

WHERE DOES THE WATER IN SALMON CREEK COME FROM?

ITS WATERSHED.

A watershed is an area where rain and melting snow drain into a central waterway through smaller creeks, streams, and storm drains.

The **Salmon Creek Watershed** (map on the right) is an 89-square-mile area that stretches from the forested Cascade foothills in the east to more urban areas in Vancouver. Water from this area drains into Lake River north of Vancouver Lake, and eventually makes its way to the Pacific Ocean.

We all live in a watershed, and each of us plays an important part in keeping our watersheds clean and healthy.



WHAT YOU CAN DO

Healthy streams benefit fish, wildlife, and people. Each of us has a role to play in protecting and keeping our waterways healthy.

Here are a few simple ways you can help:

- ✔ Learn to properly dispose of paint, oil, and fertilizers so they stay out of storm drains, sinks, toilets, and our rivers.
- ✔ Pick up and dispose of pet waste. It may contain harmful bacteria that creates unsafe water for fish and wildlife and contains nutrients that encourage harmful algae growth.
- ✔ Wash your car at a carwash. Let's keep soap and grime out of storm drains, which go directly into our nearby creeks and rivers.
- ✔ Share this special place! Introduce friends and family to your favorite spot along Salmon Creek. Encourage others to visit and learn more.

RESTORING THE CREEK

The Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership works in cooperation with Clark County to restore important habitats along Salmon Creek that support native fish and wildlife. They also provide opportunities for local students to learn about and experience Salmon Creek.

These programs are supported through funding from the Washington Department of Ecology.



The Estuary Partnership plants native shrubs and trees along Salmon Creek to enhance wildlife habitat, create shade, and improve water quality by reducing the impact of pollutants along the creek.

Join us at our next community planting and learn more about volunteer opportunities by visiting:

estuarypartnership.org

HONORING THE LAND

We recognize the Indigenous peoples who have lived along the Columbia River since time immemorial. We honor those who have stewarded these lands and waters throughout generations.

Design and illustration by Mike Murawski and Bryna Campbell with Super Nature Adventures.



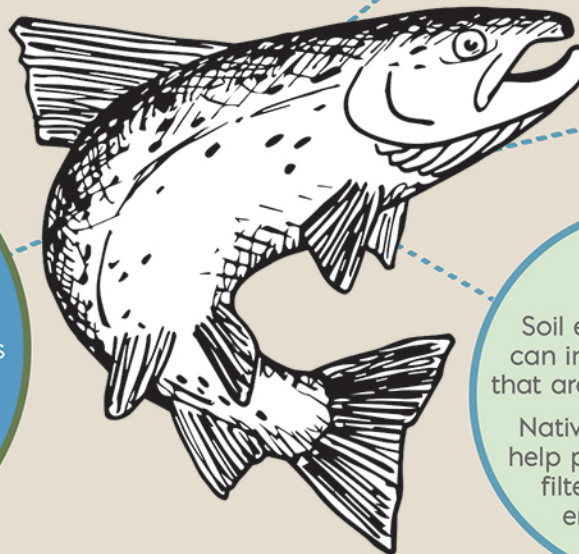
ARE THERE SALMON IN SALMON CREEK?

YES.

Coho salmon and steelhead trout can be found in the waters of Salmon Creek.

However, urban development has led to poor overall water quality, making the creek less suitable for salmon.

Salmon need a habitat of cold, clean, and clear water.



COLD

Forest areas near creeks and streams are vital to providing shade that keeps the water cool for salmon.

Tree plantings can help restore these much-needed forests.

CLEAN

Many chemicals enter creeks from our homes, yards, and streets. Salmon cannot live in polluted water, so it's important to limit the pollutants that go into our sewers and storm drains.

CLEAR

Soil erosion and runoff can introduce sediments that are harmful to salmon.

Native trees and plants help prevent erosion and filter water before it enters the creek.



TRAIL MAP & GUIDE



WETLANDS

This spot offers a good view of the wetland and marsh areas along Salmon Creek. These are critical habitats for many wildlife species.

What do you notice about these wetlands?

WATERFOWL

Stop and see if you can find any waterfowl in this wetland area.

This is a great spot to see egrets, heron, geese, and different types of ducks in or near the water.

Egrets and herons are often found quietly hunting in the shallow water.



SALMON CREEK GREENWAY TRAIL

PACIFIC WILLOW

One type of tree that grows well in this kind of habitat is the Pacific willow.

The Estuary Partnership is actively planting these trees along the creek to restore habitat, provide shade, and prevent erosion. Look for some willow tree plantings on the north side of the wetland near the edge of the creek.



The Salmon Creek Greenway Trail is a 3.1 mile trail from NW 36th Ave. to Kline Pond. The section included here is 2.5 miles roundtrip, starting at NW 36th Ave. This part of the trail is flat and paved.

There is a portable toilet located at the NW 36th Ave. trailhead.

REED CANARY GRASS

After more than a century of farming, gravel mining, and development, reed canary grass has aggressively spread throughout the Salmon Creek area.

Notice how thick this grass grows along the creek. Look for signs of erosion along the creek's bank where the shallow roots of this grass are not able to hold soil in place.

INCOMING WATER

Can you find the spot where water runs under the path? Look for a row of large stones on the north side of the path. This is called a culvert.

When it rains, water from surrounding neighborhoods runs directly into Salmon Creek. This runoff affects the health and habitat of the creek. Any lawn fertilizers, pesticides, and other types of pollution flow into storm drains and make their way into the creek.

BUSY BEAVERS

As you make your way along the trail, watch for evidence of beaver activity. These animals are an important part of the habitat along Salmon Creek.

Beavers use their sharp front teeth to cut down trees, shrubs, and other vegetation to build dams and lodges. They also eat the layer under the bark. Look for small tree trunks and brush that are diagonally cut near the ground.



SHADE TREES

Big trees are key to a healthy creek since they create shade and their roots filter water.

Along this area of the trail, look for large cottonwoods and big leaf maples.



COUGAR CREEK

Stand on the bridge over Cougar Creek. Notice how the large trees above create lots of shade.

Does it feel cooler than when you were out in the sun? What would it be like if more trees were growing over Salmon Creek?

Greenway Trail continues 1.8 miles to Kline Pond

MAP KEY

- trail

- portable toilet

- parking

- bench