



April-June

NATURAL RESOURCE PROGRAMS

Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center

Lake Hills Greenbelt Ranger Station

Lewis Creek Visitor Center



Bellevue Parks &
Community Services

Natural Resource Division

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Online registration required for all participants.

register.bellevuewa.gov

Let us know how we're doing!

Bellevue Parks & Community Services wants to know how we can make our environmental education programs better. We invite you to give us feedback about programs you've attended and suggestions for future programs. You can do this two ways:

1. Ask for an evaluation card at a visitor's center that you can fill out on the spot, OR
2. Simply send us an email at program_feedback@bellevuewa.gov

Any thoughts you have about our programs are welcome, but we're specifically wondering;

- Did the program you attended increase your knowledge of the natural world?
- Did the program you attended increase your respect for natural areas?
- What would the ideal length be for a ranger program?
- Do you prefer programs on animals, plants, ecosystems, natural resources, or something else?
- Do you/your family prefer programs outdoors/in parks or indoors with photos and videos?

Thank you for your help in shaping the future of our educational programs!



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register.bellevuewa.gov



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Local Area Hikes

RANGER-LED HIKE AT LEWIS CREEK PARK

Saturday, May 4, 10:30-11:30 a.m

Saturday, June 1, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Join a Bellevue Park Ranger to explore the natural and cultural history of Lewis Creek Park. Look for signs of local wildlife and learn what to do when encountering animals in the wild. Please dress for the weather and wear sturdy shoes. Preregistration required for each participant. **Ages:** All Ages **Cost:** Free!

Distance: 1 mile.

Level of Difficulty: Easy (Approximately 50 ft elevation change).

Meeting Place: Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center
5808 Lakemont Blvd SE

RANGER-LED HIKE AT MERCER SLOUGH NATURE PARK

Sunday, April 7, 2-3:30 p.m.

Sunday, April 21, 2-3:30 p.m.

Sunday, May 5, 2-3:30 p.m.

Sunday, May 19, 2-3:30 p.m.

Saturday, June 15, 2-3:30 p.m.

Saturday, June 29, 2-3:30 p.m.

Bring the whole family to join a Ranger on a guided 1.5-mile hike through the Mercer Slough Nature Park. This kid-oriented program aims to educate kids and their parents about the Nature Park while discovering the birds and animals that call the Mercer Slough home. The hour-long nature walk ends at the channel bridge in the middle of the park. From there you can continue to further explore the rich diversity the park has to offer. **Ages:** All are welcome but best for 5 and up.

Cost: Free!

Distance: 1.5 miles.

Level of Difficulty: Easy

Meeting Place: Mercer Slough Nature Park, 1625 118 Avenue SE

Online registration required for all participants.

register.bellevuewa.gov

RANGER-LED HIKE AT LAKEMONT COMMUNITY PARK

Sunday, April 21, 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m.

This lovely trail winds alongside a creek as we ascend and descend throughout the park. Please dress for the weather and wear sturdy shoes. Preregistration required for each participant. **Ages:** All Ages

Cost: Free!

Distance: 2 miles.

Level of Difficulty: Moderately Difficult
(Approximately 700 ft total elevation change).

Meeting Place: Lakemont Community Park,
5170 Village Park Dr SE

RANGER-LED HIKE AT LAKEMONT HIGHLANDS OPEN SPACE

Sunday, May 26, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Join a Bellevue Park Ranger at the Lewis Creek Visitor Center to explore the Lakemont Highlands Open Space trail system. Please dress for the weather and wear sturdy shoes. Preregistration required for each participant. **Ages:** All Ages

Cost: Free!

Distance: 3.5 miles.

Level of Difficulty: Difficult
(Approximately 680 ft elevation change).

Meeting Place: Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center,
5808 Lakemont Blvd SE



Online registration required for all participants.

register.bellevuewa.gov

RANGER-LED HIKE AT LAKEMONT COMMUNITY PARK

Sunday, June 16, 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m.

This lovely trail winds alongside a creek as we ascend and descend throughout the park. Please dress for the weather and wear sturdy shoes. Preregistration required for each participant.

Ages: All Ages **Cost:** Free!

Distance: 2 miles.

Level of Difficulty: Moderately Difficult
(Approximately 700 ft total elevation change).

Meeting Place: Lakemont Community Park,
5170 Village Park Dr SE



Online registration required for all participants.

register.bellevuewa.gov

LAKE HILLS GREENBELT RANGER WALK

Saturdays, April 20, 27, 2-3 p.m.

Saturdays, May 4, 11, 18, 25, 2-3 p.m.

Saturdays, June 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 2-3 p.m.

Are you interested in a weekend activity that's both fun and educational? Bring the whole family for a mild one-mile nature hike through the greenbelt's trails and discover the season's myriad of flora and fauna. Wear your favorite weather-appropriate outdoor clothing and shoes, and feel free to bring personal wildlife-viewing gear (e.g., binoculars or magnifying glasses) to further enjoy the park. If you're feeling especially energized, continue to the Larsen Lake trail loop and use your newfound knowledge to explore. We'll be heading out rain or shine. Please dress for the weather and wear sturdy shoes. Pre-registration is required for each participant. **Ages:** All Ages

Cost: Free!

Distance: 1 mile.

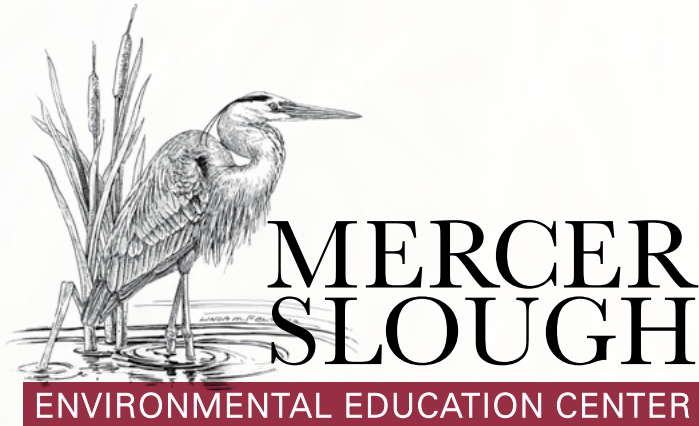
Level of Difficulty: Easy

Meeting Place: Lake Hills Greenbelt Ranger Station,
15416 SE 16th St, Bellevue, WA 98007



Online registration required for all participants.

register.bellevuewa.gov



*Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center,
1625 118 Avenue SE*

Hours: Daily, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. **Phone:** 425-452-2565

Email: mseec@bellevuewa.gov

Overlooking the 320 acre Mercer Slough Nature Park, the Visitor Center offers remarkable view of the forest canopy and swampy wetlands below. Inside, enjoy an interactive library and interpretive displays for adults and families. Park Rangers provide information and free weekly programs. Pick up trail maps, brochures, and program information today.

We welcome your service animal to our programs. For planning purposes, please include them on your RSVP.

Mercer Slough Programs

CANOE MERCER SLOUGH

Sundays only, June-August, 8:45 a.m.-12 p.m.
(no sessions June 23, July 7, or August 6.)

Online-only registration opens 2-weeks prior to each session.

Explore the beautiful Mercer Slough Nature Park by water! Bellevue park rangers lead this 3-hour canoe trip from Enatai Beach Park. You'll see how this amazing ecosystem functions as you travel into the heart of Mercer Slough Nature Park, a 329-acre wetland. With a little luck, you may catch a glimpse of otters, herons, turtles, and other wildlife of Mercer Slough.

Ages: 5+ only. **Cost:** \$20 per person.

Online registration required for all participants.

register.bellevuewa.gov

STORY AND A STROLL

Friday, April 5, 11 a.m.-12 p.m.
Friday, April 19, 11 a.m.-12 p.m.
Friday, May 3, 11 a.m.-12 p.m.
Friday, May 17, 11 a.m.-12 p.m.
Friday, June 7, 11 a.m.-12 p.m.
Friday, June 21, 11 a.m.-12 p.m.

Join a park Ranger to explore the forested Wetlands of the Mercer Slough Nature Park. Each week as we venture outside, children will be fascinated by all there is to discover and become more comfortable navigating the trail. Children will also enjoy a nature-based story connecting them to the natural world.

Ages: 3-5. **Cost:** Free!



RANGER PROGRAM: WAKE UP WETLAND

Saturday, April 20, 2-3 p.m.

As the seasons change, so does nature. Many creatures big and small are emerging from their long winters nap in search of food and friends. Branches and shrubs are coming to life. Learn more about the plants and animals that indicate the first signs of Spring. **Ages:** 5-10. **Cost:** Free!



Online registration required for all participants.

register.bellevuewa.gov

RANGER PROGRAM: PERFECT POLLINATORS

Saturday, May 18, 2-3 p.m.

Pollination is not just fascinating; it is an essential ecological function. Over 80% of the world's flowering plants require a pollinator to reproduce. Unfortunately, we are witnessing a significant decline in our natural pollinator populations. Without these pollinators, humans will not survive, and terrestrial ecosystems will continue to deteriorate. Join a Park Ranger to learn more about what we can do to protect our future of food.

Ages: 5-10. **Cost:** Free!



RANGER PROGRAM: WHO LET THE BUGS OUT?

Saturday, June 22, 2-3 p.m.

We can find insects in almost every habitat, yet insects are underappreciated for their role in the food web. Without insects to help break down and dispose of wastes, dead animals and plants would accumulate in our environment. Other animals rely on insects as their primary food source. Without them they would starve. Join a Park Ranger for a nature walk in search of bugs. Enjoy some hands-on activities and crafts as well. **Ages:** 5-10. **Cost:** Free!



Online registration required for all participants.

register.bellevuewa.gov

MOVIES AT THE MERCER SLOUGH: OUR PLANET

Take a journey through the past, present and future of earth in this 3-part series documentary. **Ages:** 12 and up. Best for Adults. **Cost:** Free!

How the Earth Was Made | Sunday, April 14, 2-3:30 p.m.

A Global Warning | Sunday, May 26, 2-3:30 p.m.

Life After People | Sunday, June 16, 2-3:30 p.m.



Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center is a collaboration between the City of Bellevue and the Pacific Science Center. For information on programs provided by Pacific Science Center, please visit pacificsciencecenter.org



Online registration required for all participants.

register.bellevuewa.gov



LAKE HILLS GREENBELT

R A N G E R S T A T I O N

Lake Hills Greenbelt Ranger Station, 15416 SE 16 Street

Hours: Tuesday-Saturday, 12-4 p.m. **Phone:** 425-452-6993

Email: parkrangerprogram@bellevuewa.gov

Surrounded by community farms, gardens, and beautiful wetlands, you will find interpretive displays, trails, environmental program information, and friendly Park Rangers to answer your questions.

We welcome your service animal to our programs. For planning purposes, please include them on your RSVP.

Lake Hills Greenbelt Programs

EVENING WALK AND TALK – LOCAL WILDLIFE

Saturday, April 20, 5:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.

Join us for a special evening event and learn about some animals that seem to thrive in an urban environment. What makes Raccoons such great scavengers? Why are Coyotes seemingly found everywhere, and how might you live safely around your Black Bear Neighbors? Join us for a short walk through the greenbelt as well as we learn about our wild neighbors the make their homes here **Ages:** All Ages. **Cost:** Free!

COUSIN COYOTE

Saturday, April 27, 10-11 a.m.

Saturday, May 18, 10-11 a.m.

Have you heard them howling in the evening near your home? Coyotes can easily adapt to an urban setting like Bellevue. Come learn what to do if you come across one of these dog-like creatures in your backyard or in the parks and stick around for a fun Coyote Craft! All children must be registered and accompanied by a registered adult. **Ages:** 4-10.

Cost: Free!



Online registration required for all participants.

register.bellevuewa.gov

THE BELLEVUE BEAVERS

Saturday, May 25, 10-11 a.m.

Saturday, June 22, 10-11 a.m.

While the North American Beaver is busy building a lodge or blocking up rivers, Mountain Beavers live very different lives. Both of these “beavers” make their homes in our parks, but just how closely related are they? Come learn more about these large rodents, and have fun being creative with a beaver craft after the class! We’ll be heading out rain or shine. Please dress for the weather and wear sturdy shoes. Pre-registration is required for each participant. **Ages:** 4-10 with accompanying adult(s). **Cost:** Free!



TODDLERS TRAILS AT THE LAKE HILLS GREENBELT

Friday, May 3, 10-10:45 a.m.

Friday, June 7, 10-10:45 a.m.

Come enjoy a special program designed for our littlest explorers. Whether by stroller or shoe, this short walk along the Lake Hills Greenbelt trail will give your little one to look at some different plants and learn about a few special animals. We’ll be heading out rain or shine. Please dress for the weather and wear sturdy shoes. Pre-registration is required for each participant **Ages:** 18-36 Months with accompanying adult(s). **Cost:** Free!

Distance: .5 miles.

Level of Difficulty: Easy

THE STORY OF SEASONS

Saturday, June 15, 10-11 a.m.

As the year moves along, you can find many changes along the Lake Hills trails. Why do flowers bloom in the spring? What makes trees grow leaves, and lose them in the fall? How do these changes affect the animals in the park, and the things we can do? Come learn more with a local park ranger, and stay after for a fun craft. We’ll be heading out rain or shine. Please dress for the weather and wear sturdy shoes. Pre-registration is required for each participant. **Ages:** 4-10 with accompanying adult(s). **Cost:** Free!

Online registration required for all participants.

register.bellevuewa.gov



LEWIS CREEK

VISITOR CENTER

*Lewis Creek Visitor Center,
5808 Lakemont Blvd SE*

Hours: Wednesday-Sunday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m **Phone:** 425-452-4195

Email: lcvc@bellevuewa.gov

This beautiful park offers ample opportunity to wander through forests, meadows, and wetlands. Come inside the Visitor Center to pick up trail and park maps for the area, attend a free Natural Resource program, or simply enjoy the relaxing atmosphere.

We welcome your service animal to our programs. For planning purposes, please include them on your RSVP.

Lewis Creek Programs

FAMILY DISCOVERY SERIES PROGRAMS

TODDLER TRAILS

Sunday, April 28, 10-11 a.m.

Saturday, May 25, 10-11 a.m.

Sunday, June 9, 10-11 a.m

Explore the trails at Lewis Creek Park with a park ranger and get out some wiggles this spring. We'll take frequent stops while we investigate the different environments of Lewis Creek Park we wander through and learn how we can make hiking fun for everyone. This is an outdoor program, please dress for the weather and wear sturdy shoes. Preregistration required for children and adults. **Ages:** 18-36 Months with accompanying adult(s). **Cost:** Free!

Distance: .5 miles.

Level of Difficulty: Easy



Online registration required for all participants.

register.bellevuewa.gov

CREATURE CRAFTS

Saturday, April 20, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Sunday, May 5, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Saturday, June 29, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Join us for an hour of themed crafts and fun with your little ones. Create a take home craft and have fun with additional activities your little explorer can discover at their own pace. Preregistration required for children and adults. **Ages:** 3-7 with accompanying adult(s). **Cost:** Free!



THE SECRET LIFE OF SLUGS

Sunday, April 7, 2:30-3:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 13, 2:30-3:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 27, 2:30-3:30 p.m.

Creepy, slimy, and cool! Put your best tentacle forward and join us to learn more about the slugs that call Lewis Creek home. Crawl in to learn more about that marvelous slime and to find a new perspective from the forest floor. Preregistration required for children and adults. **Ages:** 5-10 with accompanying adult(s). **Cost:** Free!



Online registration required for all participants.

register.bellevuewa.gov

MORE BEES PLEASE!

Saturday, May 4, 2:30-3:30 p.m.

Sunday, May 26, 2:30-3:30 p.m.

When springtime arrives, our native bees don't lose a moment! Find out what everyone is buzzing about as we learn about our gentle native pollinators and tap into a bee's creativity to help native bees all over Bellevue. Preregistration required for children and adults. **Ages:** 5-10 with accompanying adult(s). **Cost:** Free!



MONSTERS IN THE CREEK

Saturday, June 8, 2:30-3:30 p.m.

Saturday, June 22, 2:30-3:30 p.m.

Sunday, June 30, 2:30-3:30 p.m.

Look closely into a creek, stay still, and you might just see a giant set of jaws emerge from the deep to snatch dinner as it swims by! Creeks are full of living organisms, and while they might just look like ordinary bugs from afar, we'll get a tadpole's view of all the exoskeletons, pinchers, and external gills creeping along the creek bed this month. Preregistration required for children and adults. **Ages:** 5-10 with accompanying adult(s). **Cost:** Free!



Online registration required for all participants.

register.bellevuewa.gov

FROG HOP!

Friday, April 5, 7:30-9p.m.

Saturday, April 20, 8:00-9:30 p.m.

One of the earliest sounds of spring is the constant rib-bit song of frogs. Learn about the amazing life cycle of these amphibians, as well as the kinds of frogs that live in Western Washington. Then join us to explore Lewis Creek using your ears to guide the way! Bring a flashlight or headlamp, as well as good shoes and warm clothes for the journey. Preregistration required for children and adults. **Ages:** 5+ with accompanying adult(s). **Cost:** Free!

BATTY NIGHTS AT LEWIS CREEK PARK

Friday, May 31, 8:30-10 p.m.

Friday, June 14, 8:30-10 p.m.

Come test out your echolocation with a Park Ranger. We'll learn all about our local bat species while taking a dusk hike to watch for bats as they forage for insects! Bring a flashlight or headlamp, as well as sturdy shoes! Preregistration required for children and adults **Ages:** 5+ with accompanying adult(s). **Cost:** Free!



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register.bellevuewa.gov



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Visitor Centers



Mercer Slough Environmental
Education Center
425-452-2565
1625 118 Avenue SE

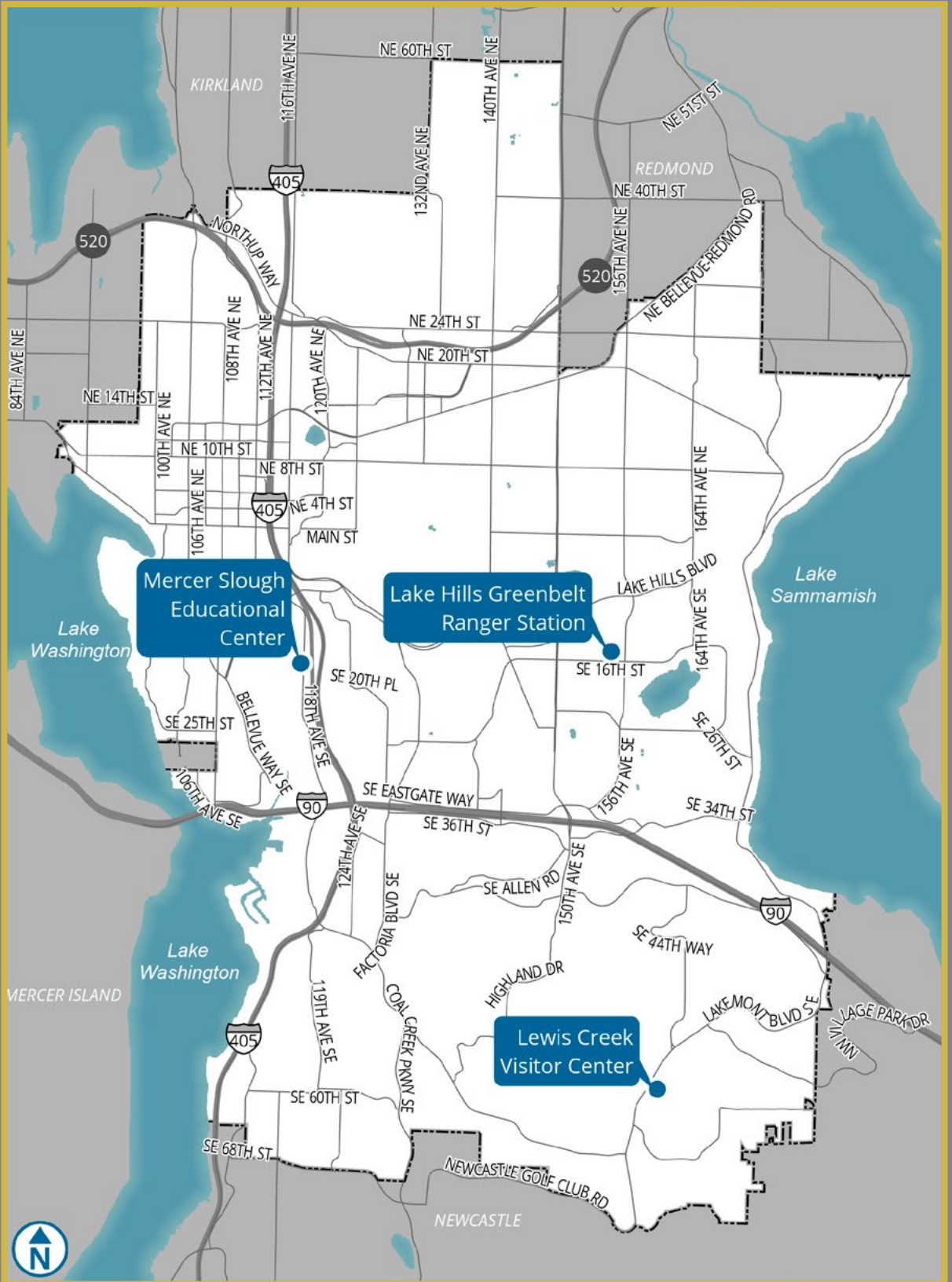


Lake Hills Greenbelt
Ranger Station
425-452-6993
15416 SE 16 Street
(15500 SE 16 Street:
Parking Location)



Lewis Creek Visitor Center
425-452-4195
5808 Lakemont Blvd SE

Visitor Center Locations



Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center

425-452-2565

1625 118 Avenue SE

Lake Hills Greenbelt Ranger Station

425-452-6993

15416 SE 16 Street

15500 SE 16 Street: Parking Location

Lewis Creek Visitor Center

425-452-4195

5808 Lakemont Blvd SE



Bellevue Parks & Community Services



For alternate formats, interpreters, or reasonable modification requests please phone at least 48 hours in advance 425-452-2565 (voice) or email dvannieula@bellevuewa.gov. For complaints regarding modifications, contact the City of Bellevue ADA, Title VI, and Equal Opportunity Officer at ADATitleVI@bellevuewa.gov.

