

2018

Winter/Spring
January-April

NATURAL RESOURCE PROGRAMS

Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center

Lake Hills Greenbelt Ranger Station

Lewis Creek Visitor Center



Bellevue Parks & Community Services
Natural Resource Division

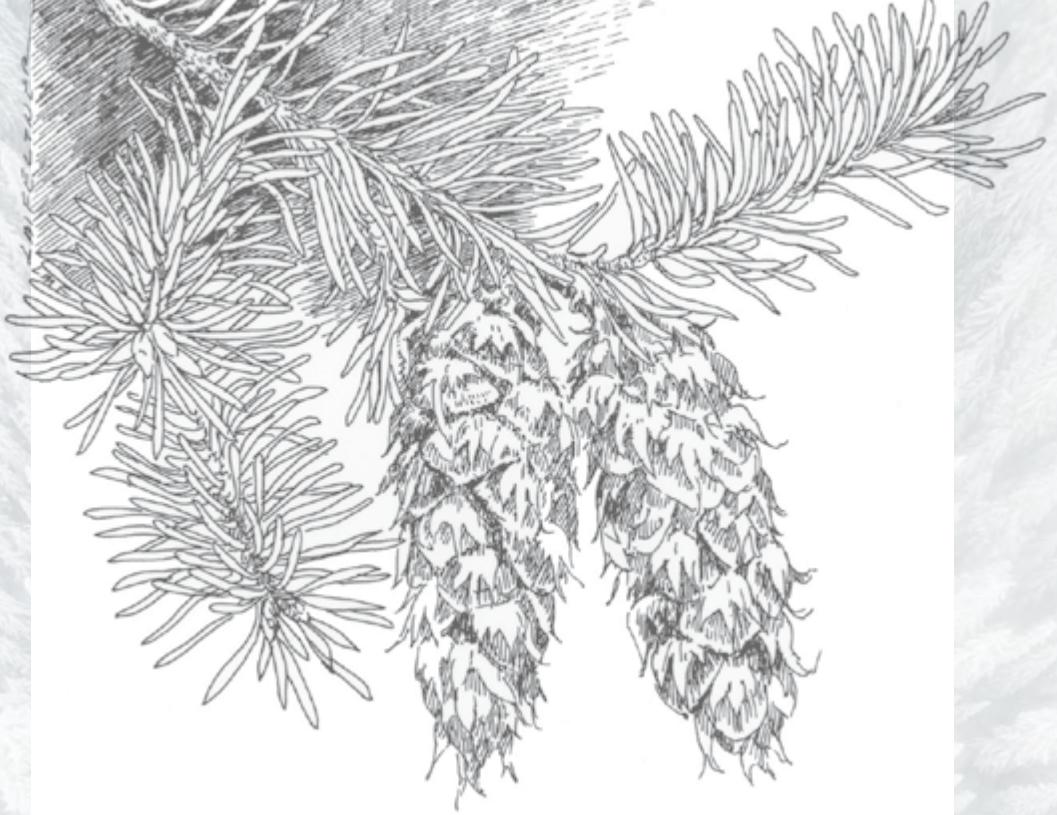


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Let us know how we're doing!

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!





Special Events

BELLEVUE'S 2018 SPECIES OF THE YEAR

Each year, the Bellevue Master Naturalist corps features a native species that is local to our area. The Species of the Year for 2018 is the garter snake.

Look for this snake icon  next to program titles in this guide. These programs will feature information on garter snakes and snakes generally. Join us at all three visitor centers to explore what makes snakes so special, and how you can help conserve them right here in Bellevue!



ARBOR DAY –

EARTH DAY CELEBRATION AND FAMILY FESTIVAL 2018

Bellevue's annual Arbor Day – Earth Day event, scheduled for Saturday April 21 will be held at Lewis Creek Park, located at 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE. This year's celebration will also mark the city's 27th year of being recognized as a Tree City USA community by the Arbor Day Foundation. The event will include volunteer projects, a tree-planting ceremony, and family festival.

Volunteer Projects – 9-11 a.m. Approximately 400 volunteers will participate in park enhancement projects at Lewis Creek Park. Projects will include planting, trail resurfacing, and removing invasive species. Space is limited, so register today at Parks_Stewardship@BellevueWA.gov!

Family Festival – 11a.m.-1:30 p.m. Held at Lewis Creek Park Visitors Center. Local environmental stewardship organizations will host free activities, ranger walks and eco-demonstrations. All ages are welcome! Kids can grab an Arbor Day-Earth Day Passport from a ranger and journey through various eco-stations. After learning about each station, children can have their passport stamped. Completed passports will be entered into a prize-drawing.

Arbor Day-Earth Day Ceremonial Tree Planting – 11:30 a.m.

Bellevue Park Rangers and elected officials will participate in the ceremony and recognize many wonderful volunteers and community groups. A ceremonial tree will be planted.

For more information about the City of Bellevue's Arbor Day-Earth Day event, contact us at 425-452-4195.



Local Area Hikes

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

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

MERCER SLOUGH RANGER WALKS

Distance: 1.5+ 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

Family-Friendly Ranger Walks:

Sundays, January 7, February 4, March 4, April 8, 2-3 p.m., rain or shine

Bring the whole family to join a Ranger on a guided hike through the Mercer Slough Nature Park. This family friendly program allows both parents and their kids to explore the mosaic of habitats while learning more about the birds and animals that call the Mercer Slough home. This hour-long nature walk ends at the channel bridge on the shores of the Slough. From there you can continue to further explore the rich diversity the park has to offer.

Private Group Ranger Walks:

Available some Sundays by appointment. Email MSEEC@bellevuewa.gov or call 425-452-2565

LEWIS CREEK RANGER-LED HIKES

Saturdays, January 6, February 3, March 3, April 7, 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m.

Join a 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. All ages are welcome. Please dress for the weather and wear sturdy shoes.

Distance: approximately 1 mile.

Level of Difficulty: Moderate
(50 feet elevation change)

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



Local Area Hikes Continued

LAKEMONT COMMUNITY PARK RANGER HIKE

Sunday, January 21, 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m.

This lovely trail winds through green corridors alongside Lewis Creek as we ascend and descend throughout the park.

Distance: 2 miles

Level of Difficulty: Difficult (350 feet elevation change)

Meeting Place: Lakemont Park, 5170 Village Park Drive SE

COAL CREEK NATURAL AREA RANGER HIKE

Sunday, February 11, 10:30 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: 2 miles.

Elevation Change: Moderate (100 feet elevation change)

Meeting Place: Cinder Mine Trailhead (Newcastle Golf Club Road, west of Redtown Trailhead)

SWEETHEART HIKE AT LEWIS CREEK PARK

Wednesday, February 14, 2-3 p.m.

Get outside before your dinner date! Bring your sweetheart or best friend and join a park ranger on a hike to celebrate Valentine's Day. Learn about native animal pairs and much more, as we wander through Lewis Creek Park.

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

LAKEMONT HIGHLANDS OPEN SPACE RANGER HIKE

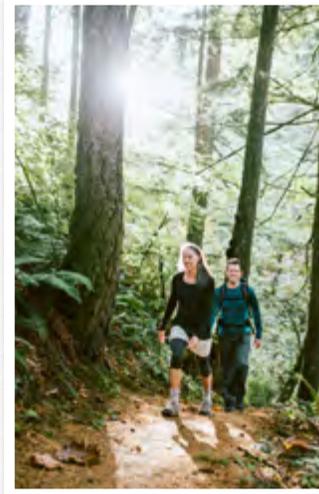
Saturday, March 10, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

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

Distance: 3.5 miles

Level of Difficulty: Difficult (350 feet elevation change)

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



LAKE HILLS GREENBELT RANGER WALKS

Family-Friendly Ranger Walks: Every Saturday at 2 p.m.

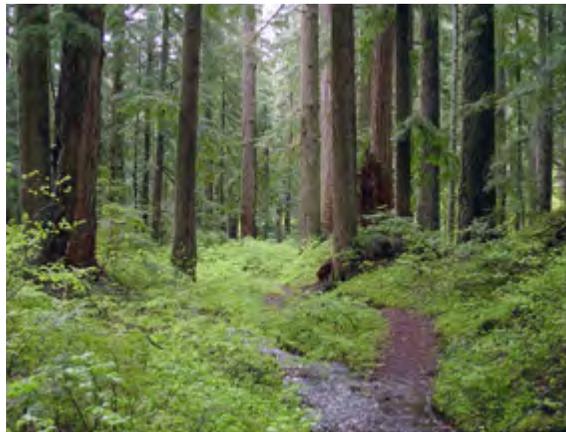
Distance: 1 mile

Level of Difficulty: Very Easy

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

Info: 425-452-7225 or Parkrangerprogram@bellevuewa.gov

Join us Saturdays for an interpretive tour of the Lake Hills Greenbelt. We will depart from the Lake Hills Ranger Station for a 1-hour trek. We will talk about some local history and see native plants and wildlife that calls Bellevue home. As our tour comes to a conclusion, you may continue on your own as the trail loops Larson Lake park. Bring your friends and family along for this free, weekly hike led by one of your local Bellevue Park Rangers.





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. **Cost:** FREE! **Pre-registration:** RSVP at 425-452-2565 or mseec@bellevuewa.gov

BREAKFAST FOR BIRDS

Saturday January 20, 2-3 p.m.

The Mercer Slough provides critical habitat for both residential and migratory birds year-round. The harsh environment and lack of adequate food during the winter months makes 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.

AMPHIBIANS & REPTILES: FOR GOODNESS SNAKES

Saturday February 17, 2-3 p.m.

Have you ever wondered what cold-blooded critters may be slithering or sauntering throughout the Mercer Slough Nature Park and what to do if you see one? Join a park Ranger to learn more about our Wetland Amphibians and Reptiles and their role in the ecosystem.





HAVE YOU SEEN ALL THE CRITTER LITTER?

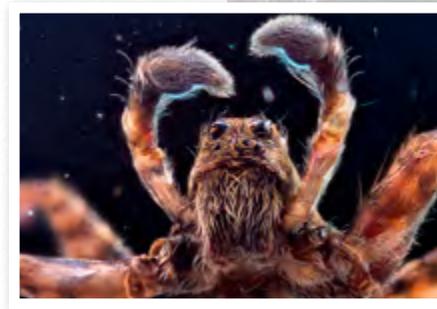
Saturday March 17, 2-3 p.m.

Have you ever been curious about what animals leave behind or what signs to look for that they are nearby? We may not always see them but they often leave clues. Become a Nature Detective and discover who may be visiting our park.

INSECT INVESTIGATION

Saturday April 14, 2-3 p.m.

Without insects to help breakdown and dispose of nature's waste, our environment would be a whole lot messier. In addition to insects being some of nature's greatest recyclers, they also play a critical role in the food web. Come prepared to get a little muddy while we investigate further into the world of insects.



Movies

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

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



FROM POLE TO POLE

Friday, January 26, 5-6 p.m.

The first episode of Planet Earth, illustrates a journey around the globe revealing the effects of gradual climate change and seasonal transitions. Narrated by David Attenborough.

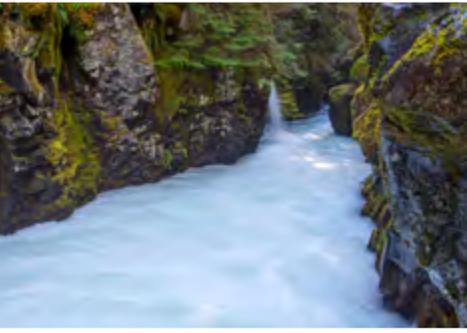
LIFE IN COLD BLOOD – SOPHISTICATED SERPENTS



Friday, February 23, 5-6 p.m.

(Special Presentation from the City of Bellevue's Master Naturalist)

Prepare to be amazed as this documentary, a joint effort by the BBC and Animal Planet, gets you up close and personal with these masterful hunters. This film contains some graphic predator-prey interactions that may not be appropriate for some younger viewers.



FRESH WATER

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

Only 3% of the world's water is fresh, yet all life forms depend on it. This Planet Earth Episode follows the journey of our fresh water and demonstrates how various species take advantage of this precious natural resource. Narrated by David Attenborough.

SEASONAL FORESTS

Friday, April 27, 5-6 p.m.

This episode of Planet Earth explores our seasonal coniferous and deciduous woodland habitats and the animals that depend on them. Narrated by David Attenborough.



Adult Enrichment Series

Pre-registration: RSVP at 425-452-2565 or mseec@bellevuewa.gov

BELLEVUE: A BRIEF HISTORY

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

Join Jane Morton, Eastside Heritage Center's Education Coordinator, as she leads you on a historical journey through the story of Bellevue. The presentation will focus on the founding of Bellevue and its development from a sleepy agricultural village to a major PNW metropolis that is one of the most diverse cities in the nation. This presentation is ideal for new residents of Bellevue and the Eastside and longtime residents that want to better understand the history of their city.

GETTING TO THE POINTS: THE EARLY DAYS OF MEDINA, HUNTS POINT AND YARROW POINT

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

Learn how the Points Communities assumed their unique place on the Eastside and in the region. These communities—Medina, Hunts Point, Yarrow Point—were among the earliest places settled on the Eastside, and evolved very differently from the surrounding areas of Bellevue and Kirkland. The presentation will be made by Michael Luis, a third-generation resident of Medina, who lives in his grandparents' 100-year-old home. He served as Mayor of Medina, following in his grandfather's footsteps, and has fascinating histories of Medina and Hunts Point.

THE HISTORY OF BELLEVUE PRESENTED BY EASTSIDE HERITAGE CENTER

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

Come join Eastside Heritage Center Staff and renowned local historians and lectures for a fascinating one hour program focus on the history and stories of the people, places, and events that help shape the of the Eastside and the greater Puget Sound Area as we know it today. Please visit Eastside Heritage Center's website www.eastsideheritagecenter.org for details about the particular program for this date.



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.





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

Pre-registration: Required. **Register:** RSVP to 425-452-6993 or ParkRangerProgram@bellevuewa.gov. **Ages:** All ages welcome.



LIONS, COYOTES, AND BEARS, OH MY!

Friday, January 12, 10-11 a.m.

Did you know that Bellevue is home to many large animals! How long have they been here? How can we live alongside these fascinating creatures? Come learn about some of the large wildlife that live in Bellevue.

LOVELY DUCKS

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

It's hard to imagine a wetland in the Pacific Northwest without our web-footed friends. Enjoy a talk about our local ducks, and how they raise ducklings together in the spring!



AN EVERGREEN EVENING

Friday, February 16, 7-8 p.m.

Join us for an evening hike in the Lake Hills Greenbelt. Bring your flashlight and a warm coat as we listen for and learn about creatures that get active in the dark hours!



THE MARCH OF DOGS

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

Where did dogs come from? What makes them different from coyotes and wolves who live in the wilds? Join us for a short educational walk learning about the origin of dogs. Well behaved dogs may absolutely join us for this walk.

WHEN BEES SPRING INTO ACTION!

Friday, April 13, 10-11 a.m.

The pollination season is approaching, and our little buzzing companions are waking up and getting to work! Join us at the Lake Hills Ranger Station to learn about the many different local pollinators and all that they do for us!





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 Series

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: Best for ages 3-7 with accompanying adult.

Pre-registration: Required for each participant-adult and youth at 425-452-4195. **Cost:** Free. Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE.

OVER AND UNDER THE SNOW

Friday, January 12, 11 a.m.-12 p.m. OR 1:30-2:30 p.m.

Do you know what's hiding under the snow? Join us as we read about life in the subnivean zone. We always make a fun craft to take home!





WONDERFUL EVERGREEN TREES

Friday, February 2, 11 a.m.-12 p.m. OR 1:30-2:30 p.m.

What do evergreen trees mean to you? This story time we'll explore the importance of trees to different people and animals. We always make a fun craft to take home!

BELLEVUE MASTER NATURALISTS PRESENT – SLIPPERY, SLITHERY SSSSNAKES



Friday, March 2, 11 a.m.-12 p.m. OR 1:30-2:30 p.m.

Look, listen, and create during an hour of stories and crafts presented by the Bellevue Master Naturalist Corps. Did you know that snakes can “smell” the air with their tongues when hunting for prey, or that they can unhinge their jaws? Join us for stories about these incredible creatures! We always make a fun craft to take home!

NIGHT CREATURES

Friday, April 6, 11 a.m.-12 p.m. OR 1:30-2:30 p.m.

When you're going to bed at night some animals are just waking up! Discover what nocturnal animals stay up all night and why you shouldn't be afraid of them. We always make a fun craft to take home!



Explorers' Club

SHOULD I STAY OR SHOULD I GO? MIGRATION VS. HIBERNATION

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

Saturday, January 13, 2:30-3:30 p.m.

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

Where do the animals go in winter? How do bears sleep so long? Join us for hands on activities to learn the how's and why's of wintertime adaptations. Afterwards we'll see how well we can hibernate! Indoor/outdoor program. **Age:** Best for children ages 5-10 with accompanying adult(s).



TRICKY CRAFTY CAMOUFLAGE

Sunday, February 4, 2:30-3:30 p.m.
Saturday, February 10, 2:30-3:30 p.m.
Sunday, February 18, 2:30-3:30 p.m.

Is seeing believing? Just because we don't see animals doesn't mean they're not there. Discover how animals trick your eyes using different camouflage methods before heading outside to test your spotting skills with a fun foraging quest! Indoor/outdoor program. **Ages:** Best for children ages 5-10 with accompanying adult(s).



MAKING TRACKS IN LEWIS CREEK PARK

Sunday, March 4, 2:30-3:30 p.m.
Saturday, March 17, 2:30-3:30 p.m.
Sunday, March 25, 2:30-3:30 p.m.

Join a park to learn Bellevue's animal signs, then head outside on a scavenger hunt to see what animals have been through Lewis Creek Park! We'll look for prints, feathers and even scat to see what's been happening in the park. Indoor/outdoor program. **Ages:** Best for children ages 5-10 with accompanying adult(s). **RSVP** required by 4 p.m. the Friday before the event at 425-452-4195.



ARBOR DAY-EARTH DAY FAMILY FESTIVAL

Saturday, April 21, 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Bellevue's annual Arbor Day-Earth Day event, scheduled for Saturday April 21, will be held at Lewis Creek Park. This year's celebration will also mark the city's 27th year of being recognized as a Tree City USA community by the Arbor Day Foundation. Local environmental stewardship organizations will host free activities and eco-demonstrations. Kids can grab an Arbor Day-Earth Day activity passport from a ranger and journey through various eco-stations: Completed passports will be entered into a prize-drawing. At 11:30 a.m., Bellevue park rangers and elected officials will plant a ceremonial tree and recognize environmental volunteers.



APRIL'S SHOWERS MAKE... WATERSHEDS?

Sunday, April 8, 2:30-3:30 p.m.

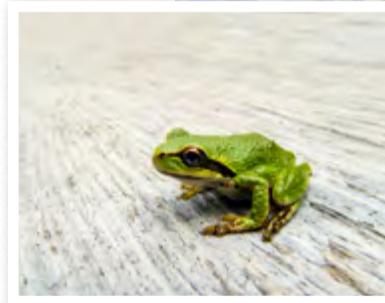
Saturday, April 28, 2:30-3:30 p.m.

We know April means rain showers, but what happens after the rain falls? Join a park ranger to learn the ins and outs of watersheds and the important part they play in the water cycle. We'll start our own mini rain showers and afterwards discuss different ways we can help our watersheds. Indoor/outdoor program. **Ages:** Best for children ages 5-10 with accompanying adult(s).

FROG HOP!

Friday, March 23, 7-8:30 p.m.

One of the earliest sounds of spring is the constant rib-bit song of frogs. Learn about the amazing life cycle of these amphibians, as well as the kinds of frogs that live in Western Washington. Then join us to explore Lewis Creek using your ears to guide the way! Bring a flashlight or headlamp, as well as good shoes and warm clothes, for the journey! **Ages:** 5+. **Pre-registration:** Required by 2 p.m. the Friday of the event at 425-452-4195. **Cost:** \$2 Resident \$3 Non-Resident.



NIGHT HIKE AT LEWIS CREEK PARK

Friday, January 26, 6-7:30 p.m.

Friday, February 16, 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, 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! Indoor/Outdoor program. **Ages:** 5+. **Pre-registration:** Required by 2 p.m. the Friday of the event at 425-452-4195. **Cost:** \$4 Resident \$5 Non-Resident.



Adult Enrichment Series

HISTORY OF EASTSIDE LOGGING (PRESENTED BY THE EASTSIDE HERITAGE CENTER)

Saturday, January 27, 2-4 p.m.

Did you know that most of the east side of Lake Washington was clear-cut by 1920? Or that nearly all of the big trees that we see today are less than 100 years old? (It will take another 400 years for our evergreens to reach 'maturity')! Come and see the equipment that evolved from two men working one tree all day with a hand-saw, to sky-line cable operations that could clear a whole Cougar Mountain valley in a single day. Presented in partnership by the Eastside Heritage Center and Bellevue Parks & Community Services. **Ages:** 13+.

COAL MINING AT COUGAR MOUNTAIN (PRESENTED BY THE EASTSIDE HERITAGE CENTER),

Saturday March 24, 2-4 p.m.

This program focuses on 100 years of local coal mining. In 1888, there were 20 mules and 200 men employed here! Exporting coal to San Francisco turned Seattle into a dominant seaport. Learn what is underneath a mountain that is older than Rainier. Presented in partnership by the Eastside Heritage Center and Bellevue Parks & Community Services. **Ages:** 13+.



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

DEER IN THE HEADLIGHTS

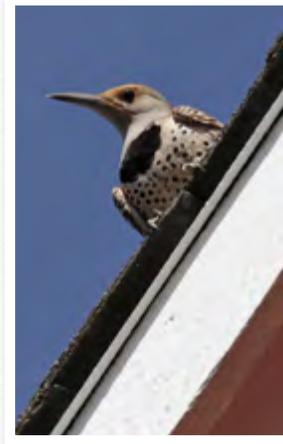
Sunday, January 14, 2-3 p.m.

Black-tailed deer are a welcomed friend in many of Bellevue's neighborhoods. Join us to learn about how to attract deer, deer biology, how to address potential conflicts (including how to protect your fruit trees), what to do if you find a fawn, and much more!

THAT WOODPECKER IS DRIVING ME CRAZY!

Saturday February 24, 2-3 p.m.

Ever wonder which species of bird is making that obnoxious sound on the chimney and nearby trees? Of the 11 species of woodpeckers that live in Washington, the northern flicker is probably the most commonly seen and heard. Come learn about the benefits of having woodpeckers in your yard, and how we can get along together.



THERE'S A BEAR IN THE YARD!

Sunday, March 18, 2-3 p.m.

Springtime in south Bellevue often means hungry roaming bears. Learn all about black bears in our area...including how to prevent conflicts at your home, and what to do if you see one.

NOT SO COY COYOTES

Sunday, April 29, 2-3 p.m.

So...there's a coyote in the yard...should I be worried? Nope, but there are definitely some tips and tricks to keep this fascinating urban creature as wild as possible. Join us to learn how! Indoor program.



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

Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center

425-452-2565

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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



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.

