City of Bellingham Parks and Recreation Park Stewardship Program

Presented by: Freya Fradenburgh
Acting Parks Stewardship Supervisor
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September 2024





Another new face: Freya Fradenburgh









- BA in Environmental
 Studies with a focus in
 Community Education
- 9 years leading grounds maintenance, horticulture, stewardship, and restoration with Bellingham Parks
- Independent Landscape
 Consultant and Laborer
- 14 years in Bellingham
- Outdoor enthusiast and advocate
- Service Industry Manager for 4 years

Current Staffing (16 Positions)

- Acting Park Stewardship Supervisor: Freya Fradenburgh
- Parks Volunteer Coordinator:
- Park Grounds Technician
- Restoration Educator
- AmeriCorps Members(2)
- Interns(3)
- Park Ambassadors(8)
- 2024/25: Stewardship Coordinator





(vacant) Freya Fradenburgh

Bella Drake

Sky Hawk Bressette Allison Greener-Grant









Park Stewardship Program Updates

- Volunteer Program:
 - Park Stewards
 - AmeriCorps Program
 - School Stewardship
 - Fall Work Volunteer Work Party Schedule
- Community Gardens
- Park Ambassadors
- Washington Conservation Crews and Mitigation





Volunteer Program Updates



- Native Plant Nursery temporarily housed at Happy Valley Park
- Park Steward Program updates: Park Steward Program City of Bellingham (cob.org)
- Agreements for Partner Groups
- Two returning AmeriCorps Educators Sky and Allison!
- New staff: Bella Drake, Recreation Instructor
- School Stewardship curriculum
- Fall Work Parties!

LAST YEAR:

11,000 volunteer hours (=5.2FTE)
2,588 native trees & shrubs planted

LAST 10 YEARS:

- +260,000 volunteer hours
- +77,000 native trees & shrubs







Fall Work Party Schedule

Whatcom Creek by City Hall

HELP US RESTORE SALMON HABITAT DURING WHATCOM WATER WEEK.

SEPT. 9am to 12pm

9am to 12pm

SEPT.

28

9am to 12pm

OCT.

9am to 12pm

OCT.

9am to 12pm

OCT.

9am to 12pm

Memorial Park

IOIN US AND THE SUNNYLAND NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION AS WE BEAUTIFY THIS PARK.

NOV. 9am to 12pm

Harriet Spanel Park

IMPROVE THE HABITAT OF THIS NEIGHBORHOOD PARK WITH US BY REMOVING INVASIVE PLANTS.

SEPT. **Hundred Acre Wood**

WORK TO PROTECT OUR IMPORTANT WETLANDS BY REMOVING SOCIAL TRAILS.

NOV. 9am to 12pm

Broadway Park

WE'LL WEED, MULCH, AND PLANT TO BEAUTIFY THIS AMAZING LITTLE PARK. JOIN US!

Galbraith Trailhead

JOIN US WITH FRIENDS OF LOCAL TRAILS TO PLANT AROUND THE NEW PARKING AREA.

NOV. 16

Cornwall Park (North)

IOIN THE CITY AND NSEA TO IMPROVE HABITAT IN ONE OF BELLINGHAM'S OLDEST PARKS.

Cordata Park

HELP US IMPROVE RIPARIAN HABITAT IN ONE OF BELLINGHAM'S NEWEST PARKS.

NOV. 23 9am to 12pm

9am to 12pm

Lowell Park

HELP US STEWARD THIS DARLING GREEN SPACE NEAR WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY.

Birchwood Park

REMOVE INVASIVE PLANTS, SPREAD SOME MULCH, & PLANT SHRUBS AT THIS FUN PARK.

DEC.

10am to 1pm

DEC.

14

10am to 1pm

Big Rock Garden Park

COME CLEAN SCULPTURES IN THIS PEACEFUL PARK WITH FRIENDS OF BIG ROCK GARDEN.

Connelly Creek Nature Area

RESTORE WILDLIFE HABITAT AND WETLANDS AS WE WORK WITH NSEA AT THIS SPECIAL SPOT.

Whatcom Falls Park

IOIN US. NSEA. & OTHER PARTNERS FOR MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY / ARBOR DAY!



CELEBRATE DR. KING'S LEGACY OF SERVICE BY RESTORING SALMON HABITAT!



JAN. 18

Squalicum Creek Park



















WORK

Community Gardens Program



Fairhaven Community Garden
Located at 10th Street and Wilson Avenue



Sven Hoyt Community Garden
Located on 32nd Street between Taylor Avenue and
Donovan Avenue



Lakeway Community Garden
Located at Lakeway Drive and Woburn Street



Community Garden
Located in Northern Bellingham at 325 Van
Wyck Road (off Meridian.)

- The Community Garden Program offers 195 257! plots
- Garden plots are generally 10' x 20'.
- NEW! King Mountain Community Garden: currently offers 60 plots 12 raised beds that are 3' x 7, as well as 48 10' x 10' ground plots.
- Anticipating a Stewardship Coordinator position in 2025 that will oversee the growing Community Garden program

Park Ambassador Program

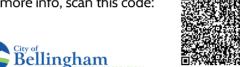
- Safety, Outreach, Education
- Support reservations/events,
 Recreation programs, litter
 abatement, graffiti removal, Bark
 Stewards, and Volunteer outreach
- Crucial part of a coordinated department effort to mitigate abandoned vehicles and overnight campers in parks



Outreach for Fishing in Whatcom Creek



- These hatchery Chinook salmon, raised by Bellingham Technical College's Fisheries & Aquaculture Sciences, are not native to Whatcom Creek but play a vital role in our marine ecosystem
- These Chinook were not raised to migrate up Whatcom Creek, but instead were raised to support orcas and fisheries in marine waters. Management strategies and decisions are the responsibility of the State and local tribes
- Harvesting is both ethical and legal under WDFW regulations. Tribal openings may differ from commercial and recreational openings
- For more info, scan this code:





This fall, Park
Ambassadors were a
central part of a
coordinated department
effort to educate the
public about seasonal
hatchery Chinook fishing
in Whatcom Creek at
Maritime Heritage Park.



Washington Conservation Corps Crew (WCC) secured for 2024/25



WCC Mission: To conserve and enhance the natural resources of Washington while providing meaningful service opportunities to young adults and military veterans.

- 6 person crew shared between Parks and PWNR
- 11 weeks of Environmental Justice
- Focus on restoration sites and wetland mitigation sites

THANK YOU Parks Volunteer Program restoration partners

 Community engagement is a critical component of successful restoration efforts – it cultivates a sense of place and supports democracy.

