

Beach Watchers Projects Overview



Mission

Beach Watchers is a volunteer organization dedicated to protecting the Salish Sea through education, research and stewardship. We are trained by state, regional and local experts through a rigorous training program overseen by Washington State University Extension.

Education



PRESCHOOL STORY TIME

Goal: To teach children about the fascinating Salish Sea as well as their role in caring for it.

Status: Volunteers go to Sno-Isle libraries and lead a one hour story time with activities for preschoolers and their families. In 2019 the program included visits to eight different libraries in June, July and August. That number is up from five libraries in 2018.

Participate: New volunteers for this program are recruited by the team leader in January and February.

BOOTHS/FESTIVALS

Goal: To share BW volunteer knowledge at festivals, fairs and events throughout the year.

Status: In 2019 BW attended the Everett Farmers Market, Evergreen Fair, Festival of the River, Mukilteo Lighthouse Festival, Sustainamania, Tour de Terrace & Vibrant Living Fair at Northshore Senior Center.

Join Us: Upcoming booth opportunities are publicized in our newsletter and through Sign-up Genius.

CLASSROOM PRESENTATIONS FOR YOUTH

Goal: Increase Puget Sound literacy and appreciation in elementary school children including taking them on field trips to the beach. **Status:** Will begin reaching out to educators in March to schedule 2020 presentations and field trips.

Join Us: Volunteers are recruited and trained in February and March.

CRABBER EDUCATION

Goal: Volunteers educate recreational crabbers about basic conservation rules and how to keep their crab pots from getting lost.

Status: In 2019, we handed out Conservation Kits on Opening Day of Crabbing Season at Kayak Point, Everett 10th Street Pier, Mukilteo Lighthouse Beach & Edmonds Pier. Volunteers also worked at the Festival of the River, the Evergreen Fair and Everett Farmers Markets. **Join Us:** Volunteers are recruited in May and training is held in mid-June.



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KIOSK DISPLAY - MUKILTEO LIGHTHOUSE BEACH

Goal: To educate the public about being good stewards of our beaches and increase Puget Sound literacy.

Status: Currently planning which posters will be included in the Kiosk for 2020.

Participate: Contact our Team Leader--Taylor when you have a poster idea.



NATURALISTS - EDMONDS

Goal: To teach beach stewardship methods and increase Puget Sound literacy and appreciation.

Status: In 2019 volunteers held a Starlight Beach walk in the winter. They also held beach walks throughout the summer during low tide from June to August. They talked with beach visitors of all ages and backgrounds.

Join Us: Upcoming Naturalist opportunities are publicized in our newsletter and through Sign-up Genius.

NATURALISTS - KAYAK POINT

Goal: To teach beach stewardship methods and increase Puget Sound literacy and appreciation.

Status: Along with Beach Characterization, BW also provides Naturalist days and school education programs. Our success is due to the knowledgeable, engaged and dedicated volunteers who join us to share our love of the sea and Kayak Point.

Join Us: Upcoming Naturalist opportunities are publicized in our newsletter and through Sign-up Genius.

NATURALISTS - MUKILTEO

Goal: To teach beach stewardship methods and increase Puget Sound literacy and appreciation.

Status: In 2019 volunteers held beach walks throughout the summer during low tide at Mukilteo Lighthouse Park. They talked with beach visitors of all ages and backgrounds from June to August.

Join Us: Upcoming Naturalist opportunities are publicized in our newsletter and through Sign-up Genius.



PET WASTE EDUCATION - PET SHELTERS

Goal: To educate dog owners about the impact of their pet's waste on our regions water quality.

Status: This new program is looking to expand throughout the County in 2019. Volunteers supply Doggie Bags/Scoop Kits to shelters and talk to dog owners at shelter Open Houses, dog park events and Farmers' Markets

Join Us: As this program expands the team leader will reach out to volunteers via the Newsletter and email.

PET WASTE EDUCATION - VET CLINICS

Goal: To educate dog owners about the impact of their pet's waste on our regions water quality.

Status: We supply Doggie Bags/Scoop Kits to six vet clinics to hand out to their patients. Volunteers collate the kits, deliver them to their Vets quarterly. **Join Us:** New volunteers are recruited by the team leader in January and February.

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STEWARDSHIP



BEACH CLEAN-UP

Goal: Volunteers perform beach clean-ups monthly at Howarth Park, Picnic Point & Mission Beaches.

Status: In 2019, 63 volunteers collected over 800 pounds of trash during nine beach cleanups. Beach Clean-ups will continue through the winter with visits alternately between Howarth and picnic Point Parks.

Participate: Upcoming Beach Clean-Ups are publicized in our newsletter and via email.

RESEARCH & CITIZEN SCIENCE

BEACH PROGRAM

Goal: To monitor salt water quality at local beaches and keep beachgoers healthy.

Status: Volunteers collect water quality samples at Jetty Island and five South Snohomish County beaches—Howarth Park, Mukilteo Lighthouse, Picnic Point, Brackett's Landing, & Marina Beach. The samples are then delivered to the lab in the Snohomish Delta on the same day. **Join Us:** Training is typically in May for those who want to participate.

INTERTIDAL MONITORING

Goal: To provide land managers with data to assess changes over time and create a State of the Park annual report.

Status: Volunteers collect baseline biological data at several public beaches each summer to develop an understanding of how the sites can change over time. Field days are on weekdays during low-tides. It is a great opportunity to hone your identification skills and get experience using equipment. **Join Us:** Upcoming monitoring projects are publicized in our newsletter and via email.

MISSION BAY WATER TESTING

Goal: To provide water quality monitoring at Mission Beach in Tulalip.

Status: Water quality monitoring occurred every Tuesday from May to August. **Join Us:** Upcoming testing is publicized in our newsletter and via email. All new trainees and most veteran volunteers attended a practical field trip with some choosing to attend an optional short visit to the lab.

WRACK SURVEY - HOWARTH PARK BEACH

Goal: Study changes to the vegetation in the area that was restored by the Department of Ecology at Howarth Park Beach.

Status: Researchers from the University of Washington, State of Washington, and Snohomish County collected beach wrack data before the Howarth Park beach restoration and are now collecting the post-project data. With the data we can collect, the researchers will have a much better data set and their resulting conclusions will be much stronger.

Join Us: Upcoming studies are publicized in our newsletter and via email. Typically need a minimum of 4 volunteers and a maximum of 20

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BW SUPPORT

CALENDAR POSTINGS - ONLINE

Goal: A way we can share our great work with the community at large.

Status: When a BW Event is scheduled we forward the information via the Ebb Tide to our Team Leader who then makes sure the events are posted on local online community calendars. *Participate:* Contact our Team Leader when you have an event or know of a local online calendar.

FACEBOOK

Goal: A way to share photos from recent events and learn about upcoming events.

Status: Our Beach Watchers and Beach Naturalists share their favorite beach photos and events on our Facebook page.

Participate: Like us and share your photos and upcoming events.

MONTHLY BREAKFASTS

Goal: Provide a casual social setting for Beach Watchers & Naturalists to share our favorite beach stories.

Status: A group beach watchers and beach naturalists meet every month. *Join Us:* On the 2nd Wednesday of each month at Glacier Lanes in Everett, WA from 9:00 am to 10:30 am

NEWSLETTER - EBB TIDE

Goal: Distribute a calendar of events, circulate information about activities that support Puget Sound recovery and share the Beach Watchers/Naturalists vision of a healthy Salish Sea ecosystem.

Status: Published most months. Guidelines for contributors are available on request. *Participate:* We welcome calendar items, a nice photo, personal stories that share insight about being a Beach Watcher or Naturalist, reports about what's happening with our project teams and other articles of interest. **Submission deadline is the 5th day of each month for publication sometime between the 10th and 15th.** Please contact our Team Leader with your ideas.

OFFICE WORK PARTIES

Goal: To get big collating projects completed quickly as "Many hands make light work".

Status: In 2019 parties put together Crabber Education Kits, updated the BW brochure, folded new brochures, put together Pet Waste Kits, etc. *Join Us:* Upcoming Work Parties are publicized in our newsletter and through email most months of year we hold office work parties at our McCollum Park office.

SEMINAR SERIES - REFRESHER TRAINING

Goal: To refresh our knowledge and prepare for upcoming projects.

Status: Currently the Team Leader is reviewing past programs and reaching out to potential speakers.

Join Us: Check the Ebb Tide or website calendar for upcoming programs.