

2015

Fall/Winter
September-December

NATURAL RESOURCE PROGRAMS

Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center

Lake Hills Greenbelt Ranger Station

Lewis Creek Visitor Center



*Bellevue Parks &
Community Services*
Natural Resource Division



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Special Events/Species of the Year	1
Local Area Hikes	2-3
Visitor Centers	16
Visitor Center Locations	17
Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center:	
Family Discovery Series.....	4-5
Adult Enrichment Series.....	6
Hot Topic Series.....	6
Lake Hills Greenbelt Ranger Station:	
Family Discovery Series.....	7-8
Living With Wildlife Series:	8-9
Lewis Creek Visitor Center:	
Family Discovery.....	10-13
Adult Enrichment.....	14-15





Special Events

BELLEVUE'S 2015 SPECIES OF THE YEAR

Beginning this year, select Bellevue Natural Resource programs will feature a native species that is local to our city. The Species of the Year for 2015 is the little brown bat (*Myotis lucifugus*). This species is one that you may have already seen flying near your home or favorite park. Important predators of insect pests, bats are vital to the environment. But bats are also just plain cool!

Look for this bat icon  next to program titles in this guide. These programs will feature information on the little brown bat and bats in general. Come explore what makes the little brown bat so special, and how you can help conserve bats in your own neighborhood. We'll even be going on some guided bat walks! Join us at all three visitor centers in 2015 to learn all about the little brown bat!



LOCAL AREA HIKES

Did you know Bellevue has almost 100 parks and more than 90 miles of trail to explore? Get connected to your local greenbelts and neighborhood parks as rangers take you on hikes throughout the year. Please dress for the weather, bring water and wear sturdy shoes. Hikes vary in theme and length. Please see details below.

Cost: FREE! **Registration:** Not required. **Info:** 425-452-4195.

MERCER SLOUGH RANGER HIKES

Every Saturday, 2-3:30 p.m., rain or shine

Join a ranger to take a short hike through the wetlands of Mercer Slough Nature Park. We begin with an overview of the LEED Gold education center and end at the bridge that spans the channel of Mercer Slough. Hear about the natural and cultural history of the slough. Afterward, you are free to explore further on your own, or return to the education center with the ranger.

Distance: 2+ miles.

Level of Difficulty: Easy (30 feet elevation change)

Meeting Place: *Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center, 1625 118th Ave SE* **Info:** 425-452-2565 or mseec@bellevuewa.gov

LEWIS CREEK PARK RANGER HIKE

Saturdays, September 5, October 3, November 7, December 5
10:30-11:30 a.m.

Join a Ranger in exploring the natural history of Lewis Creek Park. Look for signs of local wildlife and learn what to do when encountering animals in the wild. All ages welcome. Dress for the weather and wear sturdy shoes.

Distance: approximately 1 mile.

Elevation Change: 50 ft.

Meeting Place: *Lewis Creek Visitor Center 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE*
Info: 425-452-4195 or lcvc@bellevuewa.gov



LAKE HILLS RANGER STATION RANGER WALK

Saturdays, 2-3 p.m., rain or shine

Explore the Lake Hills Greenbelt with a Ranger and learn about the natural and cultural history of the area, discover the diversity of native plants and the wildlife that live here. All ages welcome. Dress for the weather and wear sturdy shoes.

Distance: approximately 1 mile.

Level of Difficulty: Easy, gravel path.

Meeting Place: *Lake Hills Greenbelt Ranger Station, 15416 SE 16th St.*

Info: 425-452-6993 or ParkRangerProgram@bellevuewa.gov



COAL CREEK PARK HIKE

Saturdays, September 26, November 14, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Discover Bellevue's largest park and get lost in the wilderness while still in the city! This area is rich in history and wildlife.

Distance: 5 miles.

Elevation Change: Moderate (100 feet elevation)

Meeting Place: *Coal Creek East Trailhead (Newcastle Golf Club Road, west of Redtown Trailhead)*

Info: 425-452-4195 or lcvc@bellevuewa.gov

LEWIS CREEK TO LAKEMONT PARK

Saturday, October 17, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

This lovely trail winds through green corridors to connect two of Bellevue's most beautiful parks.

Distance: 4.5 miles.

Elevation Change: Arduous (350 feet elevation)

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

Info: 425-452-4195 or lcvc@bellevuewa.gov

LAKEMONT HIGHLANDS OPEN SPACE

Saturday, December 12, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Explore the lesser-known trails of South Bellevue. Parks and open spaces guide you (and wildlife!) through friendly neighborhoods

Distance: 3.5 miles.

Elevation Change: Arduous (350 feet elevation)

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

Info: 425-452-4195 or lcvc@bellevuewa.gov



MERCER SLOUGH

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER

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.

Family Discovery Series

Ages: All ages are welcome. **Cost:** FREE! **Pre-registration:** Not required.

RANGER PROGRAM: BEAVERS

Sundays, September 13 & 20, 2-3 p.m.

Did you know that you can find beavers at Mercer Slough? Learn about the beaver's amazing adaptations, how they shape the habitat around them, and why Mercer Slough's beavers are unique.



RANGER PROGRAM: SALMON AND FORESTS

Sunday, October 4 & 11, 2-3 p.m.

Salmon have always been one of the most important fish in the Pacific Northwest. Learn more about these amazing fish, and discover how a successful salmon run can help support an entire forest population!



RANGER PROGRAM: NORTHWEST OWLS

Sunday, November 1 & 8, 2-3 p.m.

Do you know who take flight in the night? Learn more about three resident owl species that make the Mercer Slough their home. Also learn how to spot these birds at night, and what to do if you find yourself in "owl territory!"

Program Registration: www.myparksandrecreation.com

RANGER PROGRAM: COLD CLIMATE CREATURES

Sundays December 6 & 13, 2-3 p.m.

As winter brings snow to the mountains of the Northwest, animals like the Snowshoe Hare have amazing features to keep them safe in the changing environment. Come learn how some animals have certain adaptations that help them weather through the cold months of the year.



Movies

Popcorn provided! **Ages:** All ages are welcome.

Cost: FREE! **Registration:** RSVP requested. **Info:** 425-452-2565 or mseec@bellevuewa.gov.

BEAVERS

Friday, September 25, 5-6 p.m.

Beavers plunges into the rich aquatic habitat of one of nature's greatest engineers for an intimate look at a family of beavers though a year.

SECRET WORLD OF BATS

Friday, October 30, 5-6 p.m.

This 48-minute film, originally shown on CBS television, captures all aspects of bat behavior across five continents, capturing all aspects of bat behavior with remarkable slow motion photography. Bat costumes encouraged!

MY LIFE AS A TURKEY

Friday, November 20, 5-6 p.m. *SPECIAL DATE!*

Perfect for the week before Thanksgiving. One man's remarkable experience of raising a group of wild turkey hatchlings to adulthood.



CHRISTMAS IN YELLOWSTONE

Friday, December 18, 5-6 p.m. *SPECIAL DATE!*



NATURE presents Christmas in Yellowstone, a breathtaking look at wintertime deep within America's first national park. This film contains predator-prey interactions which may not be appropriate for some younger viewers.

Adult Enrichment Series



TREE WALK

Sunday, September 27, 2-3 p.m.

Come learn about the native trees in your neighborhood! We'll be going on a tree walk to learn how trees fit into our urban ecosystem, and why they're so valuable.

Ages:10+. **Cost:** FREE! **Registration:** Not required.

Hot Topic Series

WASHINGTON STATE ENDANGERED SPECIES

Sunday, October 25, 2-3 p.m.

Come learn about the amazing wildlife that is fighting for survival in WA State, and how you can help them in their fight.

Cost: FREE! **Registration:** Not required.



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 www.pacificsciencecenter.org.



Program Registration: www.myparksandrecreation.com



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, 12-4p.m. **Phone:** 425-452-7225

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.

Family Discovery Series

Cost: FREE! **Pre-registration required. Register:** MyParksAndRecreation.com

Info: 425-452-6993 or ParkRangerProgram@bellevuewa.gov.

GARDENING WITH YOUR CHILDREN: HARVEST AND WINTER PREPARATIONS

September 11, 10-11 a.m.

It's harvest time! What can you plant in the fall and eat through the winter? In this program, learn about winter produce, cover crops, composting, and how to put your garden to bed for the season. Bring home a winter plant, ready to grow! Families are encouraged to attend, please register with your child.

Course #96143

WHERE DO THE BIRDS GO?

September 25, 10-11 a.m.

Where do the birds go in the fall? Why do we see some birds only in the winter? Come learn about migratory birds, like trumpeter swans, Cedar waxwings, and Osprey and make a craft. Families are encouraged to attend, please register with your child. **Course #96153**



ALL ABOUT OWLS

Friday, October 9, 10-11 a.m.

Discover the owls that call Bellevue home! What they eat, where they nest and how they protect their young. Delve deeper in to what they eat by dissecting an owl pellet — what is an owl pellet you say? Join us to find out! Families are encouraged to attend, please register with your child. **Course #95976**



CREEPY CRAWLY AND COOL!

Friday, October 30, 10-11 a.m.

Come learn about bugs, worms and spiders as we discover fun facts about these little creatures. Discover their benefits to us and our ecosystem. We will be going outside in search of these little friends, so please dress according to the weather. Families are encouraged to attend, please register with your child.

Course #96154

ARE YOU SLEEPY, TREE?

Friday, November 6, 10-11 a.m.

Why do trees lose their leaves in the Fall? Come explore why trees have leaves and why they lose them. Make a leaf print – feel free to bring interesting leaves to share! Families are encouraged to attend, please register with your child. **Course #96156**



Living With Wildlife Series:

COYOTES, BEARS, AND BOBCATS, OH MY!

Friday, November 13, 10-11:30 a.m.

Bellevue is fortunate to have beautiful green spaces that are the natural habitat for amazing wildlife such as coyotes, bears, bobcats and cougars. Join us to learn details on feeding behavior, reproduction, and why we may see them wandering into urban areas, such as your neighborhood. When a conflict arises between humans and animals it is usually because the animal is only doing what it needs to do to survive. What can you do to reduce conflicts? Children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Ages: 8+. **Pre-Registration Required** at:

MyParksandRecreation.com. **Info:** 425-452-6993 or

ParkRangerProgram@bellevuewa.gov **Course #96166**



GIFTS FROM NATURE

Friday, December 11, 10-11 a.m.

Get ready for the holiday gift giving season by exploring the possibilities of gifts found right outside in your own backyard! Join us for story time and crafts, where we will make a fun gift from nature that your child can bring home and give to someone special. Families are encouraged to attend.

Pre-Registration Required at: MyParksandRecreation.com. **Info:** 425-452-6993 or ParkRangerProgram@bellevuewa.gov **Course #96155**





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 Natural Resource program, or simply enjoy the relaxing atmosphere.

Family Discovery

Story Time

Look, listen and create during an hour of stories and crafts with a park ranger on the 1st Friday of every month. Parents and children will explore together the diverse animal world with animated fiction and fun.

Ages: 3+. **Pre-registration** is required for each participant-adult and youth. **Cost:** \$2 Resident \$3 Non-Resident. **Pre-registration required** at: www.MyParksAndRecreation.com or 425-452-6885. **Info:** 425-452-4195. Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE.

RUN SALMON, RUN!

Friday, September 4, 11 a.m.-12 p.m. & 1:30- 2:30 p.m.

Lewis Creek provides habitat for salmon, and they start running in the fall! Learn about the journey that salmon take at this time every year. We always make a fun craft to take home! **Course** #96205 or 96206



CREEPY CRAWLIES

Friday, October 2, 11 a.m.-12 p.m. & 1:30-2:30 p.m.

Where do bugs live? Find out and go along as a brave slug attempts to climb a hill. We always make a fun craft to take home!

Course #96214 or 96215



Program Registration: www.myparksandrecreation.com

BATTY FOR BATS!

Friday, November 6, 11 a.m. -12 p.m. & 1:30-2:30 p.m.



Winter is the time when bats find a special place to hibernate. Come learn about bats and where they hide out for the winter. We always make a fun craft to take home! **Course** #96218 or 96503



TIME TO HIBERNATE

Friday, December 4, 11 a.m.-12 p.m & 1:30-30 p.m.

During the cold winter months, many animals take a very long nap called "hibernation". Find out which animals get very sleepy in winter! We always make a fun craft to take home! **Course** #96222 or 96504

Explorers' Club

WHAT'S IT TAKE TO BE A KOKANEE?

Saturday, September 12, 1-2 p.m.

Did you know that Lake Sammamish is home to a special population of Salmon? Kokanee spend their lives land-locked in the lake, migrating up the surrounding creeks, including Lewis Creek, in the late fall. Learn about the threats to Kokanee, and how you can help them thrive.

Ages: 5+. **Cost:** Free! **No registration required.** **Info:** 425-452-4195.



NIGHT HIKE

Friday, September 25, October 23, 7:30-9 p.m.

When the sun sets and the dark of night creeps in, Lewis Creek comes alive! Learn about the different nocturnal and crepuscular species that call Bellevue home, and join a Park Ranger on a hike through the woods after dark! Bring a flashlight or headlamp, as well as good shoes and warm clothes for the journey!

Ages: 5+. **Cost:** \$2 Resident \$3 Non-Resident. **Pre-registration required** at: www.MyParksAndRecreation.com or 425-452-4195. **Course** #96224 or 96453

COLORFUL FALL: WHY DO THE LEAVES CHANGE?

Saturday, October 24, 1-2 p.m.

Every fall, a beautiful event occurs. The trees become brilliant shades of red, yellow, orange and brown. Why does this change happen? Learn what makes deciduous trees lose their leaves, and why it is beneficial.

Ages: 5+. **Cost:** Free! **No registration required.** **Info:** 425-452-4195.



I MOSS ASK YOU A QUESTION

Saturday, November 7, 1-2 p.m.

What is the difference between moss, fungus, and lichen? Where do they grow and what is their purpose? Come learn about moss in Washington, and take a walk with a Park Ranger to get up close with the mosses in Lewis Creek Park.

Ages: 6+. **Cost:** Free!

No registration required.

Info: 425-452-4195.



WHAT'S IT TAKE TO SURVIVE WINTER?

Sunday, November 29, 1-2 p.m.

Ever wondered what it takes to survive in the harsh of winter? Come learn the methods used of both people and animals to stay warm and ready for the winter months. Discover the survival kit must-haves for anyone braving the coldest of months in the wilderness.

Ages: 8+. **Cost:** Free! **No registration required.**

Info: 425-452-4195.



HIBERNATION PAJAMA PARTY

Friday, December 11, 7:30-9 p.m.

Come learn about animals that hibernate, as well as other ways of surviving the winter. Make sure to bring your PJ's and a blanket or pillow as we settle in for the winter!

Ages: 5+. **Cost:** \$2 Resident \$3 Non-Resident. **Pre-registration required** at: www.MyParksAndRecreation.com or 425-452-4195.

Course #96261



Movies (Nature Films)

Cost: Free! **Registration:** Not required. **Info:** 425-452-4195.



REALLY WILD ANIMALS: TOTALLY TROPICAL RAIN FOREST

Sunday, September 13, 1-1:40 p.m.

Take a totally tropical trip to the rain forest and meet spotted jaguars, colorful poison-arrow frogs, slow-moving sloths, and loudmouthed howler monkeys. Run time 40 min. **Ages:** 3+.

BEES: TALES FROM THE HIVE

Sunday, October 18, 1-2p.m.

Have you ever seen the high-speed mid-air “wedding flight” of a drone and his queen? Do you know how a bee colony defends itself from honey-loving bears? Come see the bee’s colony’s secret world and discover the magnificence of the bee hive. Run time 54 mins. **Ages:** 8+.



DUCKUMENTARY

Sunday, November 8, 1– 2p.m.

There are more than 120 different species of ducks and they are all born knowing how to survive. Come discover all the different types and their life stories filled with personality and charm. Run time 60 min. **Ages:** 3+.

ANIMAL HOMES

Sunday, December 6, 1 – 2 p.m.

Come investigate how animals build their amazing homes and the intriguing behaviors and social interactions that take place in and around them. Running time 60 min. **Ages:** 3+



ADULT ENRICHMENT

HOT TOPICS IN WASHINGTON STATE: HONEYBEES, WHERE HAVE YOU GONE?

Saturday, September 5, 1-2 p.m.

Since 2006, North American beekeepers have seen an annual 30 to 90 percent loss in their colonies. Honey bees are continually exposed to numerous threats: pests and parasites, bacterial diseases, fungal diseases, viral diseases, and pesticides. Come learn about what is happening here in Washington, and what can be done to help the honeybees.

Ages: 12+. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration required** at: www.MyParksAndRecreation.com or 425-452-4195. **Course** #96333



NATIVE AMERICAN ETHNOBOTANY

Sunday, November 22, 1-3p.m.

Did you know that willow bark extract has been used as a pain reliever? Join Muckleshoot Indian Tribe expert Warren KingGeorge as he discusses the ethnobotany of the plants in our region and how the Native Americans used them. Following the discussion, there will be a short walk to identify plants in the region and their historical uses.

Ages: 12.+ **Cost:** Free **Pre-registration required** at: www.MyParksAndRecreation.com or 425-452-4195. **Course** #96334

WHICH PASS, TO WHICH PARK?

Sunday, December 13, 1-2 p.m.

If you are having trouble figuring out which pass you need to which park, then you are not alone. Come learn the difference between city, county, state, and federally-managed land, and which is the best pass for you this hiking season.

Ages: 12+. **Cost:** Free **No registration required.** **Info:** 425-452-4195



Living With Wildlife Series

How do I get the deer to stop eating my rose bushes? What do I do about mountain beavers in my yard? Just how smart are those crows and ravens going through my garbage? How fortunate we are to live in a city full of wildlife! But this also leaves us with the responsibility of learning how to live with our furry and feathered neighbors. Learn about the wildlife that lives in and around Bellevue and how to live in harmony with wild animals.

Ages: 12+. **Cost:** Free! **Registration:** Not required. **Info:** 425-452-4195.

BREAKFAST FOR BEAVERS

Sunday, September 20, 1-2 p.m.

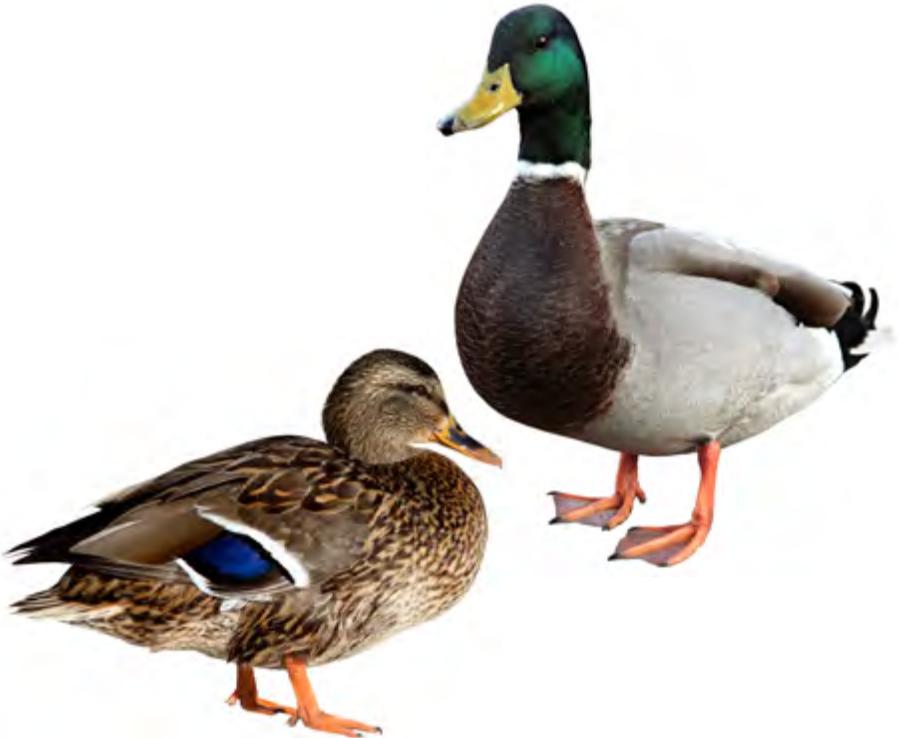
Ever wonder what beavers eat and where they live? Beavers can change our landscape dramatically and have a large effect on the ecosystem. Come discover the tell-tale signs of beaver, and where they can be seen in Bellevue.



WHY CAN'T I FEED THE DUCKS?

Sunday, October 25, 1-2 p.m.

It may seem like a great family activity to go to the lake and feed the ducks, but there are much better ways to enjoy them and keep them healthy long term. Come learn what ducks eat and how to protect them in the wild.



VISITOR CENTERS



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

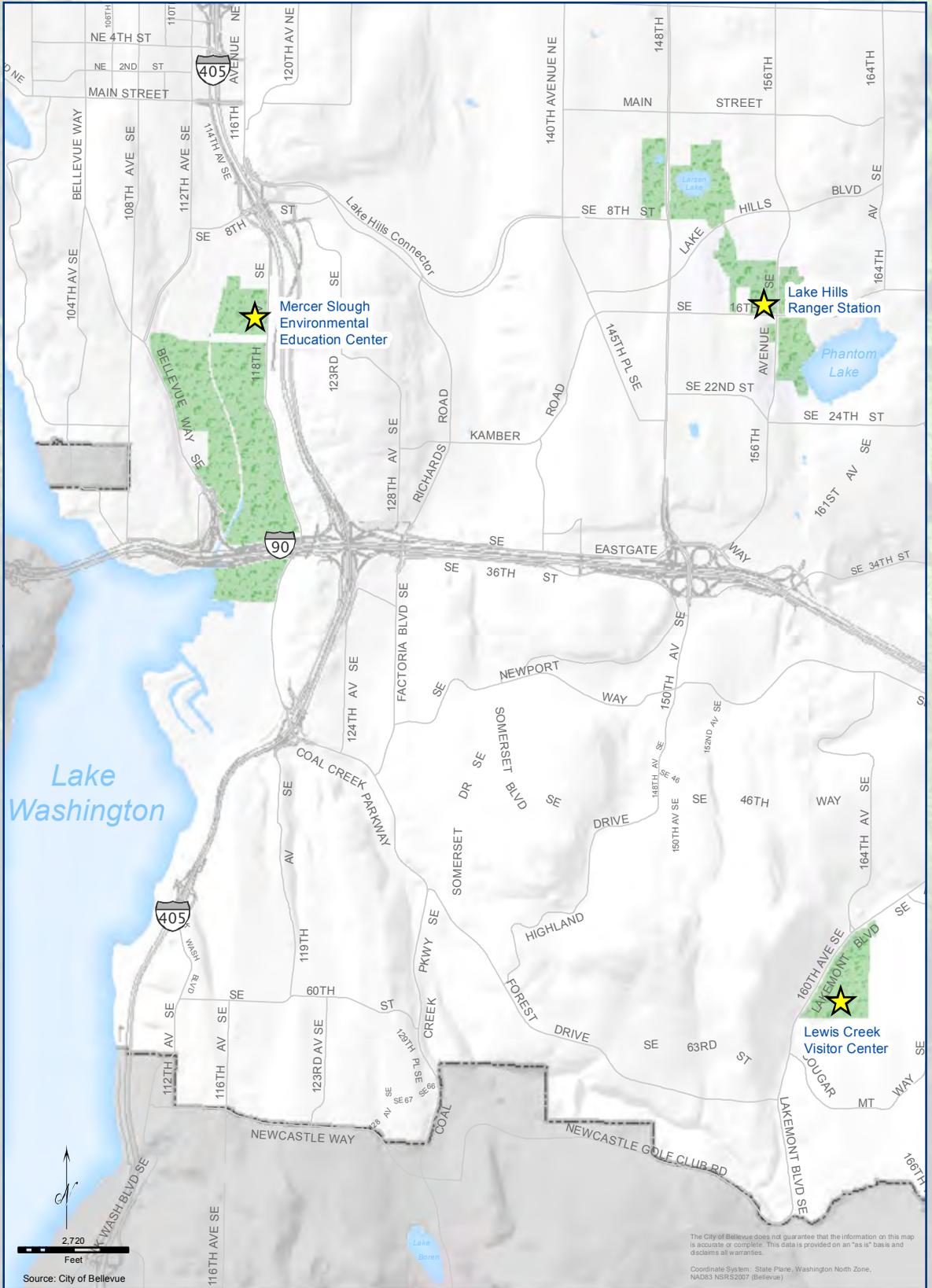


***Lake Hills Greenbelt
Ranger Station***
425-452-7225
15416 SE 16 Street
(15500 SE 16 Street:
Parking Location)



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

425-452-7225

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



MyParksandRecreation.com
A Service of eCityGov.net



Wheelchair accessible. American Sign Language (ASL) or other interpretation available upon request. Assisted listening devices available. Call at least 48 hours in advance for any request. 425-452-6884 or Relay Service 711.

