

## Welcome to the Hylebos Watershed Discovery Trail!

Here, you can relax near the headwaters of Hylebos Creek, tour one of Puget Sound's last remaining peat bogs, marvel at rare Sitka spruce trees, and spot salmon as they swim upstream from Commencement Bay. All this in a bustling urban corridor, just 25 minutes from the cities of Seattle and Tacoma!

The suggested stops are conveniently located close to Interstate 5 and SeaTac airport. Whether you're here for a short layover or a lifetime, these sites are worth a visit.



Funded in part by the City of Federal Way lodging tax fund

## HYLEBOS WETLANDS Discovery Trail Tour





## WHAT IS A WATERSHED?

A watershed is the area of land that drains into a body of water, such as a creek, river, lake or bay. In a healthy watershed, trees, plants and soils catch most of the rain that falls on them. When heavy rain falls in an urbanized watershed, much of it runs into stormwater drains. This can cause flooding and pollution downstream, impacting fish, birds, and people.

## WATERSHED RESTORATION

Even in urban areas, healthy forests can be very effective at absorbing rainwater. Riparian forests (forests along creeks and rivers) can help keep chemicals and debris that washes off of roads, sidewalks, parking lots and roofs from polluting a creek.

Wetlands are natural control systems that absorb excess water, helping to regulate flow, filter sediments and control flooding. Since they provide essential nutrients, they often host vibrant and abundant wildlife. Community groups, local governments and volunteers are working to restore the forests and wetlands along Hylebos Creek by bringing in native plants, raising salmon, reshaping parts of the streambed, and protecting natural features like bogs and ponds. You can help! To learn more, visit: [www.earthcorps.org/Hylebos.php](http://www.earthcorps.org/Hylebos.php)



### STOP 1

#### PANTHER LAKE

A great place to start your watershed discovery tour is in the wide open spaces and picturesque landscapes surrounding Panther Lake, near the headwaters of Hylebos Creek. The 1-mile recreational trail around the lake connects to the Bonneville Power Administration Trail and the West Campus Trail in Federal Way

**Location:** 500 SW Campus Drive, Federal Way, WA



### STOP 3

#### EAST HYLEBOS RAVINE

Stroll along the Milton Interurban Trail and experience the diverse beauty of the East Hylebos Ravine in Milton and Federal Way. The Ravine is one of the last remaining sections of the Hylebos Creek that has a significant buffer zone of wetlands and riparian forests to cool the stream and absorb stormwater from the surrounding houses and businesses. Cool streams are vital for salmon and other fish.

**Location:** 700 Kent Street, Milton WA



### STOP 2

#### WEST HYLEBOS WETLANDS PARK

This is one of the few remaining peat bogs in Puget Sound. Hidden throughout the 120 acre park is a staggering diversity of life; from the tiny — 27 species of moss, 37 species of lichen, 30 fungi, and 6 liverwort species — to the gigantic — cathedral-like Douglas firs, western hemlock, red cedars, and ancient Sitka spruce. You may spot rare native owls or hear the song of pacific chorus frogs.

**Location:** 411 South 348th Street, Federal Way, WA



### STOP 4

#### FIFE HYLEBOS NATURE AREA

A short walk on a gravel road brings you to viewing platforms and bridges where you can see salmon as they leave the saltwater of Puget Sound to migrate upstream (usually in October?). You can also get a good overview of one of the most dramatic active watershed restoration projects in the region.

**Location:** 6125 8th Street East, Fife WA