

# A HEALTHIER WHATCOM CREEK

Whatcom Creek's natural habitat has been adversely affected by the logging industry, transportation, and development. Our industrial past was built on the homelands and territories of the tribes of the Coast Salish region, who inhabited and cared for these lands and waters before they were forced out by Euro-American settlement in the 1800s. For decades, the City of Bellingham has worked with the community to restore the health of Whatcom Creek and improve the ability of fish to grow and spawn.

## MILWAUKEE RAILROAD TRESTLE



Photo by Jack Carver, 1949, courtesy of the Whatcom Museum

Whatcom Creek, photo courtesy of the City of Bellingham

## IMPROVING HABITAT



Cutthroat Trout

Upper portions of Whatcom Creek are home to cutthroat trout and kokanee salmon. Ocean-migrating fish (including coho, chum, and Chinook salmon, and steelhead trout) live in the lower portion below the natural barrier falls in Whatcom Falls Park. Clean, cold water and unobstructed stream beds are important for fish health and migration.



Whatcom Creek originates in Lake Whatcom and flows four miles through downtown Bellingham before entering Bellingham Bay. Whatcom Creek waters are within the traditional territory of the Lummi Nation and Nooksack Indian Tribe, who utilized the waters and lands of Whatcom County for thousands of years prior to Euro-American settlement.