



Seattle
Public
Utilities

Public Field Programs

— CEDAR RIVER WATERSHED —

APRIL 2018 - MARCH 2019



Seattle Public Utilities

CENTER & EXHIBIT HOURS

April – October
Tuesday – Sunday | 10AM to 5PM

November – March
Tuesday – Sunday | 10AM to 4PM

Closed Mondays & City Holidays

RATTLESNAKE LAKE HOURS

The Rattlesnake Lake Recreation Area is open 6am to dusk all year. Day-use only.

NEWSLETTER

Read stories you won't find anywhere else. Published 7 times each year. Sign-up here: www.seattle.gov/util/crwec



CEDAR RIVER WATERSHED EDUCATION CENTER

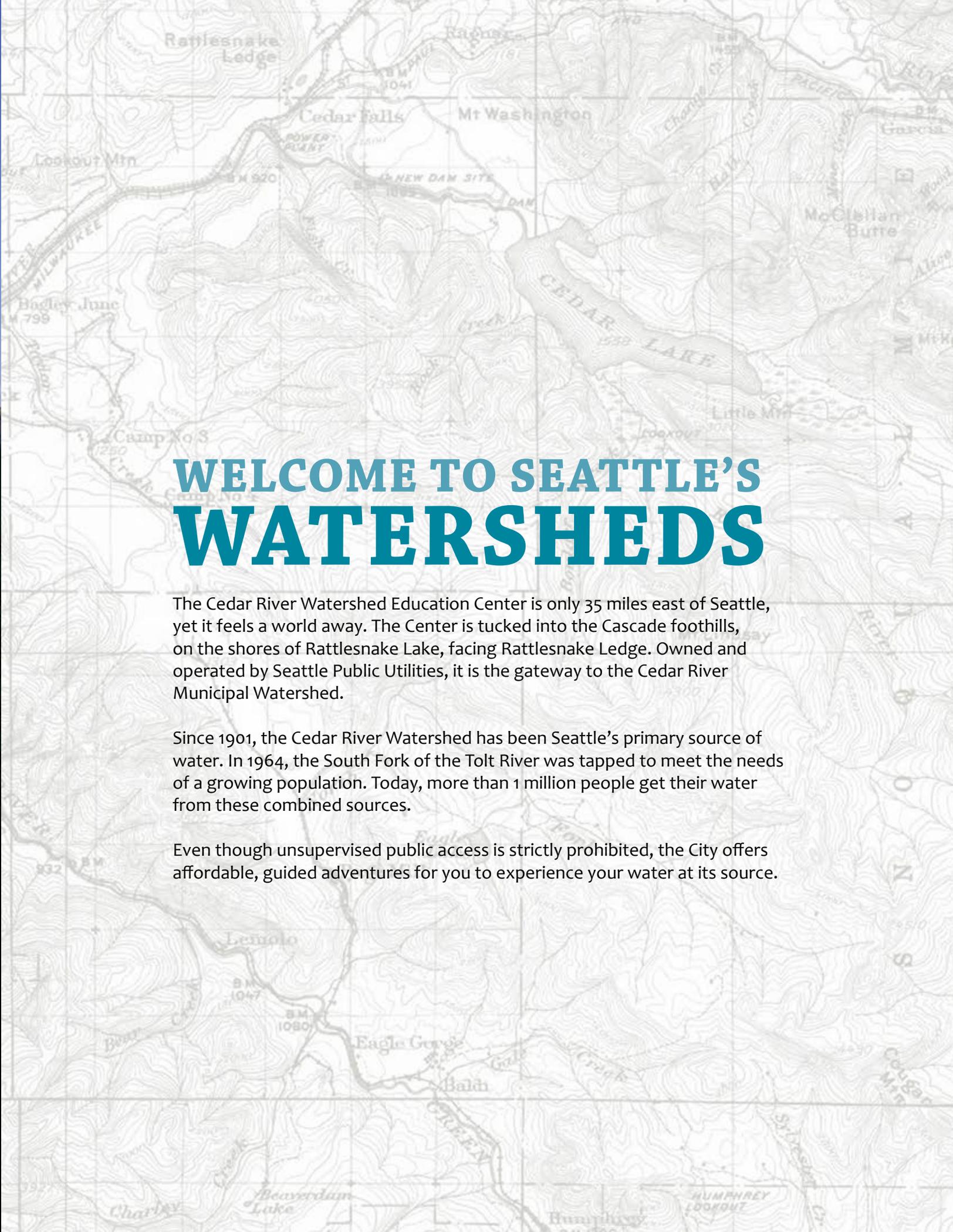
HERITAGE LIBRARY HOURS

Open 12-4 some Saturdays and Sundays, also by appointment. Call ahead to plan your visit.

CONTACT US

17905 Cedar Falls Rd SE
North Bend, WA 98045

206.733.9421 | 425.831.6780
crwprograms@seattle.gov



WELCOME TO SEATTLE'S WATERSHEDS

The Cedar River Watershed Education Center is only 35 miles east of Seattle, yet it feels a world away. The Center is tucked into the Cascade foothills, on the shores of Rattlesnake Lake, facing Rattlesnake Ledge. Owned and operated by Seattle Public Utilities, it is the gateway to the Cedar River Municipal Watershed.

Since 1901, the Cedar River Watershed has been Seattle's primary source of water. In 1964, the South Fork of the Tolt River was tapped to meet the needs of a growing population. Today, more than 1 million people get their water from these combined sources.

Even though unsupervised public access is strictly prohibited, the City offers affordable, guided adventures for you to experience your water at its source.



THE CENTER

The Cedar River Watershed Education Center is located along the shores of Rattlesnake Lake. Built in 2001, its architecture reflects the history of the area and is a model of sustainability — from sod roofs to recycled rubber flooring. Sweeping views of Rattlesnake Ledge can be seen from the observation decks, while native plants flourish in the unique Rain Drum Courtyard and in the Center’s landscaping.

The Welcome Room creates a relaxing and comfortable atmosphere to browse books, play, or rest after a long hike. At the front desk, staff are available to answer questions.

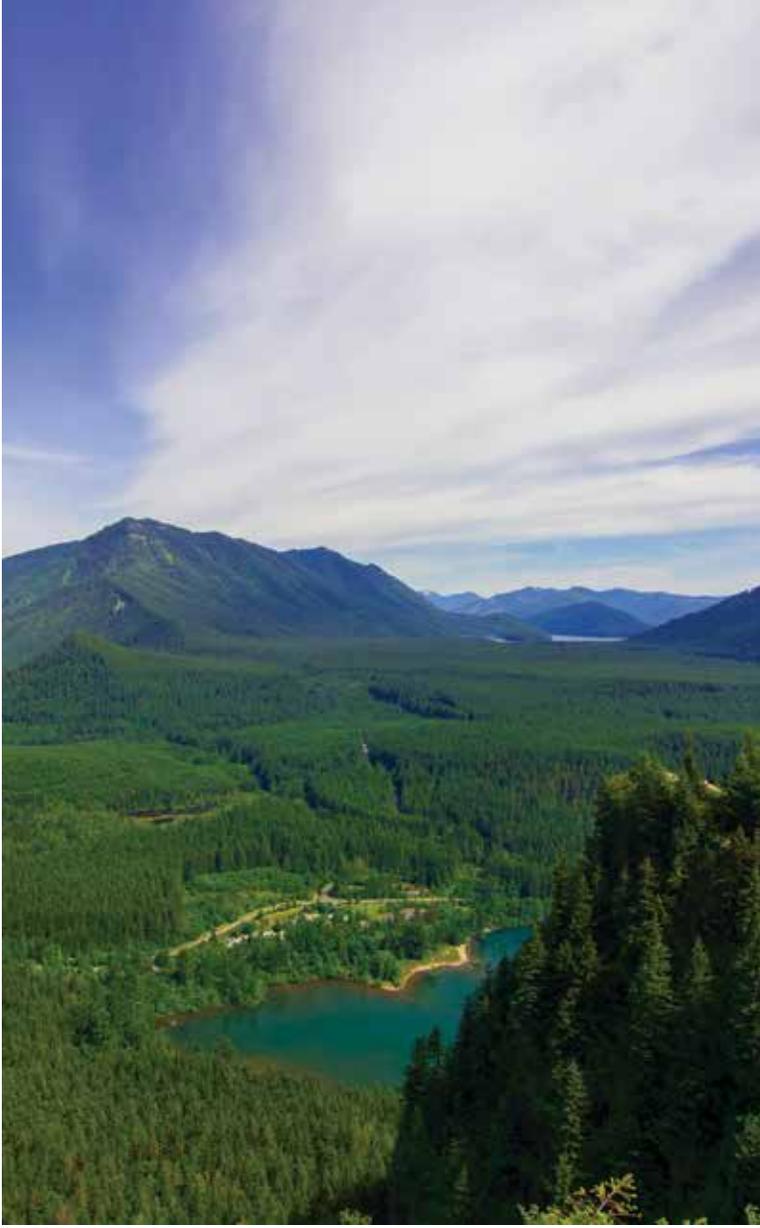
The free, award-winning Water is Magic Exhibits create a joyful learning opportunity. Experience the water cycle like never before, test your skill at managing reservoir levels, and learn about the natural and cultural history of the Cedar River Watershed.

On designated days, you can delve deep into watershed history in the Heritage Library.

The Center’s beautiful setting, mountain views, and inspirational landscape make it a great place for meetings, retreats, weddings, parties, and other events. Rent up to three different spaces for your next get-together. Visit our website for details.



The Cedar River Watershed Education Center connects people to the source of Seattle’s drinking water and its unique cultural and natural history, inspiring confidence, stewardship, and sustainability.



RECREATION

Rattlesnake Lake Recreation Area is owned and managed by Seattle Public Utilities. It includes Rattlesnake Ledge, a distinct rock formation chiseled by ice and time, and Rattlesnake Lake, a sparkling turquoise oasis. Each year thousands of people enjoy hiking, swimming, and picnicking in this park setting. The recreation area has pit toilets but no running water.

A popular 2-mile trail leads to a stunning view at the top of Rattlesnake Ledge. Below, the waters of Rattlesnake Lake hide the secrets of Moncton, a town accidentally flooded in 1915. A scenic 1-mile paved trail connects Rattlesnake Lake Recreation Area to the Education Center. Along the way, signs interpret the history and wildlife of the area.



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SIGNATURE TOURS



THE WATERSHED TOUR

This 2.5-hour bus tour includes driving through the historic townsite of Cedar Falls, walking across the Masonry Dam, seeing Chester Morse Lake, and experiencing Cedar Falls Waterfall. Along the way, your guide will share stories and pictures. Ability to walk up to 1/4 mile across uneven surfaces is necessary on this tour.

DATES: Saturdays and Sundays, July 14 through September 2

TIME: 10:00 to 12:30

AGES: Adults, youth ages 10+

COST: \$10 adults; \$5 youth & seniors (55+)



FAMILY WATERSHED TOUR

This 1-hour bus tour is popular with multi-generational families and geared toward curious minds with short attention spans. It includes a drive through the historic Cedar Falls townsite and a visit to Cedar Falls Waterfall.

DATES: Saturdays and Sundays, July 14 through September 2

TIME: 2:00 to 3:00

AGES: All Ages

COST: \$5 per seat



WATERSHED EXHIBIT EXPERIENCE

Flow through the water cycle and journey through habitats and history in the Water is Magic Exhibits. Great for groups with young kids or limited mobility. Guided introductions available. Contact us for details and availability. FREE.

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GROUP WATERSHED TOUR

Get a unique taste of the watershed with this tailor-made tour for organized groups of 9 or more.

DATES: Contact us for availability

AGES: Adults, youth ages 10+; organized groups only

COST: \$5 per person; free for government and educational institutions

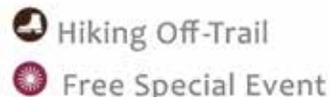


FIELD TRIPS

Free 4th and 5th grade class field trips are offered in the spring and fall. Due to their popularity, programs are awarded through a lottery. Registration begins May 1st. Visit our website for details.



SYMBOLS >



WATERSHED MANAGEMENT

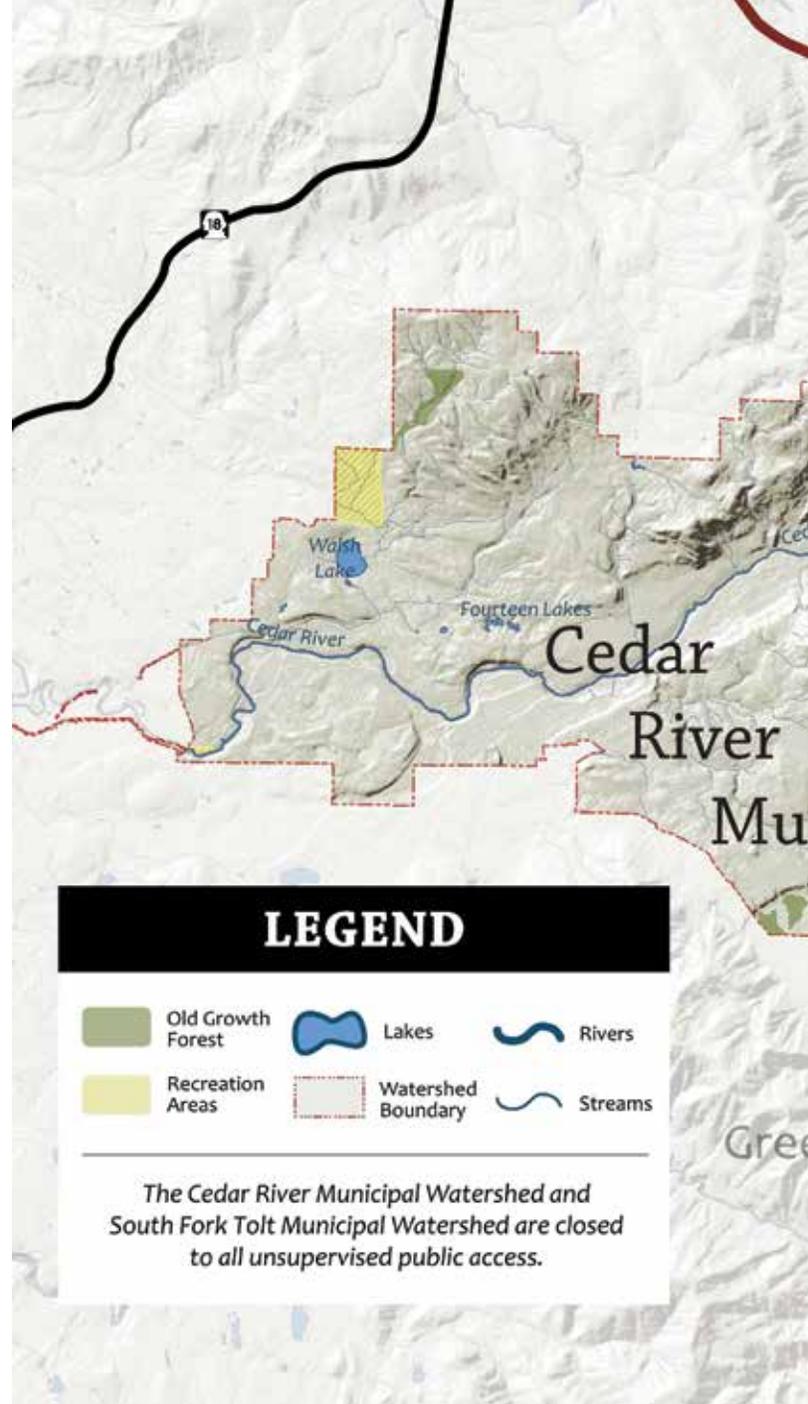
Seattle Public Utilities' Watershed Management Division manages over 100,000 acres of forested land in the Central Cascades. This land, comprised of the Cedar River and South Fork Tolt River Municipal Watersheds, is the source of clean, clear, reliable drinking water for over 1.4 million people. Together, these two watersheds provide over 100 million gallons of water a day to homes throughout King County.

The watersheds are complex natural systems interwoven with human elements, including roads, culverts, bridges, multi-aged forests, fish and wildlife, dams, and power plants. They are managed under a variety of laws, ordinances, and agreements, including the Safe Drinking Water Act, Secondary Use Ordinance, Habitat Conservation Plan, and Watershed Management Plans.

The staff of the Watershed Management Division protect the watershed boundaries, monitor weather conditions, and maintain roads, bridges, and facilities. They also manage the forest ecosystem, monitor fish and wildlife species, control invasive plants, and provide education opportunities to ensure the safety and integrity of the land and water. These community-centered efforts help keep Seattle the best place to live.



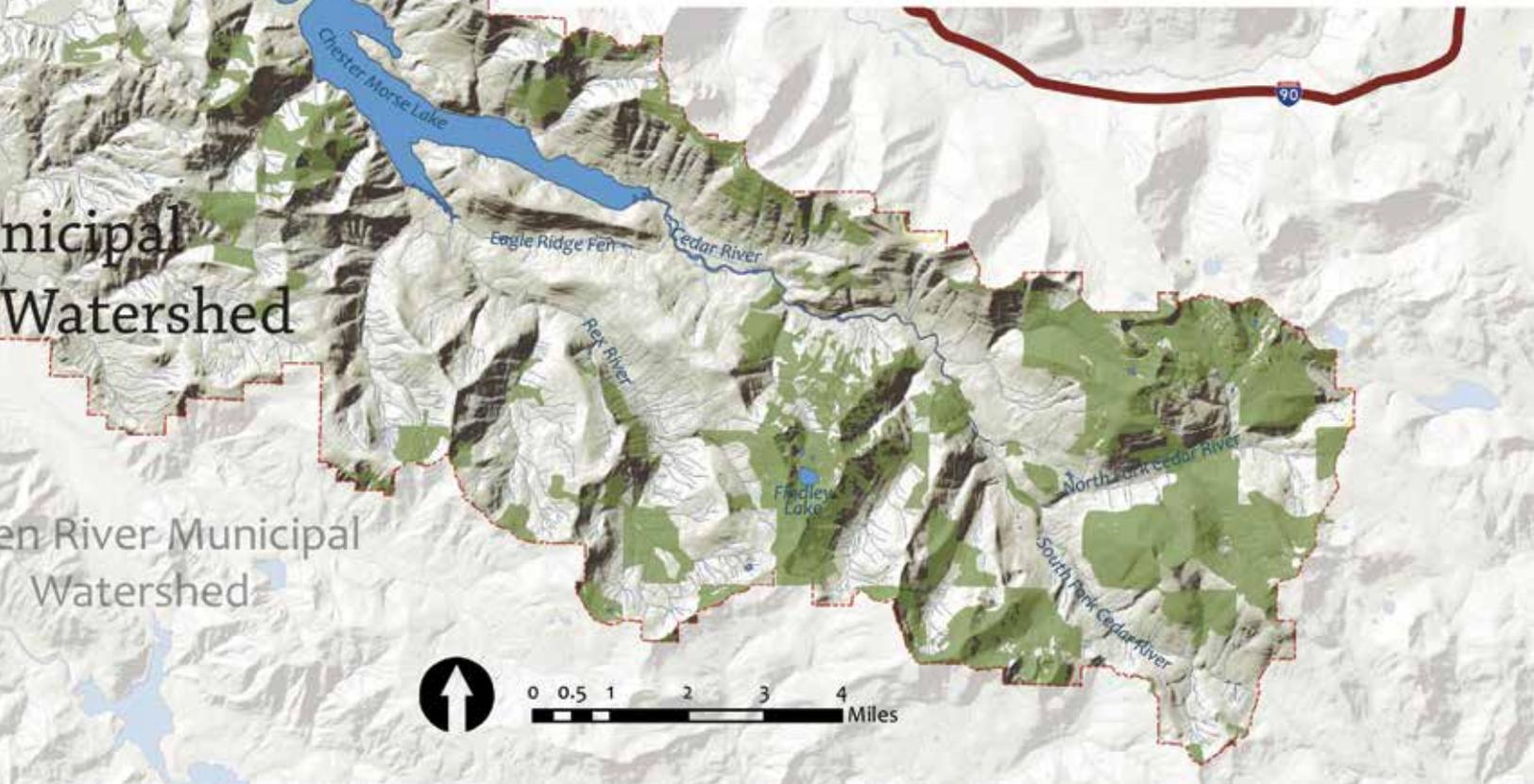
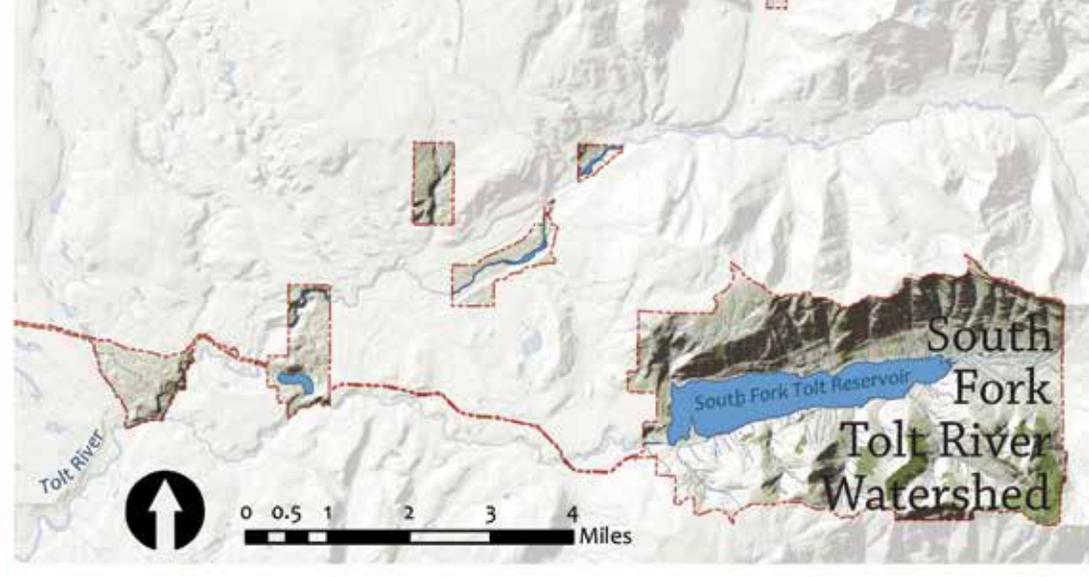
Surface water from snow and rain is the source of drinking water from the Cedar and South Fork Tolt watersheds.



Protection staff patrol the watersheds, monitor remote cameras, maintain gates, and assist in emergencies 7 days a week, 365 days a year.



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Operations staff maintain roads, bridges, culverts, and public recreation areas.



Natural Resources staff restore habitat, monitor species, and remove invasive plants.



Public and Cultural Programs staff lead programs and preserve history.

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CULTURAL HISTORY



LOOKOUTS & LOGGING TOWNS

Step back in time to an era when logging was king. Visit sites of bygone fire lookouts, logging camps, and lumber mills with Seattle Public Utilities educator Pierre LaBarge. Discover how these historic operations impacted watershed management, leading to the protection of our regional water supply. Participants must be able to hike 1-2 miles of moderately strenuous, rough terrain on and off trail.

DATES: Sunday, April 15

TIME: 9:00-1:00

AGES: Adults, youth ages 12+

COST: \$15



CONDUCTING THE RAIN DRUM SYMPHONY

This class allows musicians, composers, and electronics enthusiasts an opportunity to compose songs for Dan Corson's "Rain Drum Courtyard" at the Education Center. Day one will familiarize students with the art installation's method of programming in MIDI. Day two will focus on playing students' compositions while comparing and contrasting styles and methods.

DATES: Saturday and Sunday, June 23 and June 24

TIME: 6/23: 10:00 to 2:00
6/24: 12:00 to 4:00

AGES: Adults, youth ages 14+

COST: \$25



NW TIMBER COMMUNITY SONGS & STORIES

This Father's Day, enjoy local music traditions performed by Snoqualmie Valley artist, Bob Antone, and guests. Connect to the past through songs about Pacific Northwest history and industry: old-time logging, railroad folklore, and maybe even tales of Bigfoot and other strange creatures of the Northwest woods.

DATES: Sunday, June 17

TIME: 2:30 to 4:00

AGES: All Ages

COST: Free



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RAILROAD HISTORY TREASURE TOUR

Take a trip back in time with Clay Antieau, Seattle Public Utilities scientist and watershed rail historian. This tour seeks out some of the remaining structures, grades, and legacies created when railroads were king. Participants must be able to hike about 1 mile over uneven terrain.

DATES: Saturday, June 2 or June 16

TIME: 9:00 to 2:00

AGES: Adults, youth ages 10+

COST: \$15



TWILIGHT TOWN TOUR: TAYLOR

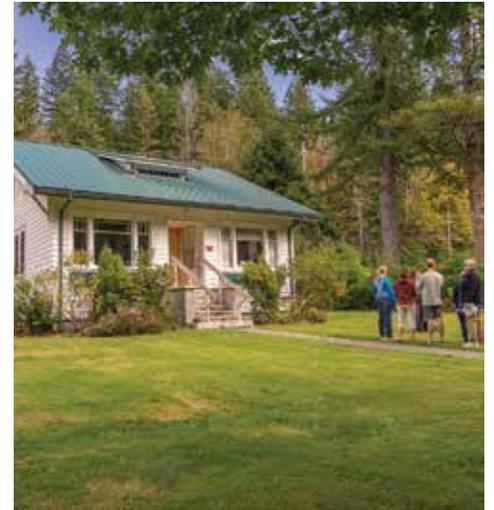
Delve into the rich history of Taylor, a town that now lies hidden beneath the forest in the Cedar River Municipal Watershed. Taylor was world-famous for its clay products. A Seattle Public Utilities naturalist will guide you on this walking tour, revealing some of the stories that made Taylor so special. Walking on uneven terrain is required. *Please Note: Directions to the meeting location in Maple Valley will be given upon registration.*

DATES: Saturday, September 15 or September 29

TIME: 1:00 to 3:00

AGES: Adults, youth ages 10+

COST: \$10



TWILIGHT TOWN TOUR: CEDAR FALLS

Immerse yourself in the proud heritage that first brought municipal power to the people of Seattle. Founded in 1901, the City-owned town was a vibrant community for decades. See some of the original homes and streetlights that still remain. A Seattle Public Utilities naturalist will guide you on this walking tour where you will hear stories of those who lived and worked in Cedar Falls.

DATES: Sunday, September 16 or Saturday, September 22

TIME: 1:00 to 3:00

AGES: Adults, youth ages 10+

COST: \$10



SYMBOLS >

Bus Tour
 Van Tour

Watershed-based
 Center-based

Hiking Off-Trail
 Free Special Event

Adults
 Families

NATURAL HISTORY



LICHENS: MYSTERIOUS FUNGI OF THE FOREST

Join Professor Katherine Glew, PhD, to learn about the fascinating lichens of the forest. After a short overview of lichens in the classroom, venture into the watershed to find them. The last part of the day will be spent identifying and studying specimens collected in the field.

DATES: Sunday, May 6

TIME: 10:00 to 3:00

AGES: Adults

COST: \$20



QUIET WATER: WETLANDS OF THE WATERSHED

Journey into the watershed with Clay Antieau, Seattle Public Utilities scientist and local authority on Northwest native plants. Highlights of the day include Eagle Ridge Meadow, a 40-acre fen; 14 Lakes, a strange “kettle” wetland; and a forested bog. Participants must be able to hike 2 - 3 miles of moderate to strenuous intensity over rough terrain on and off trail.

DATES: Saturday, May 19

TIME: 9:00 to 4:00

AGES: Adults, youth ages 15+

COST: \$15



SPRING COMES TO THE WATERSHED

As the snow melts and weather warms, experience spring unfold with Seattle Public Utilities ecologist Rolf Gersonde, PhD. Explore the seasonal life cycle of plants and animals, learn what triggers plants to leaf out, identify iconic species of the Western Cascade Mountains, and discover how climate affects the arrival of spring.

DATES: Saturday, June 9

TIME: 9:00-4:00

AGES: Adults

COST: \$15



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AMONG ANCIENTS: OLD GROWTH FORESTS

Enjoy a day in old growth forests with Clay Antieau, Seattle Public Utilities scientist and local authority on Northwest native plants. Hikes will include trips into some of the best lowland old growth, including the Lost Creek old growth and the ancient forests of Findley Lake. Participants must be able to hike 2 - 3 miles of moderate to strenuous intensity over rough terrain on and off trail.

DATES: Saturday, August 4 or August 18

TIME: 9:00 to 4:00

AGES: Adults, youth ages 15+

COST: \$15



ADVENTURES IN FOREST ECOLOGY

Spend the day with Seattle Public Utilities ecologists Rolf Gersonde, PhD, and Bill Richards. Discover the forests' hidden connections. Learn how we restore biodiversity and habitat in the young forests of the watershed. Explore differences in wildlife habitat and other ecosystem qualities between young and old forests in the Rex Basin. Participants must be able to hike 2 - 3 miles of moderate to strenuous intensity over rough terrain on and off trail.

DATES: Saturday, September 8

TIME: 9:00 to 4:00

AGES: Adults

COST: \$15



SYMBOLS >

Bus Tour
 Van Tour

Watershed-based
 Center-based

Hiking Off-Trail
 Free Special Event

Adults
 Families

FAMILY FRIENDLY



NONTOXIC PRINTMAKING

Stop by for a free, drop-in printmaking workshop with artist Eunice Kim. Visitors will be able to create unique artwork using a portable printing press and a new series of art plates Eunice has designed, celebrating the Cedar River Watershed. Open house event; no registration needed. This program is made possible in part by a grant from 4Culture.

DATES: Saturdays and Sundays, April 21, 22, 28, or 29

TIME: 11:30 to 3:30

AGES: All Ages

COST: Free



MOTHER'S DAY

This relaxing day celebrates all the mothers in our lives, as well as in the watershed. Bring the entire family to enjoy tea, coffee, and snacks while strolling the grounds of the Education Center and savoring the spectacular views of Rattlesnake Ledge. Discover fun tidbits about moms – both human and wild – who have raised their families in the watershed.

DATES: Sunday, May 13

TIME: 10:00 to 3:00

AGES: All Ages

COST: Free



KNEE HIGH NATURALISTS

Take a morning stroll from the Center along Rattlesnake Lake with a naturalist to discover rocks, birds, plants, and things. Paced for short legs and shorter attention spans, this program will explore shapes and colors found in nature. Up to two kids may be registered per adult.

DATES: Wednesday, August 1 or August 22

TIME: 9:30 to 10:30

AGES: 18-36 months (with an adult)

COST: \$5 per child



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JUNIOR NATURALISTS

Hey kids, bring an adult to explore nature as a naturalist! We will listen like deer, rustle like raccoons, and bounce like bobcats. Be ready to walk 1.5 miles and dress for the weather as we discover signs of animals on land and in water.

DATES: Thursday, August 9 or 16

TIME: 9:30 to 11:30

AGES: 4 - 10 years (with an adult)

COST: \$5 per child



CEDAR RIVER SALMON JOURNEY

See spawning salmon along the Cedar River this fall. At Landsburg, learn how some salmon are allowed to enter our drinking water. This is a rare opportunity you don't want to miss! *Please Note: All viewing sites are along the Cedar River in the Renton and Maple Valley area.*

DATES: Weekends in October

TIME: 11:00 to 4:00

AGES: All Ages

COST: Free



WONDERING ABOUT WILDLIFE

Grab your family and friends for a day of wild delight, both inside and outside, at the Center. This free, hands-on event is packed with wildlife activities that will interest all ages. With so much to experience, bring a lunch and stay for the whole day. Open house event; no registration needed.

DATES: Thursday, February 21, 2019

TIME: 10:00 to 3:00

AGES: All Ages

COST: Free



2019 Winter Weekend Programs Free naturalist-led activities. Programs are available most Saturdays and Sundays, January through March 2019. Registration begins December 1, 2018.

SYMBOLS >



Bus Tour



Van Tour



Watershed-based



Center-based



Hiking Off-Trail



Free Special Event



Adults



Families



REGISTRATION & PREPARATION

PLAN AHEAD Registration begins on April 1 (for all programs except 2019 Winter Weekends). Space is limited, so make your reservations early.

COST Prices vary depending on the program. Payment is due in full prior to the program and can be paid online, in person, or by mail. Cash, check, and credit cards are accepted.

CANCELLATIONS To receive a refund or credit, cancellations must be made at least two weeks prior to the program.

BE PREPARED Many programs happen in remote areas of the watershed, far from indoor facilities. You may encounter cold temperatures, rain, mud, insects, heat, and other inclement conditions.

Please come equipped with food (snack/lunch), water, appropriate footwear (hiking/waterproof), rain gear, and any other provisions (such as hiking poles) needed for you to stay warm, dry, and comfortable for the duration of the program.

KNOW YOUR LIMITS For longer trips, attendees need to be in good physical condition and prepared for a day outside that includes hikes of moderate to strenuous intensity.



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