



Chico Salmon Park

Chico Salmon Park is a 4.5-acre Kitsap County park located in the lower reaches of the Chico Creek watershed, a 16-square mile area that supports natural populations of native salmonids including chum, coho, steelhead, and cutthroat trout. In 2007 the county acquired the former gas station and an old dump site as part of a watershed-wide restoration project. Since 2013 a group of volunteer stewards have transformed it into the public resource it is today.

Chico Salmon Park has two very special missions: to preserve and enhance this relatively small area of intact salmon habitat, and to educate our community about the value of this important natural resource. Each year, an average of approximately 40,000 salmonids travel upstream through the park in search of suitable spawning habitat. The park is one of the best places in the state for kids and families to come and view close up the life cycle of the salmon. If you visit the park in early November, it is not uncommon to see many actively spawning salmonids, primarily chum salmon, at any given time.

Chico Salmon Park has just recently reopened after a two-year closure to replace the old box culvert under Golf Club Hill Road. The culvert was replaced with a new bridge, which has helped restore the natural flow of the stream and remove a partial barrier to fish passage. Once rainfall restores full flow volumes to the creek this fall, it will be exciting to watch what happens to this newly restored area and see how the salmon respond.

<https://www.kitsapgov.com/parks/Pages/ChicoSalmonPark.aspx>