



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

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Let us know how we're doing!

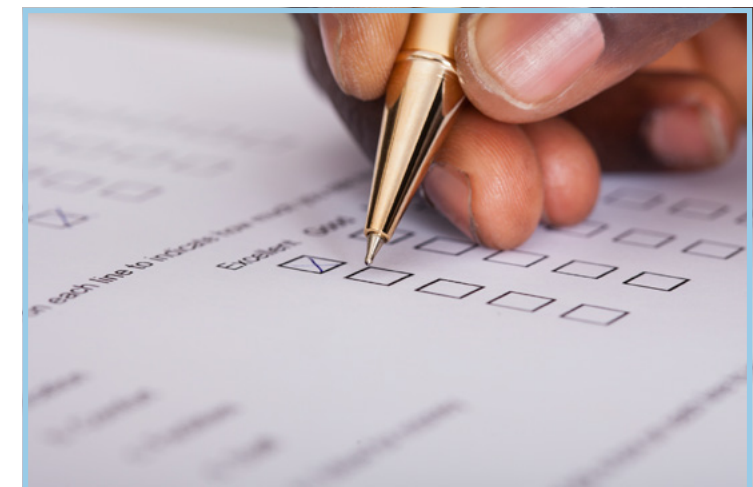
Bellevue Parks & Community Services wants to know how we can make our environmental education programs better. We invite you to give us feedback about programs you've attended and suggestions for future programs. You can do this two ways:

1. Ask for an evaluation card at a visitor's center that you can fill out on the spot
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 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!



Local Area Hikes

RANGER-LED HIKE AT LAKE HILLS GREENBELT

Saturday, September 5, 2–3 p.m.
Saturday, September 12, 2–3 p.m.
Saturday, September 19, 2–3 p.m.
Saturday, September 26, 2–3 p.m.
Saturday, October 10, 2–3 p.m.
Saturday, October 17, 2–3 p.m.
Saturday, October 24, 2–3 p.m.
Saturday, October 31, 2–3 p.m.
Saturday, November 7, 2–3 p.m.
Saturday, November 14, 2–3 p.m.
Saturday, November 21, 2–3 p.m.
Saturday, November 28, 2–3 p.m.
Saturday, December 5, 2–3 p.m.
Saturday, December 12, 2–3 p.m.
Saturday, December 19, 2–3 p.m.
Saturday, December 26, 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



SUNSET STROLL

Friday, September 18, 7:30–8:30 p.m.

Friday, October 30, 6–7 p.m.

Experience the park in a whole new way during an evening walk around Larsen Lake as we explore wildlife after sunset. Learn about bats, owls, raccoons, coyotes and more 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

Sunday September 6, 2–3:30 p.m.

Sunday October 4, 2–3:30 p.m.

Sunday November 8, 2–3:30 p.m.

Sunday December 6, 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 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, September 5, 10:30–11:30 a.m.

Saturday, October 10, 10:30–11:30 a.m.

Saturday, November 7, 10:30–11:30 a.m.

Saturday, December 5, 10:30–11:30 a.m.

Explore the natural and cultural history of Lewis Creek Park on a ranger-led hike. This easy walk is less than 1.5 miles and includes opportunities to look for wildlife signs and discover three different habitat types. Come prepared for the weather and wear sturdy shoes. **Ages:** All are welcome. **Cost:** Free!

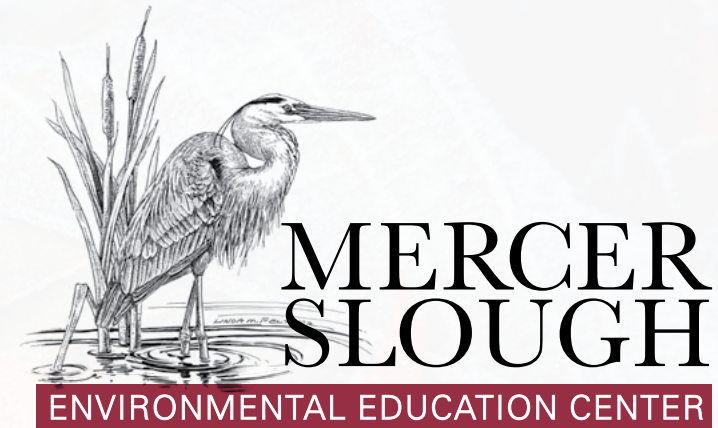
Distance: 1.5 miles.

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: 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 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, September 11, 11 a.m.–12 p.m.

Friday, September 18, 11 a.m.–12 p.m.

Friday, October 9, 11 a.m.–12 p.m.

Friday, October 16, 11 a.m.–12 p.m.

Friday, November 13, 11 a.m.–12 p.m.

Friday, November 20, 11 a.m.–12 p.m.

Friday, December 11, 11 a.m.–12 p.m.

Friday, December 18, 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

NIGHT HIKE: A SLOUGH OF SENSES

Friday, September 11, 7:30–9 p.m.

Friday, October 9, 7–8:30 p.m.

Friday, November 13, 6:30–8 p.m.

Friday, December 11, 6:30–8:30 p.m.

As daylight fades, the wetlands reveal a different kind of life—calm, watchful, 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: SWIM TO SPAWN

Saturday, September 19, 2–3 p.m.

Salmon were once abundant here in the PNW but have been on a rapid decline in most of our region. Come to learn more about the Salmon that make the arduous journey from the ocean to the Mercer Slough where they will eventually spawn in the shallow waters of Kelsey creek. Learn about the different stages of our Salmon and what you can do to help aid in their survival. **Ages:** 5-10. **Cost:** Free!



RANGER PROGRAM: FUNGI FOREST

Saturday, October 10, 2–3 p.m.



Through a guided walk, hands-on observation, fascinating stories from the woods, this program reveals the science, mystery, beauty of the Pacific Northwest's fungal kingdom. **Ages:** 5-10. **Cost:** Free!

Online registration required for all participants.

register.bellevuewa.gov

RANGER PROGRAM: NOCTURNAL IN NOVEMBER

Saturday, November 14, 2–3 p.m.

Several types of owls can be found living throughout many of Bellevue's Parks. These silent predators of the night are considered a keystone species within the ecosystem. Join us for a fun-filled hour learning about these owls. Dissect an owl pellet to discover who was for lunch. **Ages:** 5-10. **Cost:** Free!

RANGER PROGRAM: BREAKFAST FOR BIRDS

Saturday, December 12, 2–3 p.m.

The Mercer Slough provides critical habitat for both residential and migratory birds year-round. Limited resources for these birds during the winter months can make survival challenging. Join us to find out more about our winter birds and what you can do in your own backyard to help them survive tough times. Create your own pine-cone bird feeder to take home for your backyard birds.

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 beautiful wetlands, you will find interpretive displays, trails, environmental program information 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, September 4, 10-10:45 a.m.

Friday, October 2, 10-10:45 a.m.

Friday, November 6, 10-10:45 a.m.

Friday, December 4, 10-10:45 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

LEAF LITTER CRITTERS

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

Saturday, September 19, 10-11 a.m.

As leaves fall, new ecosystems are created for the smallest of critters including worms, slugs, lizards, insects, fungi more! Get a close look at some of these critters, learn about how they use the leaf litter and why leaving leaves on the ground is so important. Pre-registration required for all attendees, including accompanying adults.

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



DAWN OF THE DEER

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

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

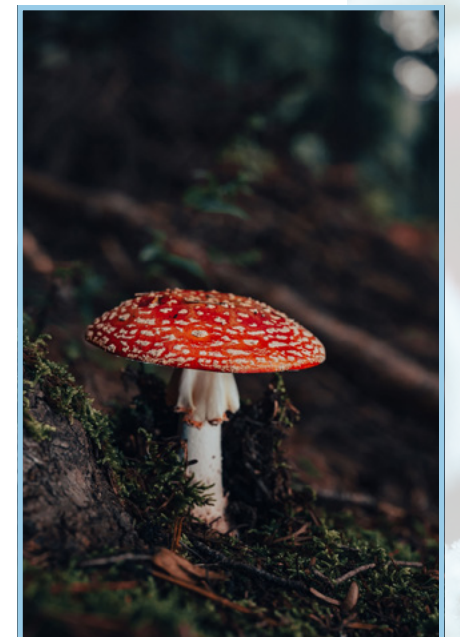
In the calm of dawn and dusk, deer emerge to forage in Bellevue parks and gardens. Learn about these gentle creatures, find deer foraging spots along the trail create a deer themed craft. Pre-registration required for all attendees, including accompanying adults. **Ages:** 4-13. **Cost:** Free!

FALL FOREST FUNGI

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

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

The impact of fungi in the forest extends far deeper than the mushrooms we see pop out of the ground. See various colors and shapes of fungi along the trail and learn about how fungi grow, recycle nutrients create an immense underground network for plants. Pre-registration required for all attendees, including accompanying adults. **Ages:** 4 and up. **Cost:** Free!



Online registration required for all participants.

register.bellevuewa.gov

WINTERING WILDLIFE

Saturday, December 12, 10–11 a.m.

Saturday, December 19, 10–11 a.m..

As the temperature drops, animals have many ways to survive the harshest time of year. Learn about the ones that stay active and ones that hide away as we walk the trail and then create a cozy creature 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 wetlands. Come inside the Visitor Center to pick up trail and park maps for the area, attend a free Natural Resource program 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

COLORFUL TREES

Saturday, September 19, 2:30–3:30 p.m.

Sunday, September 20, 2:30–3:30 p.m.

Join a park ranger for a guided fall walk and learn why some leaves change color while others stay green. After exploring the forest, participants will create a leaf-print craft inspired by the season. Pre-registration is required for children and adults **Ages:** Ages 5-10 with accompanying adult(s). **Cost:** Free!

SUPERHERO SALMON

Sunday, October 4, 2:30–3:30 p.m.

Saturday, October 24, 2:30–3:30 p.m.

Become a salmon superhero as you explore the incredible journey from stream to ocean and back again. Join a park ranger for a short walk and learn about salmon habitat, life cycles ways we can protect these remarkable fish in Lewis Creek. Pre-registration is required for children and adults. **Ages:** 5-10 with accompanying adult(s). **Cost:** Free!

FALL FEATHERS

Saturday, November 14, 2:30–3:30 p.m.

Sunday, November 22, 2:30–3:30 p.m.

Some birds migrate to warmer climates while others remain in Bellevue throughout the year. Come join the flock, take a short walk, learn about local bird species create a take-home craft inspired by our feather neighbors. Pre-registration is required for children and adults. **Ages:** 5-10 with accompanying adult(s). **Cost:** Free!

WINTER TAILS

Saturday, December 12, 2:30-3:30pm

Saturday, December 19, 2:30-3:30pm

Why do some animals hibernate while others remain active all winter? Through hands-on activities, a guided walk a themed craft, participants will discover the unique adaptations animals use to survive the colder months. Pre-registration is required for children and adults. **Ages:** 5-10 with accompanying adult(s). **Cost:** Free!

CREATURE CRAFTS

Saturday, November 21, 10:30–11:30 a.m.

Sunday, December 6, 10:30–11:30 a.m.

Spark creativity and curiosity through themed crafts and nature-inspired fun. Children will create a take-home craft and explore hands-on activities at their own pace while learning about a new nature topic each month. Pre-registration is required for children and adults. **Ages:** 3-7 with accompanying adult(s). **Cost:** Free!



BATTY NIGHTS

Friday, September 18, 8–9 p.m.

Experience the park during twilight hours as nocturnal wildlife begins to stir. Learn about bats, their role in the ecosystem and ways people can help protect them. Wildlife sightings are not guaranteed, as animals may still be resting before becoming active at night. Pre-registration is required for all attendees. **Ages:** All welcome. **Cost:** Free!



50+ EVENING WILDLIFE WALK

Friday, September 4, 8–9 p.m.

Friday, October 2, 7–8 p.m.

Friday, November 13, 6:30–7:30 p.m.

Experience the park at dusk and discover wildlife that comes alive after sunset. Learn about bats and other nocturnal animals while enjoying fresh air and conversation. Pre-registration required. **Ages:** 50+. **Cost:** Free!

SOLSTICE STROLL

Sunday, December 20, 10:30–11:30 a.m.

Celebrate the winter solstice with a guided walk through the forest and a warm beverage. Discover the seasonal changes taking place in nature while enjoying the shortest day of the year. Pre-registration is required for children and adults. **Ages:** All welcome. **Cost:** Free!

SPROUTS STORYTIME

Sunday, September 13, 10:30–11:30 a.m.

Sunday, October 25, 10:30–11:30 a.m..

Look, listen and move during a fun-filled hour of stories and crafts with a park ranger. Parents and children explore the animal world together through engaging stories, hands-on activities and imaginative play while fostering curiosity and a love of learning. Pre-registration is required for children and adults. **Ages:** 3-5 with accompanying adult(s). **Cost:** Free!

Visitor Centers



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

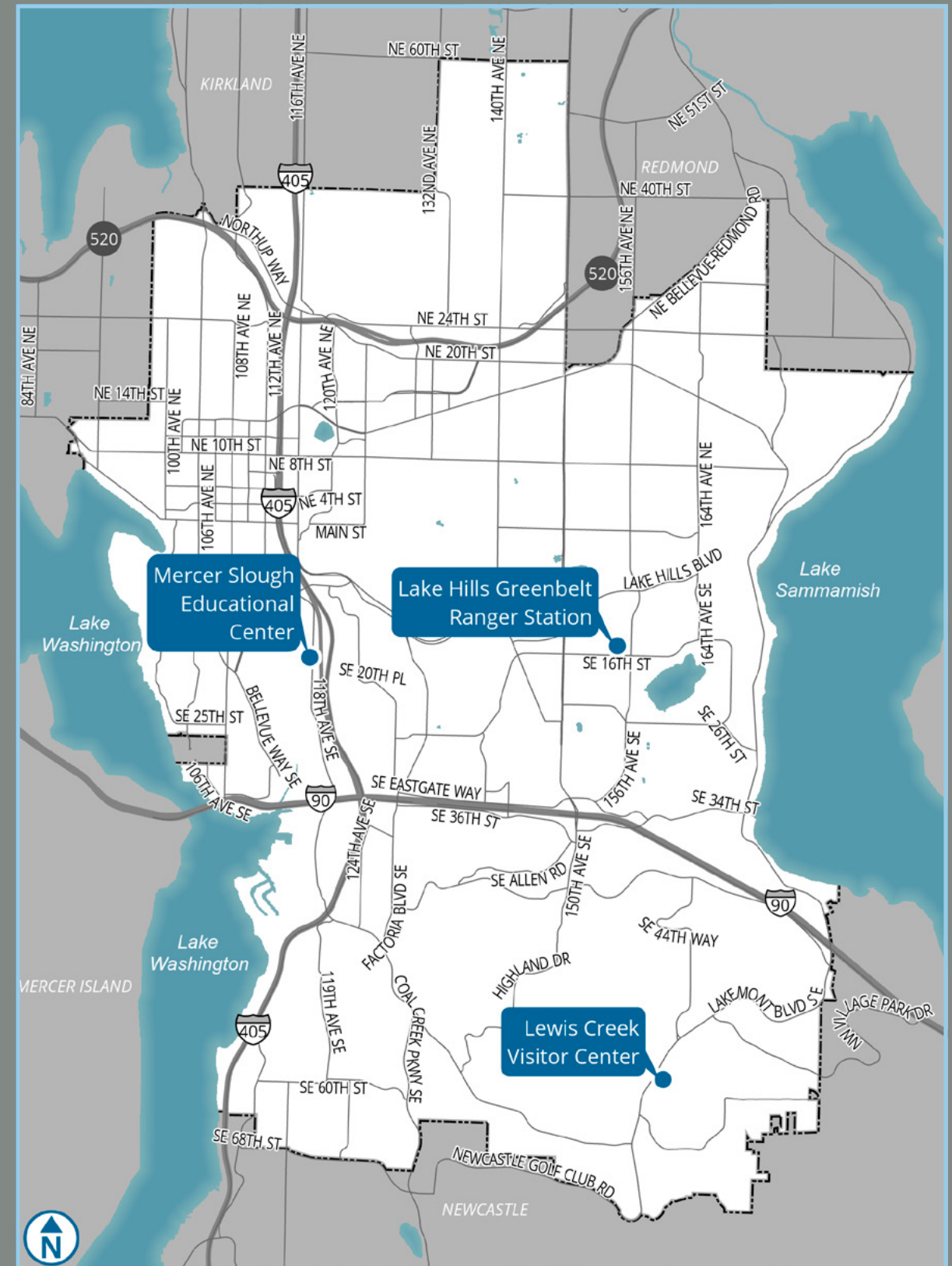


Lake Hills Greenbelt
Ranger Station
425-452-6993
15416 SE 16 Street
(15500 SE 16 Street:
Parking Location)



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

Visitor Center Locations



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 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 Equal Opportunity Officer at ADATitleVI@bellevuewa.gov.



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