

## **Salmon Stewards/Salmon Stations Carkeek Park October/November/December 2019**

### **Description**

---

#### **Salmon Stewards**

Annually, community members are recruited, trained, and organized to be at Carkeek Park every weekend for five weeks in the Fall. They talk to visitors who come to see the salmon return to Piper's and Venema Creeks. They talk about Pacific salmon and they also talk about storm drains, watersheds, surface water run-off, our impact on these systems and how that all effects salmon.

They have 6 hours of training and are expected to commit to at least two weekend days out of the 11 days of salmon stewards.



#### **Salmon Stations**

For five weekends in November and the beginning of December, volunteer salmon stewards roam the length of Piper's Creek in Carkeek Park. Salmon stewards answer questions and facilitate discovery in face-to-face encounters with those who come to witness the annual chum salmon run in the creek.

While engaging park visitors through the excitement of viewing salmon, trained salmon stewards talk with folks about watersheds and storm drains and surface water run-off. Through discussion and education, visitors discover the impact their actions have on the watershed and ultimately the survival of the salmon, the health of Puget Sound and the connection to our health and the health of our community. It is a small gesture – the salmon station – that can have a large impact on the Puget Sound region and its inhabitants.

Salmon stations have been happening at Carkeek Park since 1990. It is a long-standing partnership between Seattle Public Utilities and Seattle Parks and Recreation.

## **Participation Metrics**

---

### **Salmon Stewards**

- 32 people were trained in 2019. Four of them were children and they volunteered with their parent.
- All salmon stewards combined gave 355 hours of service.
- 20 salmon stewards were returning from previous years of service.

### **Salmon Stations**

- 4081 park visitors were contacted by salmon stewards
- There is no data about where these folks are from.

## **Impact**

---

### **Salmon Stewards**

Email received from first time salmon steward. She brought two of her children to the 6-hour training.

“Wow.

Just wow.

We learned SO much on Saturday... And all of this very good follow up? You guys rock.

I so appreciate you making space for Indigo and Zuma to participate in this program. I quizzed them on our drive home and they were stumbling all over each other's replies the whole way.

Saturday was a great bonding experience for us and we feel so blessed to be a part of this remarkable program... Everything from salmon love to how to protect our waterways AND implicit bias to boot! This is really reinforcing some very precious things that they've already received in their classrooms. Thanks so much for helping to highlight these things in a different context for them.

I could go on and on... But I'm already over time. :)

Blessings to you both. Thank you for your contribution to our broad community!

~Annthea”

