

From: Bradley, Geoff
Sent: Friday, June 11, 2010 2:20 PM
To: DySard, Alexandra
Cc: Hughes, Laura; Dewald, Dan; McVein, Shelley
Subject: FW: Canoe program in Seattle Child's Magazine

Nice job, Alex. If you can get a good review like this while canoeing in the rain you must be doing something right ☺.

Keep up the great work.

*Geoffrey Bradley
Environmental Programs Supervisor
Bellevue Parks & Community Services
PO Box 90012
Bellevue, WA 98009-9012
425-452-2740 (office)
425-864-1969 (cell)
425-452-7221 (fax)*

From: Dyson-Farrell, Christina
Sent: Friday, June 11, 2010 1:20 PM
To: Haaseth, Robin
Cc: Bradley, Geoff
Subject: Canoe program in Seattle Child's Magazine

A program participant, parent, and writer for Seattle Child's Magazine, wrote a nice article about the Canoe program. I think Park Ranger Alex did a great job, especially considering it was raining for most of the program. Please share this with others.

<http://www.seattleschild.com/article/20100602/SCM0602/100609954/-1/scm>

Thanks,
*Christina Dyson Farrell
Park Ranger/Environmental Program Coordinator
Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center
City of Bellevue Parks & Community Services Dept.
(425) 452-2565
www.bellevuewa.gov/mseec.htm*

From: Taryn Zier [mailto:tarynz@comcast.net]
Sent: Wednesday, June 09, 2010 9:33 AM
To: Dyson-Farrell, Christina
Subject: FW: Canoe the Slough or Run Away to the Circus

Hi Christina,

I wanted to forward this along, in case you hadn't seen it. Thanks so much!

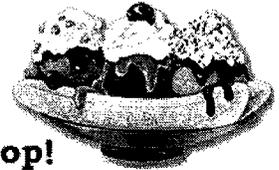
Taryn

Seasonal allergies leaving you **stuffy?**

Seattle's Child

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Published: Wednesday, June 2, 2010

A Parent's Review: Guided Canoe Rides at Mercer Slough Nature Park

By Taryn Zier

An outing to one of our area's urban parks is always a treat, and Mercer Slough Nature Park is certainly no exception with its beautiful hiking trails through Bellevue wetlands. My 5-year-old son and I experienced the park by way of water, however, on a recent weekend morning canoe ride.

The three-hour rides, guided by Bellevue park rangers every Saturday through September, kick off at Enatai Beach Park. Paddlers meander through the slough – a channel through the marshlands – past scores of birds, blueberry fields, an occasional office building and a salmon ladder. The group links up every so often to learn about the animals and plants in the park and how the different ecosystems function.

The first half of our ride went smoothly. My sister joined us for the adventure and we saw some of the best stuff right off the bat. We traversed a bit of Lake Washington before hitting the slough, where we paddled right by a stoic heron. My son enjoyed learning about the swallows nested on the underside of Interstate 90, an interesting juxtaposition of concrete and nature, and traveling under the bridge.

We didn't spot any otters or beavers, but witnessed the remnants of the beavers' snack time. A few of us also caught sight of turtles. Unfortunately, we had to pick up our leisurely pace when we reached the halfway point and it started to rain. For most of the return trip, my son hid under raincoats eating trail mix. The canoe rides happen rain or shine, so plan your gear accordingly. Be sure to also pack water and snacks; three hours is a long time for kids to sit still.

Even though the rides are open to anyone ages 5 and older, my son was the only child in the bunch (the weather may have been a deterrent). We gave him his own paddle so he was involved with the process. Most of the people in our group appeared to have paddling experience, but that shouldn't deter beginners. The talk beforehand briefs riders on safety and technique, and the group sticks together. That said, the ride is four miles and does take some brawn.

Because of the distance, there should be two adults per canoe. One or two children can also ride, as long as the total weight is less than 550 pounds. If necessary, one of the experienced paddlers in the group (there are often naturalists or lifeguards who join in) can ride with families who are short an adult. All of the equipment – canoes, paddles and life jackets – are provided. In fact, Enatai Beach Park is also a kayak and canoe rental facility for those who want to enjoy this remarkable area on their own.

Taryn Zier is a freelance writer based in Lake Forest Park and mother of two children, ages 3 and 5.

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IF YOU GO

Where: Enatai Beach Park, 3519 108th Ave. S.E., Bellevue.

When: Saturdays, 9 a.m. to noon, May through September.

Cost: \$12 for Bellevue residents, \$14 for non-Bellevue residents; pre-registration required.

Contact: 425-452-6885;
www.ci.bellevue.wa.us/mercer_slough.htm.

CONTACT SEATTLE'S CHILD

editor@seattleschild.com

June 2010

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weekend highlights...

Hawaiian Canoe Races

6/12/2010
Thornton A. Sullivan Park
11405 Silver Lake Road
Everett WA 98208

Celebrate Wildflowers

6/12/2010
Olympic Sculpture Park
2901 Western Ave.
Seattle WA 98121

Festival Sundiata: African-American Celebration

6/12/2010
Seattle Center House and Fisher Pavilion
305 Harrison St.
Seattle WA 98109

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