

Black Lake Meadows Preserve

Your Mission: To discover evidence of beaver! Find evidence of gnawed trees, deep ponded water, tracks, or a beaver slide-trail. Take a photo of your evidence and send to us! streamteam@ci.lacey.wa.us

Black Lake Meadows Reserve is part of the stormwater facility associated with Yauger Park. It also provides homes and habitat for many animals.

From the parking lot follow the road loop to solve your mission.

Keep a look out for dead trees or snags. Snags provide homes for many animals; insects, birds, salamanders, squirrels and even raccoons and porcupines.

Have you seen any nurse logs or stumps?

Nurse trees or nurse stumps provide nurseries for seeds to grow plants and trees. Can you find any with little trees or huckleberry bushes growing from a nurse stump? They are also very important as they provide homes for small animals, such as salamanders!

What has five digits like a human hand, flies at night eating insects, looks like a mouse, but is not? A bat! Can you find the manmade bat houses? They are tucked into the trees along the trail edge. Notice how close the chambers are. They are only ½" wide! Native bats may look big when they spread their wings but are very small, about the size of an adult person's thumb and weigh about 4 grams – as much as a nickel!

Can you find evidence of a wetland? Look for plants that like to be wet.

Much of the area has native woody plants such as spirea as well as willow trees. Both of these plants grow where there is a lot of seasonal standing water.

Why are wetlands important?

Wetlands provide habitat for thousands of species of water and land plants and animals. They also provide flood control, filter and clean water and store water in the ground that provides us with drinking water and our streams with water. Wetlands are also the world's best ecosystems for capturing and storing carbon from CO₂.

Migratory birds live here! Have you seen any song birds?

These willow habitats are essential for migratory birds and this trail is a well known spot for birding.

Visit ebird (<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L526876>) and see if you can find any of the birds on the list!

Follow your nose to water! Can you detect any beaver use -flooded water, slippery trails or gnawed trees?

Beavers play a very important role in maintaining a healthy ecosystem and creating wetlands. Beavers are such incredible engineers that they are being used to restore streams and rivers.

Can you find an area where trees have been planted to restore habitat?

Trees along streams and wetlands are important as habitat for wildlife. Their shade keeps the water cool for salmon and their roots help stabilize stream banks, reducing erosion.

Did you know that the Reserve cleans stormwater from the streets of west Olympia? The wetlands of Black Lake Meadows is part of the Yauger Park stormwater treatment facility cleaning stormwater before it reaches the stream and Puget Sound.