



Crystal Springs Creek Walking Tour

Plant & Wildlife Checklist

How many plants can you identify on your walk today?

Stop. Look. Listen. Do you see signs of wildlife?

Freshwater mussels are the most endangered wildlife in North America. Crystal Springs Creek is home to thousands of native Floater mussels.

Plants

In addition to the beautiful ornamental plants to be seen in the Rhododendron Garden and elsewhere, numerous native plants line the banks of Crystal Springs Creek. The following are among the most common:

- Sword Fern
- Western Red Cedar
- Douglas Fir
- Skunk Cabbage
- Western Trillium
- Pacific Willow
- Red Alder
- Oregon Grape
- Pacific Bleeding Heart
- Douglas Spirea
- Red-osier Dogwood
- Oregon Ash
- Common Snowberry
- Salmonberry



Salmon Life Cycle

A healthy creek provides the habitat that salmon need to thrive: shade, cold water, good water quality, clean spawning gravels, food, and large wood and boulders in the creek. As you walk along the creek, look for signs of a healthy watershed.

Four members of the salmon family (salmonids) and Pacific lamprey spend part of their life cycle in Crystal Springs Creek: Steelhead and Cutthroat trout, Coho and Chinook salmon. Of these, only Cutthroat spend their entire lives in freshwater, while the other three salmonids and Pacific lamprey migrate to the Pacific Ocean before returning to their original spawning grounds. Here is an overview of the salmonid lifecycle:

1. Sac-Fry develop from eggs laid in stream gravel, then transform into fry and begin to feed in sheltered areas.

2. Fry become parrs, which inhabit freshwater then migrate downstream to estuaries.

3. Parrs lose their distinctive markings and grow into **smolts**, which migrate towards estuaries as they adapt to salt water.

4. Adults inhabit the Pacific Ocean for 2-6 years, then begin migrating home to fresh water.

5. Spawning adults develop distinctive coloration and features as they return to spawning areas, lay eggs, and die.



Crystal Springs Partnership
The Crystal Springs Partnership is a group of neighbors, agency partners, and organizations who believe that Crystal Springs Creek is an extraordinary urban waterway. The Partnership's mission is to re-establish and maintain healthy native salmon runs in Crystal Springs Creek and restoration.

BE A STEWARD IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

- Adopt a park, a tree, or a green street
- Manage stormwater on your site
- Attend a Naturescaping or Rain Garden workshop
- Turn your backyard into wildlife habitat
- Plant native plants and remove invasive ones
- Reduce pesticide and chemical use on your property

We are in a cooperative relationship with the Johnson Creek Watershed Council.

www.jcwc.org



Visit our website to learn about the creek, sign up for our mailing list or make a donation.
www.crystalspringspdx.org/
Photo credits: Karl Lee
Illustrations: Patrick Norton



CONNECT + PROTECT + RESTORE

Experience Crystal Springs Creek

Along Crystal Springs Creek there is wildlife—nearly 100 species of birds, scores of mammals, countless native plants, and, most remarkably, increasing salmon population—and there is human life, with homes, businesses, schools, a golf course, transit, parks, and much more.

As you follow this walking tour, think about what you see, hear, smell, and feel. Consider where you are and what a rare opportunity it is to explore this diverse environment in the middle of Portland. This is the Crystal Springs experience!

This walking tour is about experiencing Crystal Springs Creek—perhaps Portland's most enchanting waterway. While less than three miles long, Crystal Springs Creek is a striking example of how a healthy urban creek can be a prominent feature of a vibrant community.

Crystal Springs Creek is a unique natural resource. Its spring-fed waters are cool, clean, and consistent year-round. Its uppermost origins in Reed Canyon reveal a pristine environment in the heart of a major city. The confluence is at Johnson Creek Park, where the clear waters of Crystal Springs contrast with the more turbid Johnson Creek.



Birds

There are nearly 100 bird species present in the watershed. Look for these common birds:

- Bald Eagle
- Canada Goose
- Mallard
- Wood Duck
- Great Blue Heron
- Osprey
- Anna's Hummingbird
- Belted Kingfisher
- Downy Woodpecker
- Northern Flicker
- Steller's Jay
- Barn Swallow
- Black-capped Chickadee
- Cedar Waxwing
- Yellow-rumped Warbler
- Spotted Towhee
- Song Sparrow
- Dark-eyed Junco
- Red-winged Blackbird

Other Wildlife (* introduced)

- Black-tailed Deer
- Townsend's Mole
- Bats (several species)
- American Beaver
- Nutria*
- Common Muskrat
- Eastern Fox Squirrel*
- Raccoon
- Coyote
- Mink
- River Otter
- Striped Skunk
- Northwestern Salamander
- Long-toed Salamander
- Red Legged Frog
- Pacific Tree Frog
- Northwestern Garter Snake
- Floater Mussels
- Corbicula clams*
- Signal Crayfish
- Western Painted Turtle
- Western Swallowtail Butterfly