



2025

May-August

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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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 MIGRATORY BIRD DAY

Saturday, May 10, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Location: Larsen Lake Blueberry Farm
700 148th Avenue SE

Each year over 81 countries all over the globe come together to celebrate migratory birds, flock to the parks and celebrate this very special event with us! Park rangers will be leading drop-in programs throughout the morning where you can join activities like our fun migration game, a ranger-led hike at 10 a.m., and create crafts for bird friendly communities. Optional pre-registration for the ranger walk. Outdoor only.

Ages: All are welcome. **Cost:** Free!



NATIONAL MOTH WEEK CELEBRATION

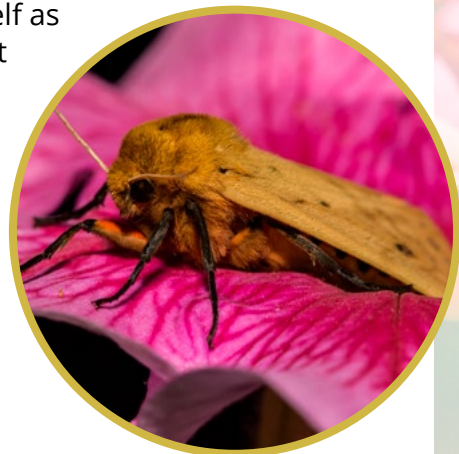
Saturday, July 19, 8:30-11:30 p.m.

Location: Bellevue Botanical Gardens
12001 Main St, Bellevue, WA 98005

All different colors, patterns, shapes, and sizes—this is just some of what we see when peeking into the incredible world of moths! Join us in celebrating this very special week by observing these stunning insects up close. Flutter over to the Bellevue Botanical Garden to learn about the fascinating lives of moths and see them for yourself as they visit our moth light and sheet setup! 10:30-11:30 p.m. will be primetime for moth-sheeting and observation for those excited to marvel at the garden's species! No registration required.

Ages: All are welcome.

Cost: Free!



Online registration required for all participants.

register.bellevuewa.gov

Local Area Hikes

BIRD WALK WITH EASTSIDE AUDUBON

Saturday, June 28, 8-10 a.m.

The Lake Hills Greenbelt and Gardens are a bird haven! Observe and learn about the many birds here on a walk hosted by the Eastside Audubon. Perfect for bird enthusiasts of all levels, expect a slow walk along a flat gravel trail as we look for and ID birds along the trail. Bring your own binoculars for better viewing. Pre-registration is required. **Ages:** All Ages.

Cost: Free!

Distance: 2 miles.

Level of Difficulty: Easy (Approximately 50 ft elevation gain)

Meeting Place: Lake Hills Greenbelt
15500 SE 16th St, Bellevue, WA 98007

RANGER-LED HIKE AT LEWIS CREEK PARK

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

Saturday, June 7, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Saturday, July 5, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Saturday, August 2, 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 is 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



Online registration required for all participants.

register.bellevuewa.gov

RANGER-LED HIKE AT LAKEMONT HIGHLANDS OPEN SPACE

Sunday, May 25, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Sunday, August 24, 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 is 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

RANGER-LED HIKE AT COAL CREEK

Sunday, June 29, 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m.

Explore Coal Creek at the Cinder Mine Trailhead to discover Bellevue's largest park and get lost in the wilderness while still in the city! This area is rich in history and wildlife you'll learn about while being guided by a Bellevue Park Ranger. 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 240 ft total elevation change).

Meeting Place: Coal Creek Natural Area
Newport Hills Trail Head, SE 60th St



RANGER-LED HIKE AT LAKEMONT COMMUNITY PARK

Sunday, July 27, 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 is 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 MERCER SLOUGH NATURE PARK

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

Saturday, June 21, 2-3:30 p.m.

Saturday, July 19, 2-3:30 p.m.

Saturday, August 30, 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 LAKE HILLS GREENBELT

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

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

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

Saturday, May 31, 2-3 p.m.

Saturday, June 7, 2-3 p.m.

Saturday, June 21, 2-3 p.m.

Saturday, June 28, 2-3 p.m.

Saturday, July 5, 2-3 p.m.

Saturday, July 12, 2-3 p.m.

Saturday, July 19, 2-3 p.m.

Saturday, July 26, 2-3 p.m.

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

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

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

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

Are you interested in a weekend activity that's both fun and educational? Bring the whole family to the Lake Hills Greenbelt Ranger Station for an easy 1-mile nature hike through the Greenbelt's trails and discover the season's myriad of flora and fauna. Wear weather appropriate clothing and shoes, and feel free to bring personal wildlife-viewing gear (e.g. binoculars or magnifying glasses) to further enjoy the park. We'll be heading out rain or shine, so come prepared to learn and have a great time! The trail is mostly level and gravel. Pre-registration is required. **Ages:** All Ages. **Cost:** Free!

Distance: 1 mile

Level of Difficulty: Easy (Approximately 50 ft elevation gain)

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

*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

Saturday, May 3, 9:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.

Saturday, June 7, 9:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.

Saturday, July 12, 9:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.

Saturday, August 9, 9:30
a.m.-10:30 a.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: MAY THE FLOWERS BE WITH YOU

Saturday, May 24, 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. Join Park Ranger for games and crafts while learning more about our special pollinators. **Ages:** 5-8.

Cost: Free!

RANGER PROGRAM: HAPPY HIKERS

Saturday, June 28, 2-3 p.m.

Get excited about hiking with your kids! Join a Park Ranger to learn some new strategies to keep your kids happy and safe on the trail this summer. We will have some fun activities to help you be prepared and ready for your new adventures

Ages: 5 and up **Cost:** Free!

RANGER PROGRAM: WHO LET THE BUGS OUT?

Saturday, July 19, 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 waste, dead animals and plants would accumulate in our environment. Other animals rely on insects as their primary source of food. Join a Park Ranger for a nature walk in search of bugs. Enjoy some hands-on activities and crafts as well. **Ages:** 5-8.

Cost: Free!

RANGER PROGRAM: LET'S STICK WITH THE BEAVERS

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

Beavers' ability to change the landscape is second only to humans. Come learn more about these nocturnal creatures that call the Mercer Slough home. We will venture out on the trails to see the signs that they have been busy **Ages:** 5-8.

Cost: Free!



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 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

TINY TRAILBLAZERS

Friday, May 9, 10–11 a.m.

Friday, June 13, 10–11 a.m.

Friday, July 18, 10–11 a.m.

Friday, August 8, 10–11 a.m.

Ignite the curiosity of your little ones, ages 2 to 5 at Lake Hills Greenbelt! Your tiny trailblazers will explore the plants and wildlife along the trails with a park ranger. Focusing on a new topic each session, we will learn through stories and get creative with an artsy craft. We'll be heading out rain or shine, so dress for the weather and wear sturdy shoes. Pre-registration required for all attendees, including accompanying adults. **Ages:** 2-5 **Cost:** Free!



Online registration required for all participants.

register.bellevuewa.gov

BELLEVUE BEARS

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

Saturday, May 24, 10-11 a.m.

Celebrate national bear month with us and learn about our bear-y intelligent neighbors. As their natural habitats shrink, these berry-loving bears have found ways to survive amongst the city of Bellevue. Learn how to Be Bear Aware as we walk the Lake Hills Greenbelt trail and explore how we can safely coexist, avoiding an unbearable encounter. Then, join us for a craft that you just can't *bear* to miss! **Ages:** 4-13 with accompanying adult(s). **Cost:** Free!



CURIOUS CATS IN THE CITY

Saturday, June 7, 10-11 a.m.

Saturday, June 21, 10-11 a.m.

Ignite your feline curiosity about the wild (and not so wild) cats around us. What crucial roles do Bobcats and Cougars play in our ecosystem? How do domestic cats impact wildlife? Explore how we can protect these wild cats as well as ourselves as we walk the Lake Hills Greenbelt trails and then create some crafty cats. **Ages:** 4-13 with accompanying adult(s). **Cost:** Free!



Online registration required for all participants.

register.bellevuewa.gov

NATIVE PLANTS OF THE LAKE HILLS GREENBELT

Saturday, July 12, 10-11 a.m.

Saturday, July 26, 10-11 a.m.

Plants have traveled all over the world, forever changing their new habitats. How can we reduce the harm of invasive plants while also supporting the native ones? Explore the Lake Hills Greenbelt trail to identify the native plants that were crucial to the native ecosystem and indigenous people. Then let nature inspire you as we use nature to create art. **Ages:** 5 and up, children must have an accompanying adult(s). **Cost:** Free!



BEES, BUTTERFLIES, AND BIRDS, OH MY

Saturday, August 16, 10-11 a.m.

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

What do all these creatures have in common? They are pollinators! Learn about the diverse collection of pollinators in Bellevue helping sustain plant growth. Explore ways we can support their mission in our parks as well as in your own yard as we walk the Lake Hills Greenbelt Trail and see them in action. Then become a busy bee and create a pollinator craft. **Ages:** 4-13 with accompanying adult(s). **Cost:** Free!



Online registration required for all participants.

register.bellevuewa.gov

INTERNATIONAL BAT NIGHT

Saturday, August 30, 7:30-8:30 p.m.

Celebrate International Bat Night at Larsen Lake! Visit the bat boxes, watch these nocturnal creatures come to life and get a chance to hear their bat calls. Take a walk around the lake, learn about how the little brown bat helps the ecosystem and how we can support them in return. Then join us for some batty games and crafts. Please bring a flashlight or headlamp. Pre-registration required for all attendees. Children must be accompanied by an adult. **Ages:** All ages. **Cost:** Free!

Meeting Location: Larsen Lake
700 148th Ave SE, Bellevue, WA 98007



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 AT LEWIS CREEK PARK

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

Saturday, June 14, 10-11 a.m.

Sunday, July 13, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Saturday, August 16, 10-11 a.m.

Explore the trails at Lewis Creek Park with a park ranger and get out some wiggles this summer. 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 is 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, May 24, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Saturday, June 28, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Saturday, July 26, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Sunday, August 3, 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. Each month we'll have a new topic to focus on. Preregistration is required for children and adults. **Ages** 3-7 with accompanying adult(s). **Cost:** Free!



THE SECRET LIFE OF SLUGS

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

Sunday, May 18, 2:30-3:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 31, 2:30-3:30 p.m.

Creepy, slimy, and cool! Put your best tentacle forward and crawl in to learn more about the slugs that call Lewis Creek home. We'll talk all about that marvelous slime and find a new perspective from the forest floor. Preregistration is required for children and adults.

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



Online registration required for all participants.

register.bellevuewa.gov

FAWNING OVER DEER

Saturday, June 7, 2:30-3:30 p.m.

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

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

Colombian black-tailed deer are found all over Bellevue, from frolicking in our forests to browsing through flowerbeds. Come learn how these charismatic herbivores are able to navigate suburban life and step into their hooves for the afternoon.

Preregistration is required for children and adults. **Ages:** 5-10 with accompanying adult(s). **Cost:** Free!



WEASLEY GOOD TIMES AT LEWIS CREEK

Sunday, July 6, 2:30-3:30 p.m.

Saturday, July 12, 2:30-3:30 p.m.

Saturday, July 19, 2:30-3:30 p.m.

Have you ever seen a small creature scampering in the wetland or burrowing in the forests? If so, you might have spotted an elusive weasel! Stop by this month to discover more about Bellevue's Mustelids while we play camouflage games and explore their habitats. Preregistration is required for children and adults. **Ages:** 5-10 with accompanying adult(s). **Cost:** Free!



Online registration required for all participants.

register.bellevuewa.gov

HIGH-FLYING HAWKS

Saturday, August 2, 2:30-3:30 p.m.

Sunday, August 10, 2:30-3:30 p.m.

From patrolling I-405 to flying over the trees of Lewis Creek Park, hawks can be found in almost all of Bellevue's habitats. Learn about the different raptor species that call Lewis Creek Park home before we head out on a hike to scan the sky for them. Preregistration is required for children and adults.

Ages: 5-10 with accompanying adult(s).

Cost: Free!



BATTY NIGHTS AT LEWIS CREEK PARK

Saturday, May 17, 8:30-10 p.m.

Saturday, July 19, 8:30-10 p.m.

Saturday, August 9, 8-9:30 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 is required for children and adults. **Ages:** 5+ with accompanying adult(s).

Cost: Free!



Online registration required for all participants.

register.bellevuewa.gov

A SOLSTICE NIGHT STROLL

Friday, June 21, 9:30-11 p.m.

Come celebrate the shortest night of the year and discover the nocturnal animals that call the park home with a ranger this summer! Preregistration is required for children and adults.

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

Adult Enrichment Program

SATURDAY, JULY 12, 9-10:30 P.M.

Saturday, January 4, 7-8:30 p.m.

Join a Bellevue Park Ranger for a (grown-ups only) hike where we'll explore some of the park's nocturnal species, as well as strategies for seeing these shy animals at night. Please bring a flashlight or headlamp, dress for the weather, and wear sturdy shoes. Preregistration required for each participant **Ages:** 18+ **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



Online registration required for all participants.

register.bellevuewa.gov

Visitor Centers



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

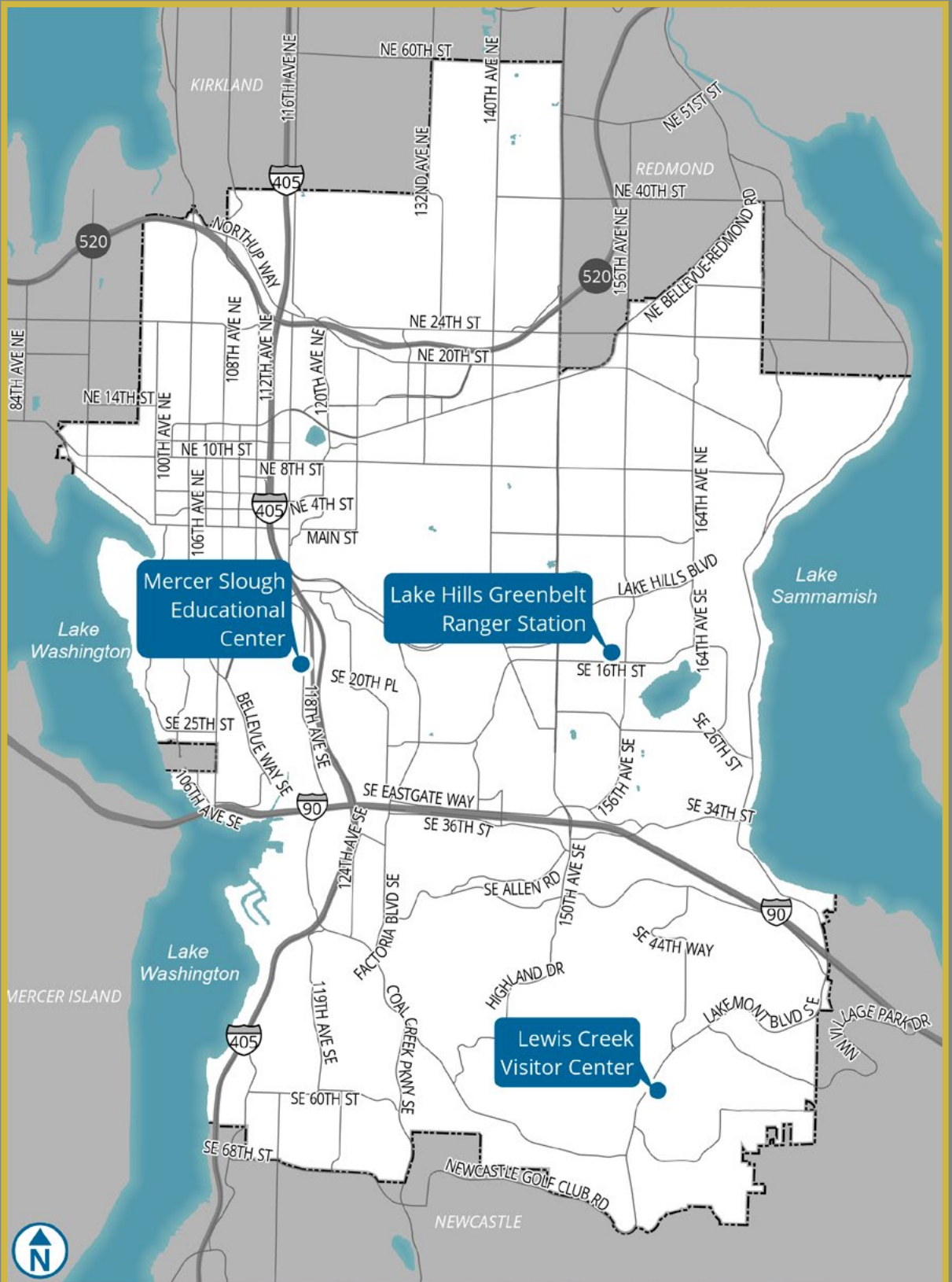


Lake Hills Greenbelt
Ranger Station
425-452-6993
15416 SE 16 Street
(15500 SE 16 Street:
Parking Location)



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

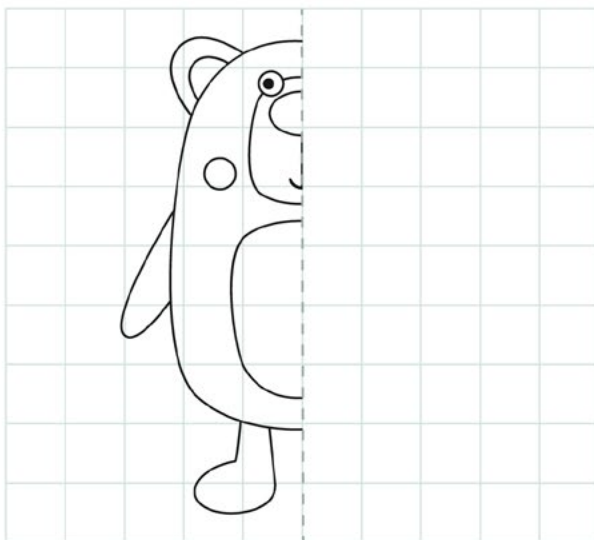
Visitor Center Locations



Activity pages

DRAWING

Draw the other half of the picture. Color the picture.



What animal is this? _____

WORD SEARCH

Find and circle the words.

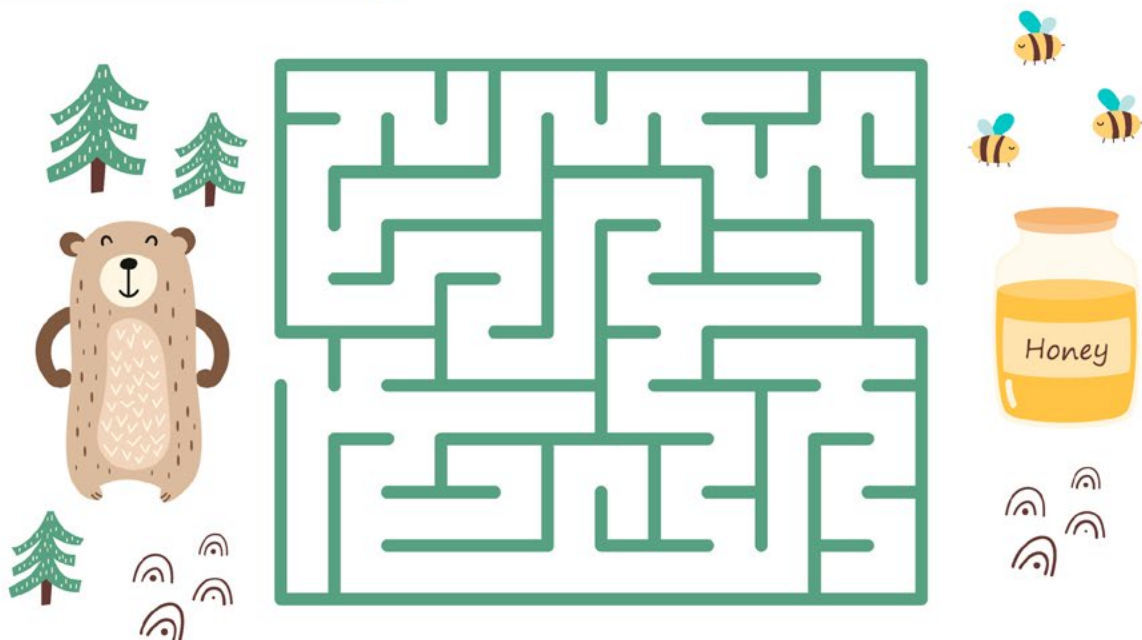
R	A	L	B	A	D	G	E
W	B	D	A	H	P	B	R
M	B	C	F	M	B	W	A
O	I	T	N	F	O	R	E
Z	E	G	K	N	O	G	S
S	O	I	M	A	L	W	T
E	A	N	R	T	L	E	A

RABBIT
FOREST
ANIMAL
BADGER



MAZE

Help the bear get to the honey.



DIFFERENCES

Spot 5 differences in the two pictures below.



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



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.

