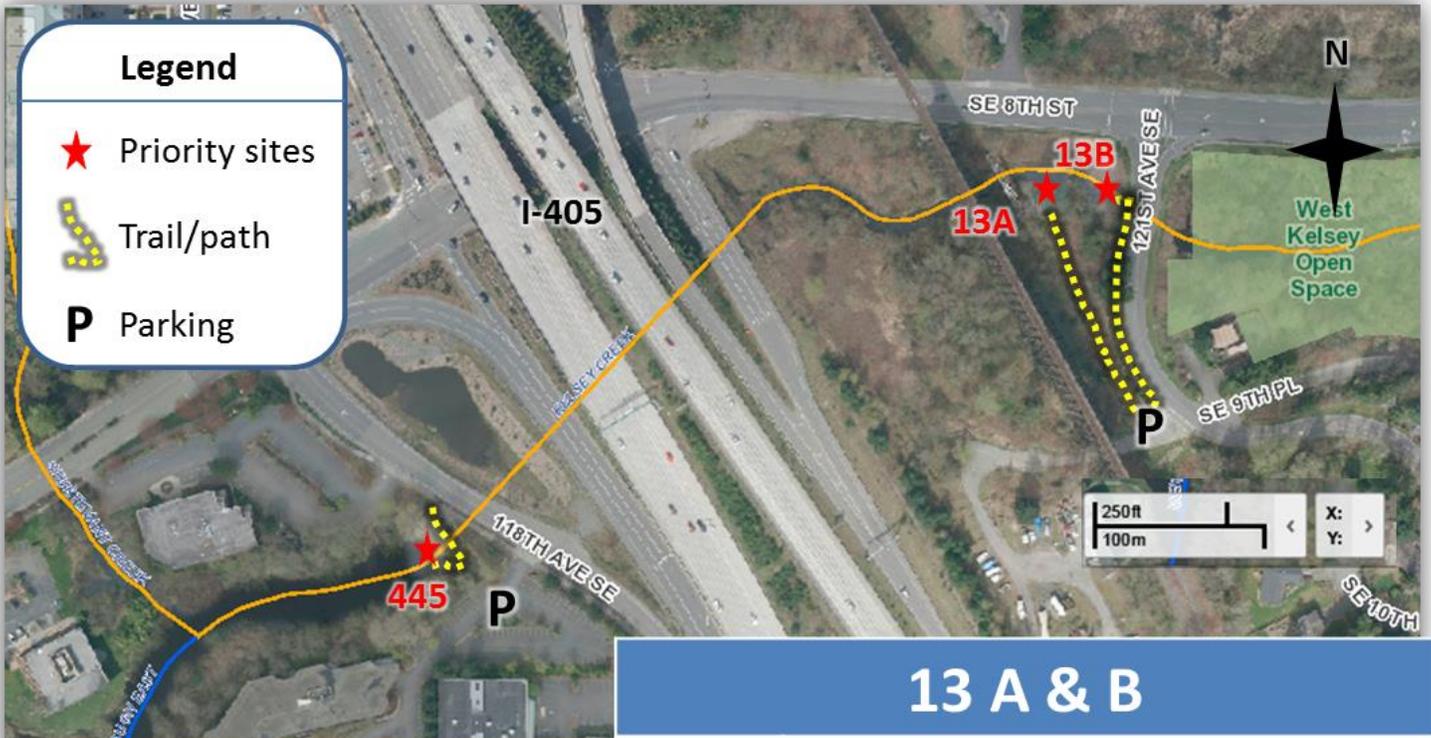
Peamouth are a Lake Washington fish, about a foot long, and can live an average of 8 years. Unlike salmon, peamouth don't mind warmer water and lower stream levels in the spring. Thousands of peamouth spawn in our streams every year in April or May and go back to the lake in less than 2 days. The stream is plastered with gazillions of sticky little eggs that only take 7-9 days to hatch. The juvenile peamouth are an excellent source of prey for fish in the stream and lake. What a perfect snack for the juvenile salmon who are working their way around the lake towards salt water at this time of year!

Sneak up on the sites and watch quietly! You may enjoy seeing other wildlife including blue heron, wood ducks, river otter, raccoon, and bald eagle. The return of the peamouth is like a wildlife party at the stream! We also need to be respectful of their space.

Plants grow by the inch but die by the foot --- your foot!

Please watch your step so we don't degrade the habitat we're all out there to enjoy!

Peamouth Viewing Sites



13 A & B

Stream	Kelsey Creek
Location	121st / SE 8th
Directions	<p>From 405:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Take SE 8th St Exit -Go East on SE 8th (away from downtown). -Right on 121st <p>Pull off the road and park on the right side just after the neighborhood sign. If there are too many cars there, you can turn around and go down SE 9th for more shoulder parking.</p> <p>Technically, your wheels should be off the pavement onto the gravel/dirt.</p>
Notes	<p>A - walk the trail parallel with the Trestle. Just after the trail starts going down, look to the right for an opening in the blackberries. This is a great site to look down on the stream but PLEASE stay back away from the eroding edge!</p> <p>B – This is usually the best site to see peamouth! Walk on the sidewalk back towards SE 8th. Look for the stream sign and little path to the viewing platform on your left, near the bus stop sign.</p>

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Stream	Kelsey Creek/Mercer Slough
Location	Mercer Slough fish ladder-south of SE 8th
Directions	<p>From 405 and SE 8th</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -West on SE 8th (towards downtown) -Left on 118th Ave SE <p>Park right after the site in the office park's lot.</p>
Notes	<p>Look for Creek sign (Mercer Slough) and walk down the trail. You may want to take a peak from above before you walk all the way down to spot wildlife before they get scared away. River otter frequent this area.</p>