

Paradise Valley

Conservation Area



A beautiful 793-acre park with abundant forest areas, wetlands, free-flowing streams, more than 13 miles of designated trails, and parking for 37 vehicles.



PARADISE VALLEY CONSERVATION AREA

A significant portion of the headwaters of the Bear Creek watershed is located on this site. The watershed system, which includes the Cottage Lake Creek sub-basin and many other tributaries, has one of the most productive salmon streams in the Sammamish River System.

HISTORY

The property, which was homesteaded in 1887 by James and Eliza Lloyd, was purchased from Davey, Jessie and Elizabeth Lloyd in 2000. The Lloyd family raised cattle and sheep, pasturing their farm animals east of Paradise Lake Road across from their large log cabin, barns, and equipment storage buildings.

Because the Lloyds logged portions of the property for additional income, several logging roads were created. In the early days, a rail line coming up from Crystal Lake to the west side of the property was used to ship logs down to Blackstock Lumber in Seattle.

While trees estimated to be 100 years old have been located, no "old growth" forest areas have been located on site.



Sockeye Salmon in Upper Bear Creek, Sept. 2000, by Dr. Heather Poe



PRESERVING NATURE & WILDLIFE

The Conservation Area supports a large population of animals, birds and fish. Wild inhabitants include squirrels, mice, skunk, frogs, salamanders and deer as well as bear, cougar and coyote. Birds of prey include bald eagles, hawks and owls. Much of the headwaters of Bear Creek are located here...home to resident trout, migrating salmon, brook lamprey, sculpin, dace... and beavers!

As you travel the trails, please enjoy the abundant forest vegetation. Douglas fir and our State tree, the Western Hemlock, dominate upland areas along with stands of White Pine. When you get closer to wetland and stream environments, vegetation will transition to Western Red Cedar, Cottonwood, Alder, Red Osier Dogwood and Willow.

Take extra time to look at the diverse forest under-story. In upland areas you will see low growing plants such as Oregon Grape, Salal and Sword Fern. As you transition to moist lowlands look for Salmonberry, Huckleberry, Deer Fern, and False Lilly of the Valley. Along the way, look for flowers in bloom: Nootka Rose in the upland areas, Trillium in the deep shade, and, in the very wet areas, Skunk Cabbage... also called "forest lantern" because of its bright yellow spring flowers.



EMERGENCIES

A map coordinate system is in place to aid park users and rescue personnel in locating each other in the event emergency assistance is needed (see map). In case of an emergency, call 911 and give the operator the information on the nearest waypoint marker.



hikers on one of many trails



Skunk Cabbage, an early

$\sqrt{\text{Please}}$ be respectful of all trail users.

- $\sqrt{}$ Stay to the right of the trail and warn when passing. Stop and allow approaching horses to pass.
- √ Keep speed down, especially in areas of high traffic and low visibility.
- $\sqrt{}$ Do not approach or feed wildlife.

TRAIL USE

SAFETY TIPS

- √ Signage providing trail information is located throughout the Area.
- $\sqrt{}$ Please obey all trail and park rules; they are for your safety and the preservation of this unique site.
- $\sqrt{\text{Hiking is permitted on all trails.}}$
- $\sqrt{\text{Support our minimum impact philosophy.}}$ Please pack out all trash.

VISITOR GUIDELINES

- $\sqrt{\text{Park hours 7 a.m. to Dusk}}$
- $\sqrt{\text{Pets must be on leash obey scoop laws}}$
- $\sqrt{\text{Stay on trails}}$
- √ Lock your vehicle
- √ Secure valuable items
- √ Fires, overnight camping, motorized vehicles, alcohol, firearms and fireworks prohibited.
- $\sqrt{\text{Stay}}$ on designated trails
- \sqrt{No} hunting or gathering
- $\sqrt{\text{Leave no trace, pack out all waste}}$

All Snohomish County, Washington State, and Dept. of Fish & Wildlife laws enforced



To alert Rangers about trail conditions and downed trees, call 360-568-2274.

MOTOR VEHICLES

All motor vehicles are prohibited from the Area's trail system except for emergency and service vehicles or motorized wheelchairs.

VOLUNTEER!

The continued maintenance and development of Paradise Valley Conservation Area is largely supported by volunteers. Volunteers patrol trails by foot, horseback or mountain bike, maintain trails, and perform other trail work.

If interested, contact the Volunteer Program Coordinator at 425-388-6618 or visit www.snocoparks.org.

Photos by Chris Mueller & Cabot Jugua

Illustrations created and donated by Doug Dailer