



2026

May-August **NATURAL RESOURCE PROGRAMS**

Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center

Lake Hills Greenbelt Ranger Station

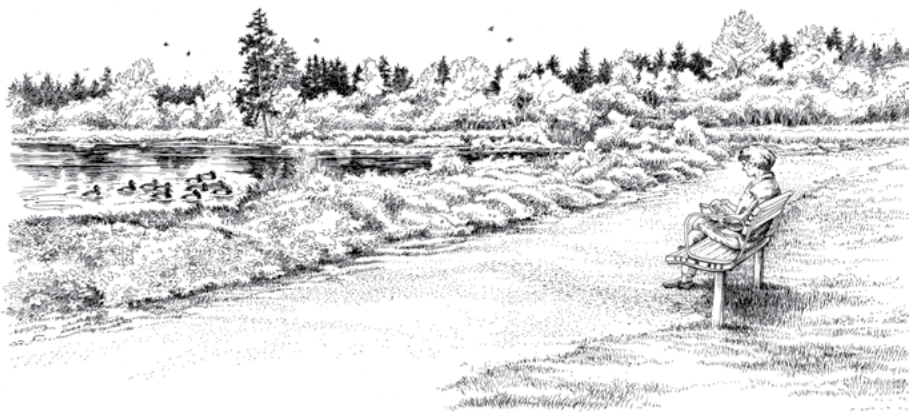
Lewis Creek Visitor Center





Table of Contents

Let us know how we're doing!.....	5
Special Events.....	6
Local Area Hikes.....	7
Mercer Slough Programs.....	10
Lake Hills Greenbelt Programs.....	13
Lewis Creek Programs.....	16
Visitor Centers.....	20
Visitor Center Locations.....	21



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!



Online registration required for all participants.

register.bellevuewa.gov

Special Events

LAKESIDE BAT NIGHT

Friday June 12, 8:30-10 p.m.

Watch bats take flight as the sun sets over the lake. Visit bat boxes, observe bat activity and listen to echolocation calls. Bring a flashlight or headlamp. Pre-registration is required and children must attend with an adult.

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

Meeting Place: Larsen Lake Blueberry Farm,
700 148th Avenue SE



WORLD MIGRATORY BIRD DAY

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

Celebrate migratory birds and their incredible journeys around the world. Drop in for games, activities, a guided hike, and hands-on crafts that support bird-friendly communities. Optional pre-registration is available for the ranger-led walk at 10 a.m. Outdoor event.

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

Meeting Place: Larsen Lake Blueberry Farm,
700 148th Avenue SE



CANOE MERCER SLOUGH

Sundays, May 31- August 30,
8:45 a.m.-Noon.

Explore the beautiful Mercer Slough Nature Park by water! Bellevue park rangers lead this 3-hour canoe trip from Enatai Beach Park. See the wetland from water level as you travel into the heart of Mercer Slough Nature Park. Check register.bellevuewa.gov for open sessions.



*Prior canoeing experience and pre-registration for each person is required

Online registration required for all participants.

register.bellevuewa.gov

Local Area Hikes

RANGER-LED HIKE AT LAKE HILLS GREENBELT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Saturday, July 4, 2-3 p.m.

Saturday, July 11, 2-3 p.m.

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

Saturday, July 25, 2-3 p.m.

Saturday, August 1, 2-3 p.m.

Saturday, August 8, 2-3 p.m.

Saturday, August 15, 2-3 p.m.

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

Saturday, August 29, 2-3 p.m.

Discover the seasonal plants and animals of the Lake Hills Greenbelt on an easy ranger-led walk. This one-mile hike follows mostly level gravel trails and offers a relaxed way to explore nature and history together. Programs take place rain or shine, so dress for the weather. Pre-registration is required.

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

Distance: 1 mile.

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

Meeting Place:

Lake Hills Greenbelt Ranger Station
15416 SE 16 St, Bellevue, WA 98007



Online registration required for all participants.

register.bellevuewa.gov

LATE LAKE LOOP

Friday, May 1, 8-9 p.m.

Friday, August 28, 8-9 p.m.

Experience the park in a whole new way during an evening walk around Larsen Lake as we explore wildlife active after sunset. Learn about bats, owls, raccoons and coyotes while discovering the habitats nocturnal animals call home.

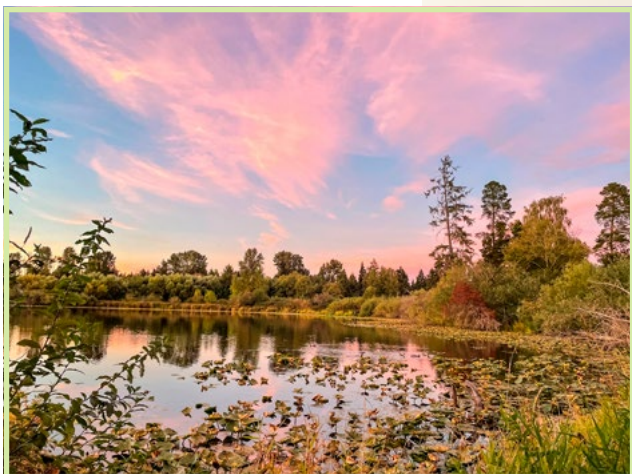
This guided walk encourages curiosity and connection to nature through observation and discussion. Bring a flashlight and dress for the weather. Pre-registration required for all attendees. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

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

Distance: 1 mile.

Level of Difficulty: Easy

Meeting Place: Larsen Lake Blueberry Farm,
700 148th Avenue SE



RANGER-LED HIKE AT MERCER SLOUGH NATURE PARK

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

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

Saturday, July 25, 2 p.m.-3:30 p.m.

Saturday, August 29, 2 p.m.-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 mile.

Level of Difficulty: Easy

Meeting Place: Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center,
1625 118 Avenue S

Online registration required for all participants.

register.bellevuewa.gov

RANGER-LED HIKE AT LEWIS CREEK PARK

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

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

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

Saturday, August 15, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Come explore the cultural and natural history of Lewis Creek Park on a ranger-led walk. This easy hike is under 1.5 miles. We will look for wildlife signs and explore three different types of habitats. Come prepared for the weather. Pre-registration is required. **Ages:** All are welcome. **Cost:** Free!

Distance: 1.5 miles.

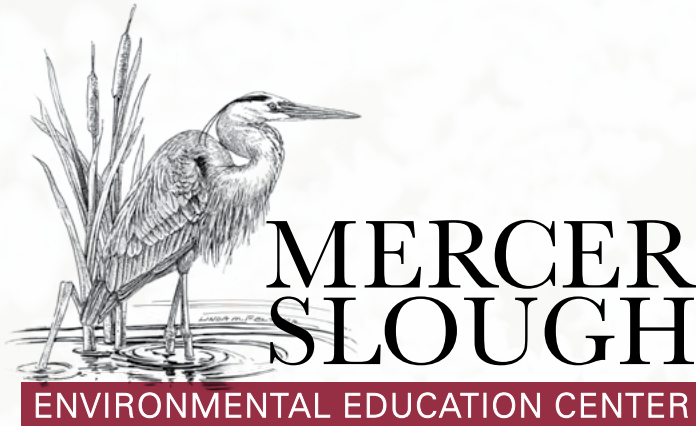
Level of Difficulty: Easy

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



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: msec@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, May 8, 11 a.m.- 12 p.m.

Friday, June 12, 11 a.m.- 12 p.m.

Friday, July 10, 11 a.m.- 12 p.m.

Friday, August 7, 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:** 2-5. **Cost:** Free!

Online registration required for all participants.

register.bellevuewa.gov

TWILIGHT STROLL: TWILIGHT IN THE WETLAND

Friday, May 22, 7 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

Friday, June 19, 7 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

As daylight fades, the wetlands reveal a different kind of life—calm, watchful, and alive with subtle movement. Join a park ranger for a guided walk that feels both peaceful and full of discovery. **Ages:** All are welcome but best for 5 and up.

Cost: Free!

RANGER PROGRAM: PERFECT POLLINATORS

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

Pollination is not just fascinating; it is an essential ecological function. Buzz on down for games and a walk in the wetland while learning more about our special pollinators. **Ages:** 5-10. **Cost:** Free!



RANGER PROGRAM: OUR WILD NEIGHBORS

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

Coyotes, bobcats, deer, raccoons and other wildlife share our communities, making it essential that we learn how to coexist peacefully. Understanding our wild neighbors helps us learn how to coexist more thoughtfully in urban and natural environments. Take a walk in nature and see what our wild neighbors have been up to. **Ages:** 5-10. **Cost:** Free!



Online registration required for all participants.

register.bellevuewa.gov

RANGER PROGRAM: WHO LET THE BUGS OUT?

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

Insects can be found in nearly every habitat, yet their important role in the food web is often overlooked. Not only are they a valuable food source for other animals, but they also break down waste and decompose dead plants and animals. Without them our environment would quickly become overwhelmed. Enjoy some fun activities and become a bug detective. **Ages:** 5-10. **Cost:** Free!

RANGER PROGRAM: FABULOUS FROGS

Saturday, August 15, 2-3 p.m.

Hop on over to the Mercer Slough to discover more about our frogs thriving in the wetland. These musical amphibians play an intricate role in the food web and help keep our ecosystems in balance. Enjoy some fun activities, crafts and a nature walk. It will be a splash!

Ages: 5-10. **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 1, 10-11 a.m.

Friday, June 5, 10-11 a.m.

Friday, July 3, 10-11 a.m.

Friday, August 7, 10-11 a.m.

Children explore plants and wildlife along the trails while learning through stories, hands-on discovery and a creative craft. Each session features a new topic, helping build confidence and comfort in the outdoors. Programs take place 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

RASCALLY RABBITS

Saturday, May 16, 10–11 a.m.

Saturday, May 23, 10–11 a.m.

Hop into the world of rabbits and discover how these lively creatures share our parks and trails. Explore rabbit habitats along the trail and learn how rabbits fit into local ecosystems. Wrap-up with a playful bunny-themed craft. Pre-registration required for all attendees, including accompanying adults.

Ages: 4-13. **Cost:** Free!

WILD PREDATORS IN THE PARK

Saturday, June 6, 10–11 a.m.

Saturday, June 20, 10–11 a.m.

Bobcats, cougars and bears are part of Bellevue's wild landscape. Learn how these predators live, why they matter and how people can safely coexist with wildlife. This program encourages understanding, respect and responsible park use. Pre-registration required for all attendees, including accompanying adults. **Ages:** 4-13. **Cost:** Free!



Online registration required for all participants.

register.bellevuewa.gov

SENSATIONAL SUMMER FLOWERS

Saturday, July 11, 10–11 a.m.

Saturday, July 18, 10–11 a.m.

Celebrate summer by exploring the colorful flowers that bring the Greenbelt to life. Walk the gardens and trails to learn how flowers adapt to attract pollinators. Conclude with a blooming craft. Pre-registration required for all attendees, including accompanying adults. **Ages:** 4-13. **Cost:** Free!



REMARKABLE RAPTORS

Saturday, August 8, 10–11 a.m.

Saturday, August 22, 10–11 a.m.

Soar into the world of birds of prey that rule the skies above the Greenbelt. Learn about talon-ted eagles, hawks, falcons and osprey while exploring their habitats. The program includes a creative raptor-themed craft. Pre-registration required for all attendees, including accompanying adults. **Ages:** 4-13. **Cost:** Free!



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

SENSORY STROLL

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

Sunday, June 14, 2:30-3:30 p.m.

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

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

Slow down and explore the natural world through sight, sound and touch during this guided sensory walk. Participants take a short one-mile stroll designed to awaken the senses and encourage mindful observation of seasonal changes. This experience supports curiosity, focus and connection to nature in a relaxed setting. Children must attend with an accompanying adult. **Ages:** Ages 5-10. **Cost:** Free!

Online registration required for all participants.

register.bellevuewa.gov

SLIMY CRITTERS

Saturday, May 16, 2:30-3:30 p.m.

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

Discover the wiggly, crawly creatures that thrive beneath logs, leaves and soil. Participants explore outdoor habitats before heading indoors to create a craft inspired by their favorite slimy critter. Children must attend with an accompanying adult.

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



DON'T BEE LATE TO POLLINATE

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

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

Buzz into the fascinating world of pollinators and why they matter. Participants learn how bees, birds and other pollinators support plants and everyday life while exploring Lewis Creek Park. Children must attend with an accompanying adult. **Ages:** 5-10.

Cost: Free!



WILD FOR WILDLIFE

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

Saturday, July 25, 2:30-3:30 p.m.

Celebrate National Wild About Wildlife Month by taking a short walk through Lewis Creek Park. Participants will learn about animals such as bears and bobcats and how they live alongside us.

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



Online registration required for all participants.

register.bellevuewa.gov

REPTILE TIME

Sunday, August 9, 2:30-3:30 p.m.

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

Slither into the world of reptiles and uncover the secrets of local snakes. Participants take a short half-mile walk to learn about reptiles found in the park and across Washington. The program ends with a reptile-themed craft to take home. This program does not include live animal demonstrations. Children must attend with an accompanying adult. **Ages:** 5-10 with accompanying adult(s). **Cost:** Free!



EVENING WILDLIFE WALK

Saturday, August 29, 7:30-8:30 p.m.

Experience the park during twilight hours when nocturnal wildlife begins to stir. Participants learn about bats, their role in the ecosystem and how people can help protect them. Wildlife sightings are not guaranteed, as animals may still be resting before nighttime activity. Children must attend with an accompanying adult. **Ages:** 5-10. **Cost:** Free!

Online registration required for all participants.
register.bellevuewa.gov

50+ EVENING WILDLIFE WALK

Friday, May 1, 8-9 p.m.

Experience the park at dusk and discover wildlife that comes alive after sunset. This relaxed evening walk offers the chance to learn about bats and other nocturnal animals while enjoying fresh air and meaningful conversation. **Ages:** 50+.

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

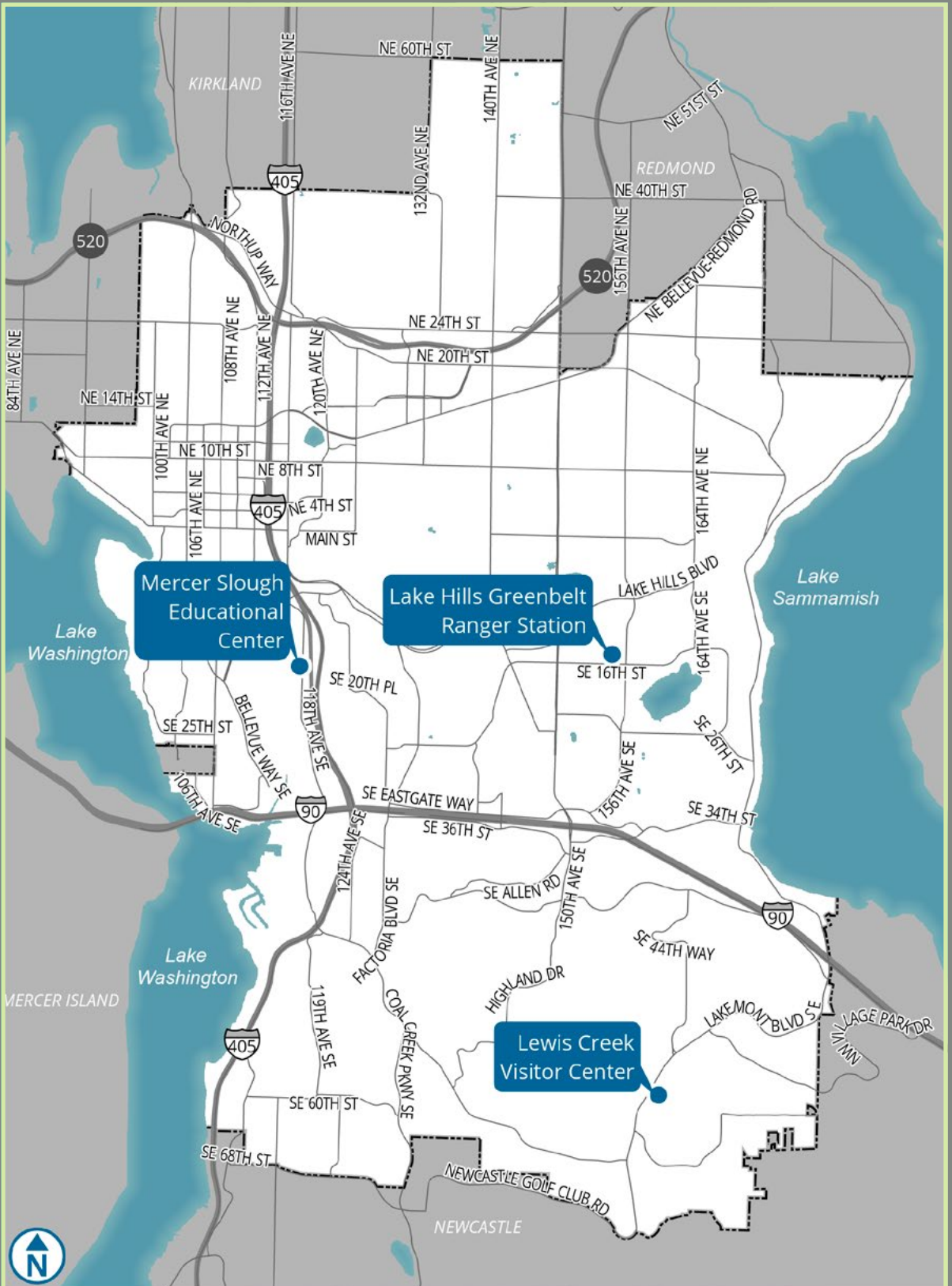


Lake Hills Greenbelt
Ranger Station
425-452-6993
15416 SE 16 Street
(15500 SE 16 Street:
Parking Location)

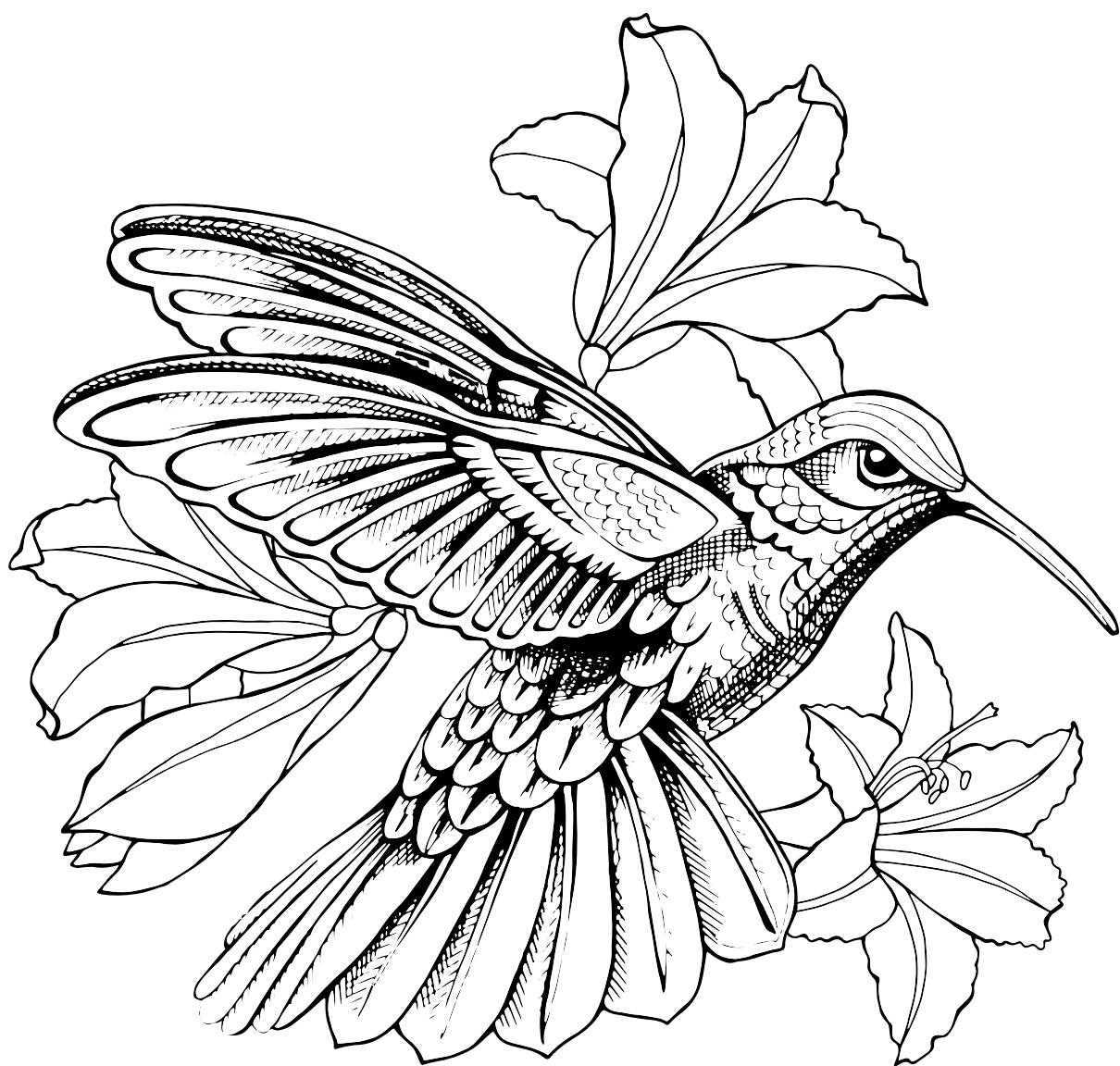


Lewis Creek Visitor Center
425-452-4195
5808 Lakemont Blvd SE

Visitor Center Locations



COLOR ME



COLOR ME



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.



PCS-26-71445