

January-March **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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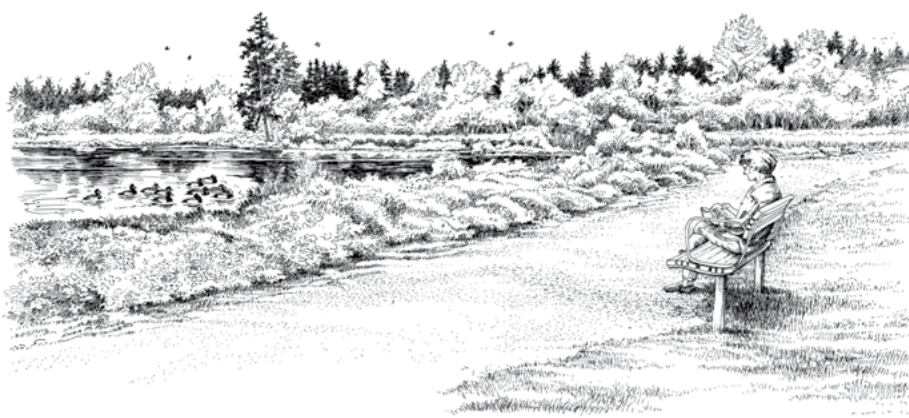
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Let us know how we're doing!

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!



Online registration required for all participants.

register.bellevuewa.gov

Special Events

WORLD WETLANDS DAY

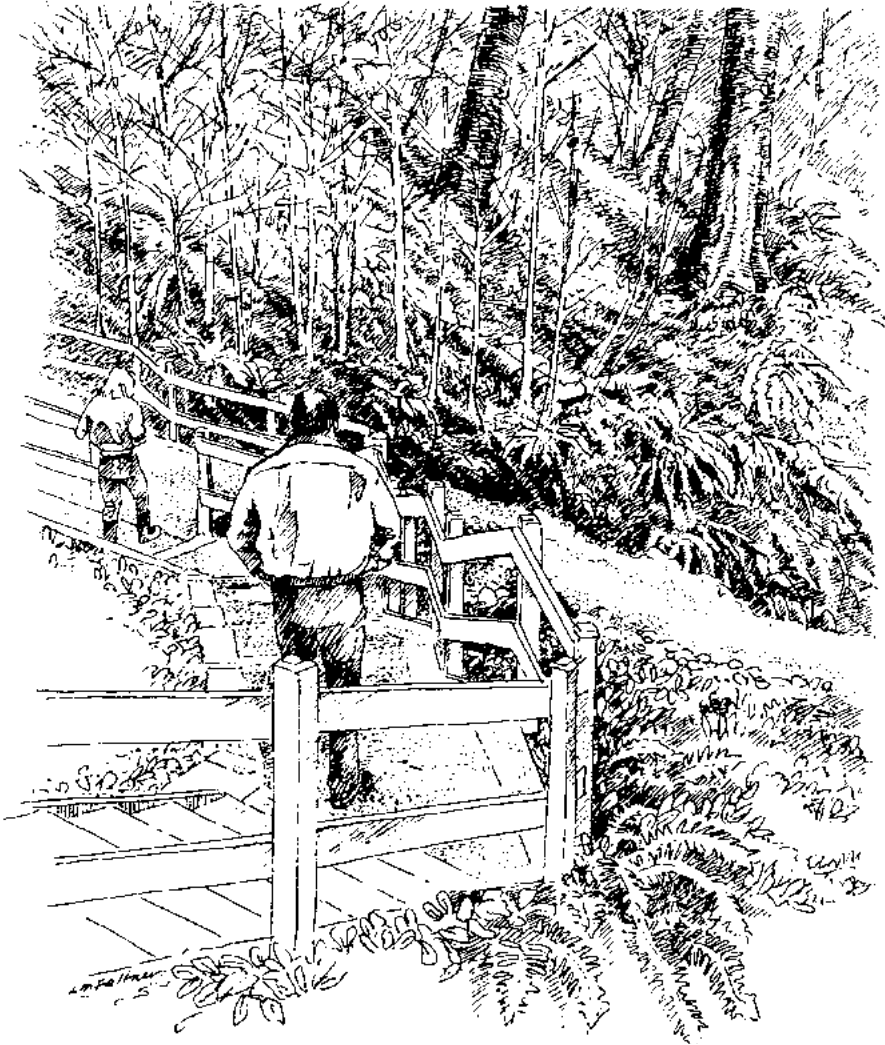
Saturday, February 3, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Location: Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center
1625 118 Ave SE | Bellevue, WA 98005

World Wetlands Day is a global event that recognizes the importance of protecting our wetland ecosystems. These ecosystems provide critical habitat for many threatened and endangered wildlife, maintain water quality, and support biodiversity.

Join us on February 3, from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center to learn more about how you can help to protect our wetlands. We are partnering with several non-profits and other organizations to provide a fun-filled family friendly event with hands-on activities, crafts and nature walks through the wetland.





Online registration required for all participants.

register.bellevuewa.gov

Local Area Hikes

RANGER-LED HIKE AT LEWIS CREEK PARK

Saturday, January 6, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Saturday, February 3, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Saturday, March 2, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Saturday, April 6, 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, January 7, 2-3:30 p.m.

Sunday, February 4, 2-3:30 p.m.

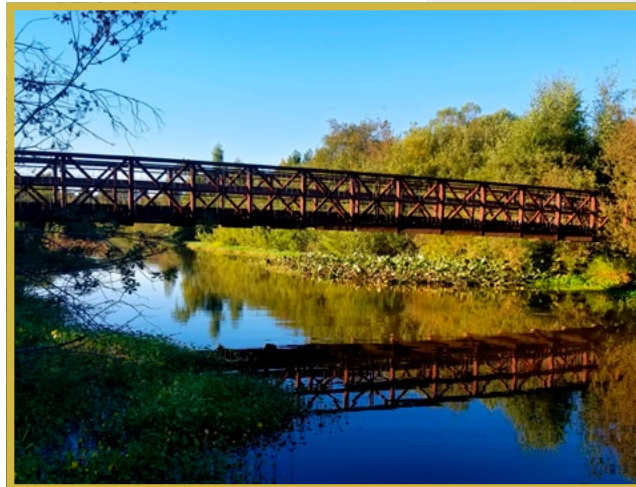
Sunday, March 3, 2-3:30 p.m.

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

MERCER SLOUGH NIGHT HIKE: A "SLOUGH OF SENSES"

Friday, January 26, 7-8 p.m.

Friday, February 23, 7-8 p.m.

Friday, March 29, 7-8 p.m.

Awaken your senses and step into the nocturnal world for a guided hike into the Mercer Slough Nature Park. Exploring the park after the sun has set will certainly prove to be a unique and memorable experience for the whole family. **Ages:** Best for ages 5 and up **Cost:** Free!

Distance: ?? miles.

Level of Difficulty: Easy

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

RANGER-LED HIKE AT LAKEMONT HIGHLANDS OPEN SPACE

Sunday, January 28, 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, March 10, 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

RANGER WALK AT LAKE HILLS GREENBELT

Saturday, January 6, 2-3 p.m.

Saturday, January 13, 2-3 p.m.

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

Saturday, January 27, 2-3 p.m.

Saturday, February 3, 2-3 p.m.

Saturday, February 10, 2-3 p.m.

Saturday, February 17, 2-3 p.m.

Saturday, February 24, 2-3 p.m.

Saturday, March 2, 2-3 p.m.

Saturday, March 9, 2-3 p.m.

Saturday, March 16, 2-3 p.m.

Saturday, March 23, 2-3 p.m.

Saturday, March 30, 2-3 p.m.

Interested in a weekend activity that's both fun and educational? Bring the whole family to the Lake Hills Greenbelt Ranger Station for a ranger-led walk! Join us for a mild 1-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 on to the Larsen Lake trail loop and use your newfound knowledge to explore. We'll be heading out rain or shine, so come prepared to learn and have a great time!

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

Distance: 1 mile.

Level of Difficulty: Easy

Meeting Place: Lake Hills Greenbelt Ranger Station
15416 SE 16 Street



Online registration required for all participants.

register.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.

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

Mercer Slough Programs

STORY AND A STROLL

Friday, January 5, 11 a.m.-12 p.m.

Friday, January 19, 11 a.m.-12 p.m.

Friday, February 9, 11 a.m.-12 p.m.

Friday, February 23, 11 a.m.-12 p.m.

Friday, March 8, 11 a.m.-12 p.m.

Friday, March 22, 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!



Online registration required for all participants.

register.bellevuewa.gov

RANGER PROGRAM: A LONG WINTER'S NAP

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

Can you imagine sleeping all winter and waking up in the Spring? Wouldn't you get hungry. While some animals can adapt to winter conditions others will hibernate right here in our own backyards. Join a park Ranger to find out what happens to their bodies that allows them to survive without any food. **Ages:** 5-10. **Cost:** Free!

RANGER PROGRAM: WOODLAND WONDERS

Saturday, February 17, 2-3 p.m.

The Mercer Slough Nature Park is home to many woodland creatures. Together they create a balanced ecosystem where all can thrive. Find out just who is living in this mosaic of habitats. Join a Park Ranger to see if you can spot the signs of wildlife **Ages:** 5-10. **Cost:** Free!

RANGER PROGRAM: NATURE'S RECYCLER'S

Saturday, March 16, 2-3 p.m.

Who is cleaning up the forest floor? Fungus, bacteria, and invertebrates are nature's busy recyclers working endlessly to break down organic material. Not only do they break down decaying matter, but they also turn it into rich nutrient filled soil necessary for healthy forests. Join a park Ranger to enjoy a story, hands-on activities, and a chance to meet some wiggly recyclers. **Ages:** 5-10. **Cost:** Free!

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, January 14, 2-3:30 p.m.

A Global Warning | Sunday, February 11, 2-3:30 p.m.

Life After People | Sunday, March 10, 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

BIRDS OF BLACK AND BLUE

Saturday, January 13, 10-11 a.m.

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

Corvids birds are very common in the Pacific Northwest, but did you know how intelligent they are? Learn about Steller's Jays, Crows, and Ravens in the fun class at the Lake Hills Greenbelt Ranger station, and stay for a Blue Jay craft after our wal.

Ages: 4-10 with accompanying adult(s).

Cost: Free!

BEARS OF BELLEVUE

Saturday, February 10, 10-11 a.m.

Saturday, February 17, 10-11 a.m.

Bears can be a surprising sight in parks and neighborhoods, given their size and elusive habits, but are also an important part of our local ecosystems! Join our program to learn all about bears and better understand the reasons behind their often-unexpected appearances, as well as some ways to ensure a safe and beneficial coexistence when camping and backpacking in bear country!

Ages: 4-10 with accompanying adult(s). **Cost:** Free!



Online registration required for all participants.

register.bellevuewa.gov

RIVETING RABBITS

Saturday, March 23 , 10-11 a.m.

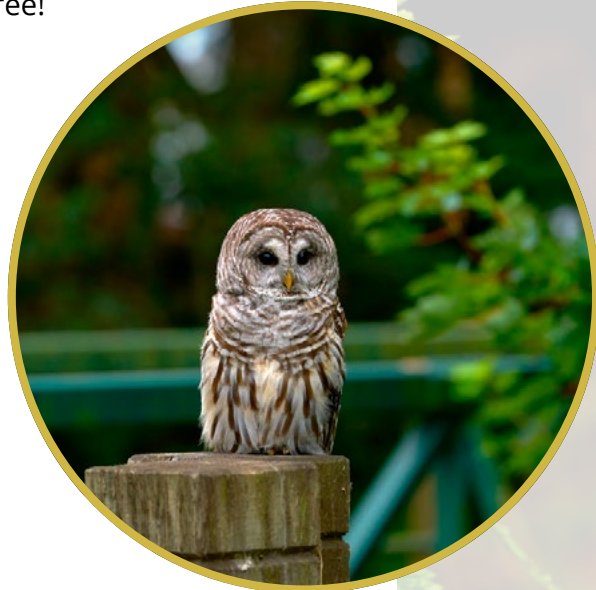
Sprinting or hopping through the green grass and between the tall trees, mice and rabbits are abundant in our parks through the whole year. How do these little creatures keep themselves safe from predators, and how do they prepare for winter? Enjoy a class about these critters with a Bellevue Park Ranger, and then join us for a craft! **Ages:** 4-10 with accompanying adult(s). **Cost:** Free!



OWL PROWL

Saturday, March 16, 8-9 p.m.

When darkness falls, nocturnal animals are just waking up! From bats to owls in the air, and raccoons to coyotes on the ground, the night is ever so active! Discover which of these creatures live in Bellevue and come listen for them on a special Ranger-led night hike! **Ages:** All Ages **Cost:** Free!



COUSIN COYOTE

Friday, April 27, 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

EVENING WALK AND TALK – LOCAL WILDLIFE

Saturday, April 27, 6-7 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!



TODDLERS TRAILS AT THE LAKE HILLS GREENBELT

Friday, January 5, 10-10:45 a.m.

Friday, March 8, 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 an opportunity to look at some different plants and learn about a few special animals. **Ages:** 18-36 Months with accompanying adult(s). **Cost:** Free!

Distance: .5 miles.

Level of Difficulty: Easy



Coloring page



Online registration required for all participants.

register.bellevuewa.gov



LEWIS CREEK

V I S I T O R C E N T E R

*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, January 21, 10-11 a.m.

Sunday, February 11, 10-11 a.m.

Saturday, March 23, 10-11 a.m.

Explore the trails at Lewis Creek Park with a park ranger and get out some wiggles this winter. 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, January 13, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Saturday, February 10, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Sunday, March 24, 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:** 5-10 with accompanying adult(s). **Cost:** Free!

WHOOOO'S HOOTING?

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

Saturday, January 20, 2:30-3:30 p.m.

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



How does a barn owl find its prey in total darkness? How does a great horned owl clasp its talons with 28 pounds of force? Join us as we learn all about our favorite silently flying friends, try out our hoots, and dig deeper into an owl's diet by dissecting owl pellets! Preregistration required for children and adults. **Ages:** 3-7 with accompanying adult(s). **Cost:** Free!

MAKING TRACKS IN LEWIS CREEK PARK

Sunday, February 4, 2:30-3:30 p.m.

Saturday, February 17, 2:30-3:30 p.m.

Saturday, February 24, 2:30-3:30 p.m.

Join a park ranger to learn Bellevue's animal signs, then head outside on a hunt to see what animals have been wandering through Lewis Creek Park! We'll look for prints, feathers, and even scat to see what's been happening in the park. Preregistration required for children and adults.

Ages: 5-10 with accompanying adult(s). **Cost:** Free!



Online registration required for all participants.

register.bellevuewa.gov

WHAT'S WILD?

Saturday, March 9, 2:30-3:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 17, 2:30-3:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 23, 2:30-3:30 p.m.

Dogs and coyotes look the same, so what makes them different? Find what it means to be wild as we examine what separates the animals of the Lewis Creek Park from their domestic cousins on a ramble through the trails. Preregistration required for children and adults.

Ages: 5-10 with accompanying adult(s). **Cost:** Free!



NIGHT HIKE AT LEWIS CREEK PARK

Friday, January 19, 5:30-7 p.m.

Friday, February 16, 6-7:30 p.m.

Friday, March 22, 6:30-8 p.m.

When the sun sets and the dark of night creeps in, Lewis Creek Park comes alive! Learn about the different nocturnal and crepuscular species that call the park home.! 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!



Online registration required for all participants.

register.bellevuewa.gov

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

This map illustrates the locations of three visitor centers in the Lake Washington area. The Mercer Slough Educational Center is located near the intersection of I-405 and I-90. The Lake Hills Greenbelt Ranger Station is situated near the intersection of I-405 and SR-520. The Lewis Creek Visitor Center is located near the intersection of I-90 and SR-520. The map also shows major roads such as I-405, I-90, SR-520, and SR-164, as well as bodies of water like Lake Washington and Lake Sammamish. A north arrow is located in the bottom left corner.





Coloring pages



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.



PKS-23-4235