

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

STREAM TEAM

How Do I Get Involved?

Contact Stream Team at streamteam@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-5200 to get on the volunteer mailing list. You will receive emails, newsletters, and flyers with information on upcoming volunteer events like those listed below. Then you just sign up to participate in any of the events.



Stream Team Mission:

To provide information, increase community involvement and awareness, and initiate changes that will protect the quality of our water systems and the fish and wildlife habitat.

Salmon Watchers

Salmon Watcher Volunteers help us learn more about salmon populations in Bellevue by observing and reporting when, where, and what type of salmon are returning to local streams.



Attend a two-hour workshop in September to learn everything you need to know to identify salmon and choose a site to watch. Then visit your site for 15 minutes twice a week from September through December, record your observations, and mail in your data.

The work accomplished by Salmon Watcher Volunteers is essential to local salmon recovery efforts. The information gathered indicates how salmon are using local streams and helps identify possible fish passage barriers.

Peamouth Patrol

Peamouth Minnows are Lake Washington fish that spawn in Bellevue streams every spring in April and May. Their entire spawning event is very short, only a day or two, but they show up by the thousands and are fascinating to watch.

Attend an hour long workshop in mid-April to learn about peamouth then volunteer to help us record their spawning time and use of Bellevue streams. Volunteers check streams for peamouth for 15 minutes twice a week from mid-April through the end of May.



Peamouth are not sport fish like salmon and don't mind the lower water levels and warmer temperatures of spring. Adult peamouth are around a foot long. Their eggs hatch in only 7-8 days and the juveniles work their way back to Lake Washington. The tiny juveniles are a fantastic source of prey for other fish, and they are in Lake Washington at the same time hungry juvenile salmon are making their way to Puget Sound.

To learn more about volunteering with Stream Team, visit us online at: www.bellevuewa.gov/stream_team.htm



Earth Day/Arbor Day

Stream Team hosts a site at the city-wide Earth Day/Arbor Day Event every April. Volunteers plant native plants like sword fern, Oregon grape, and red osier dogwood next to a stream or in a wetland. It's a great opportunity to get your boots dirty and help protect Bellevue's waterways.



Macroinvertebrate Workshop

Collecting stream bugs, called macroinvertebrates, is a great way to measure the impact of human activity on local streams. The samples collected by volunteers are sent to a lab for analysis. The results allow us to monitor trends in local streams and keep an eye on water quality.

A two hour hands-on workshop is offered in mid-August for volunteers to learn about these important critters. You will search through live samples to magnify with the video microscope, find out what our scores have been in the past, and discover what stream bugs can teach us. This workshop is geared towards adults wanting to learn more about water quality and volunteers interested in helping with field collections.

Macroinvertebrate Field Collections

Adult participants are needed to help with field collections in late August and early September. Each collection takes 2-3 hours. Volunteers do not need to be able to identify the macroinvertebrates, but sampling does require patience and following specific protocols. This is a beautiful time of year to hang out in our local streams. Stream Team provides all necessary supplies, including sampling equipment, boots, and snacks. Field collection dates are chosen based on staff and volunteer availability.



Special Projects

Occasionally, there are special or unexpected last minute projects. Getting your email address on the volunteer list is the best way to find out about these events.

Other Opportunities

Storm drain marking is a great community action project that raises public awareness about the importance of keeping surface water clean and reduces surface water pollution. For more information or to reserve a kit, contact Karren Gratt at kgratt@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-6166.

Remember, nothing but rain down the storm drain!

Bellevue's storm drains flow directly to streams, lakes, and wetlands.

