



# City of Bellingham Parks and Recreation Park Stewardship Program

Presented by: Freya Fradenburgh  
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# 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: Ryan Robie
- Park Grounds Technician (vacant) Freya Fradenburgh
- Restoration Educator Bella Drake
- AmeriCorps Members(2) Sky Hawk Bressette  
Allison Greener-Grant
- Interns(3)
- Park Ambassadors(8)
- 2024/25: Stewardship Coordinator



# 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 \(cob.org\)](http://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.  
**14**  
9am to 12pm

## Harriet Spanel Park

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

SEPT.  
**21**  
9am to 12pm

## Broadway Park

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

SEPT.  
**28**  
9am to 12pm

## Cornwall Park (North)

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

OCT.  
**5**  
9am to 12pm

## Lowell Park

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

OCT.  
**12**  
9am to 12pm

## Big Rock Garden Park

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

OCT.  
**19**  
9am to 12pm

## Whatcom Falls Park

JOIN US, NSEA, & OTHER PARTNERS FOR MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY / ARBOR DAY!



OCT.  
**26**  
9am to 12pm

## Memorial Park

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

NOV.  
**2**  
9am to 12pm

## Hundred Acre Wood

WORK TO PROTECT OUR IMPORTANT WETLANDS BY REMOVING SOCIAL TRAILS.

NOV.  
**9**  
9am to 12pm

## Galbraith Trailhead

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

NOV.  
**16**  
9am to 12pm

## Cordata Park

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

NOV.  
**23**  
9am to 12pm

## Birchwood Park

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

DEC.  
**7**  
10am to 1pm

## Connelly Creek Nature Area

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

DEC.  
**14**  
10am to 1pm

## Squalicum Creek Park

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



JAN.  
**18**  
10am to 1pm



# 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



**NEW: King Mountain 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:



WHATCOM CREEK - WHATCOM CO.		
SPECIES	DATE	ADDITIONAL RULES
<b>from mouth (a line from the flashing light at the southwest end of the Port of Bellingham North Terminal to the southernmost point of the dike surrounding the Georgia Pacific treatment pond) to the footbridge below Dupont St. in Bellingham CRC (884)</b>		
Trout	Sat. before Memorial Day-July 31	Statewide min. size/daily limit. Except: Cutthroat trout and wild rainbow trout min. size 14".
Other game fish	Sat. before Memorial Day-July 31	Statewide min. size/daily limit.
Salmon	Aug. 3-Sept. 15	Min. size 12". Daily limit 2. Anti-snagging rule. Night closure. Release all salmon other than hatchery Chinook. Open Saturdays and Sundays only. Closed Monday through Friday.
<b>from footbridge below Dupont St. in Bellingham to stone bridge at Whatcom Falls Park. CRC (884)</b>		
All species	Aug. 1-Oct. 31	Anti-snagging rule. Night closure.
Trout	Sat. before Memorial Day-Oct. 31	Statewide min. size/daily limit. Except: Cutthroat trout and wild rainbow trout min. size 14".
Other game fish	Sat. before Memorial Day-Oct. 31	Statewide min. size/daily limit.
<b>from stone bridge at Whatcom Falls Park to Lake Whatcom CRC (884)</b>		
All species		Juvenile Anglers Only (under 15 years old).
Trout	4th Sat. in Apr.-Oct. 31	No min. size. Daily limit 2.
Other game fish	4th Sat. in Apr.-Oct. 31	Statewide min. size/daily limit.

Learn more about fishing regulations: [wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/regulations](http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/regulations)



Download the **FREE FishWA app!**  
Current regulations, locations, and species



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.

