

Brewery Park at Tumwater Falls

☐ Your Mission: Seek out the fish ladders along the trail and take a photo of one and send it to us!

streamteam@ci.lacey.wa.us In the 1950s, juvenile salmon from the Green River hatchery were introduced into the Deschutes River. Concrete fish ladders were then built to help returning adults navigate the falls on their return trip. Today the Deschutes River Chinook are part of a "artificial salmon run" hatchery program.

☐ From the parking lot find the egg taking facility and the long narrow raceway ponds.

In the fall, the eggs of the returning Chinook salmon are taken, fertilized and sent to a nearby hatchery to grow. Many of these juvenile salmon when released make their way to Alaska!

☐ Smoltification is a physical bodily changing process that all salmon go through to be able to adapt to salt water.

Have you seen any juvenile salmon with silver scales? If so, they are ready to go to the ocean!

☐ Find the new viewing windows, down the steps and to your right. Did you see any Chinook salmon?

Salmon can be seen as they migrate in September-October.

☐ Trees along the river: Trees and shrubs along the river banks are very important and help keep the river cool for salmon.

Their roots also help slow down the force of the water and help reduce erosion.

☐ Find the grated walkway. What is below? This is the upper fish ladder!

The fish ladder was built to provide passage around the steep falls. A series of "steps" were added so that adult salmon can easily swim and leap up and over the ladder to reach their destination.

☐ Find the bridge over the middle falls. Cross the bridge and turn left to continue the loop trail along the Deschutes River.

In September-October this is a great place to watch salmon trying to leap up the waterfall before finding the fish ladder.

☐ Let's find the lower fish ladder! Turn right and continue down the steps.

Beware, they may be slippery!

Here you may see adult salmon trying to spawn in the river gravels below the falls during September-October. See how many salmon you count coming back to spawn.

☐ Can you see Capitol Lake? This freshwater lake was formed when the 5th Avenue dam was built in the early 1900's. At the far end of the lake, the water spills into the saltwater of Budd Inlet. At the 5th Ave dam there is a small fish ladder that is always open to allow fish to migrate from the inlet into Capitol Lake.

☐ Restoration: Can you find where native plants have been replanted? What wildlife have you seen? Ivy has been removed from the steep banks along the park and native plants replanted as habitat for wildlife.