

BRIGHTWATER EXPLORER JOURNAL

A guided exploration of the
Brightwater Education Center

ISLANDWOOD™



King County

Department of Natural Resources and Parks
Wastewater Treatment Division

Thank you for exploring Brightwater Education Center with us!

We hope that you enjoy your time hiking the trails, investigating the ponds, and learning more about what makes Brightwater such a fun place to explore.

Before you head out, here are some quick safety tips to keep in mind:

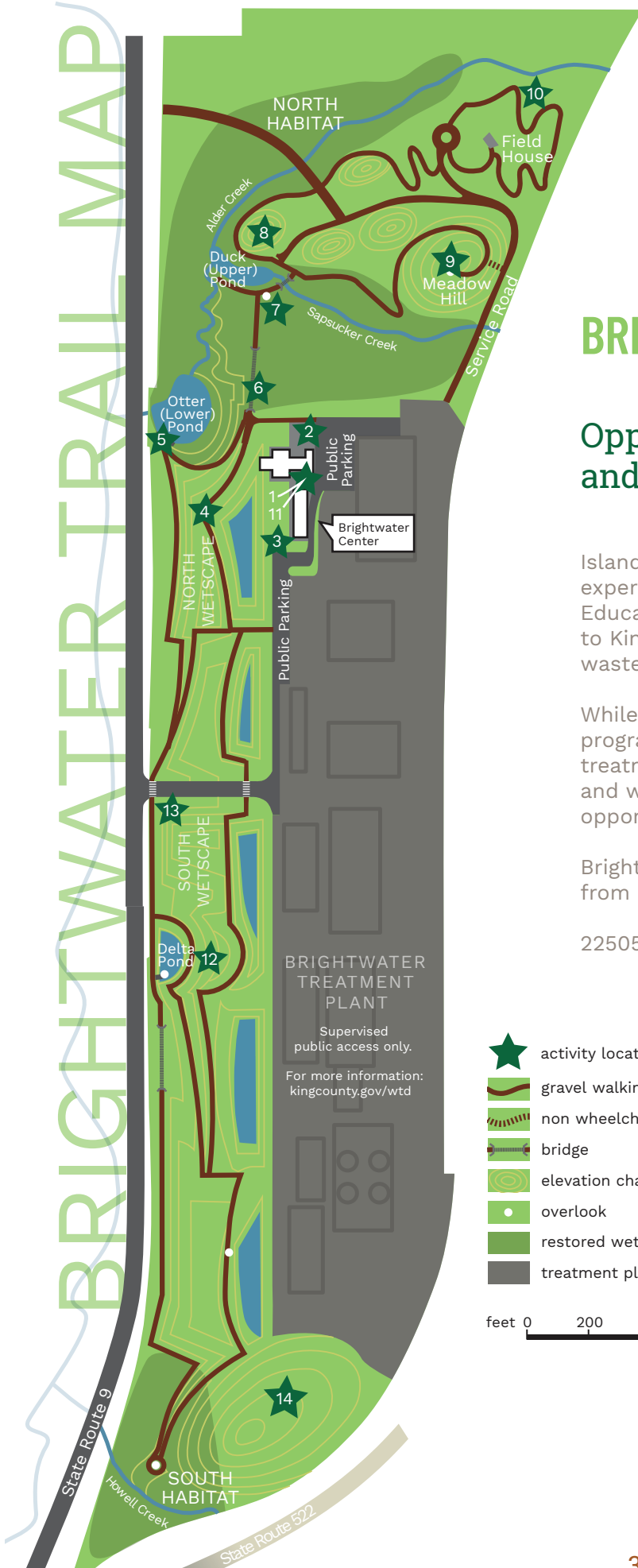
- Please practice social distancing between groups when on the trail.
- Mask use is encouraged on the trails, even if no one else is around.
- These are urban ponds and streams. Please stay out of the water!
- Pedestrians only please. No bikes, skateboards, or motorized vehicles are allowed on the trails.
- The Education Center is closed until further notice. This includes the indoor bathrooms and water fountains.
- The portable toilet to the north of the education center is available to use.
- Watch out for uneven surfaces and slippery ground in the rain!

Stay safe and have fun!

HELPFUL MATERIALS

SOME OF THESE ITEMS WILL BE HELPFUL FOR SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES, AND OTHERS ARE RECOMMENDED FOR GENERAL EXPLORING. IF YOU DON'T HAVE THESE ITEMS, DON'T WORRY! THERE IS PLENTY TO EXPLORE WITHOUT USING ANY MATERIALS.

- A printed copy of this journal, or a device to access it online
- A hard surface to write on, such as a clipboard or book
- Pencils or pens
- A small net
- A small plastic bowl or other shallow container
- A sponge
- A magnifying glass
- A first aid kit
- A water bottle (for drinking and using in investigations!)
- Snacks
- Hand sanitizer
- A face mask
- A backpack to carry your supplies



BRIGHTWATER EDUCATION CENTER









Opportunities to learn, explore, and discover at Brightwater

IslandWood partners with King County to provide experiential learning experiences at the Brightwater Education Center, a state-of-the-art facility attached to King County's newest and most innovative wastewater treatment plant in Woodinville.

While we are currently unable to hold educational programs at Brightwater due to COVID-19, the treatment center's 70 acres of trails, open spaces, and wildlife habitats are still open and offer ample opportunities for exploration.

Brightwater's natural areas are open to the public from dawn to dusk each day.

22505 State Route 9 SE Woodinville, WA 98072-6010

-  activity location
-  gravel walking path or service road
-  non wheelchair-accessible path
-  bridge
-  elevation change
-  overlook
-  restored wetland and/or salmon habitat
-  treatment plant

feet 0 200 400 600

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LOCATION 1

LET'S GET STARTED!



Welcome to Brightwater! Follow along with the activities in this journal as you visit each of the locations marked on the Brightwater Trail Map. When you get to each location, watch the corresponding video to learn more, and then dive into the associated activity and/or discussion questions. If you have printed this journal, you can point a phone camera at the QR code for each location and be taken directly to the video. If you're viewing this journal on your phone or other device, just click the link below to watch!

Check out this [video](#) to get started on your exploration!

LOCATION 2

WHAT'S GROWING IN THE GARDEN?



The garden at Brightwater is a special place. Watch the video to learn about how we grow food here. (Hint: we get a little help from the treatment plant!)

Learn more by watching the [video here!](#)

Trail Talk

Do you recognize any of the plants growing in the garden?

Have you ever grown anything in a garden before?

If so, what's your favorite thing to grow?
Do you have memories of gardening with a family member or other special person?

Tasty Treats

Find a strawberry, blueberry, snap pea, or other tasty treat growing in the garden, and give it a taste! Be sure to take just one so that others can enjoy as well.

LOCATION 3

SEARCH FOR STORMWATER



Watch this video to learn what happens to the rain that lands at Brightwater. We call the water that doesn't soak into the ground "stormwater." In our programs and everyday lives, we talk about stormwater all the time because we have a lot of it in our rainy region!

Learn more by watching the [video here!](#)

Test It Out

In the video, you can see Ella pouring water on the cement. If you have a water bottle, do the same. Test out different surfaces to see if the water is absorbed.

- Where does the water soak in?
- Where does it not soak in?
- How many different things can you think of that stormwater might carry with into a pond like Brightwater's Storm Pond?

LOCATION 4

WATER BUGS AND WILDLIFE



Storm Pond doesn't just collect stormwater. It's also home to a whole bunch of different animals, from tiny bugs to muskrats, coyotes, snakes, and more!

Learn more by watching the [video here!](#)

Exploration Challenge

How many different types of bugs can you find here?

How many different types of birds do you see or hear?

Can you find any evidence of other animals that might live here?

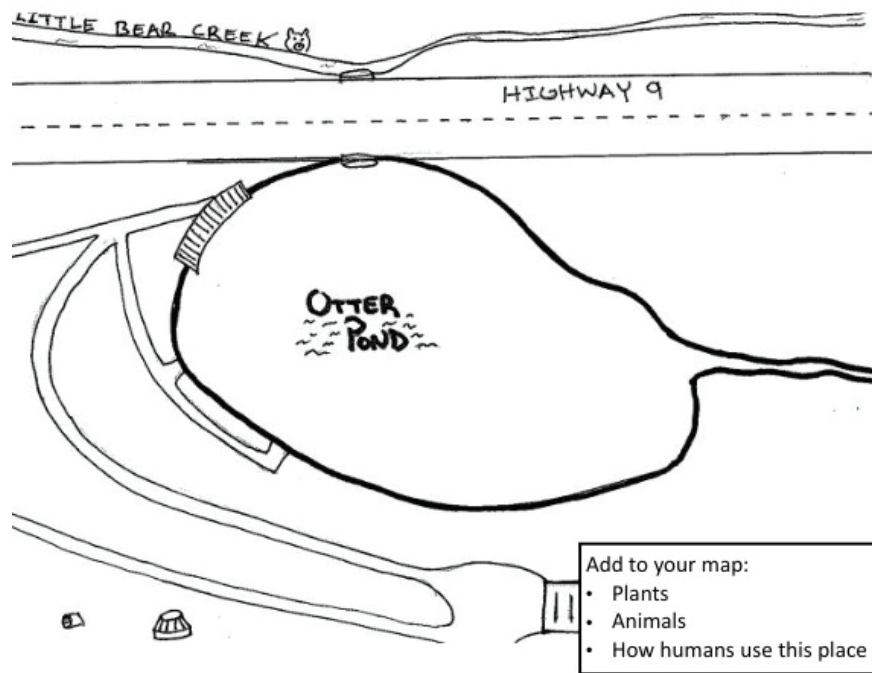
LOCATION 5

OTTER POND EXPLORATIONS



Otter Pond was created to provide a healthy habitat for lots of different plants and animals. Watch the video and then record your observations about this pond on the map below. You can use words or symbols for the different things you see.

Learn more by watching the [video here!](#)



LOCATION 6

WHAT'S A WETLAND?



A wetland is a special place for the ground that stays full of water for all or part of the year. You may have heard of marshes, swamps, or bogs. These are all different kinds of wetlands! Watch the video, and if you've brought a sponge and some water, you can demonstrate how a wetland soaks up water.

Learn more by watching the [video here!](#)

Trail Talk

Have you ever been to a wetland before?

Why would humans turn a baseball field into a wetland?

LOCATION 7

TAKING A BREAK AT SAPSUCKER CREEK



We named this creek Sapsucker Creek after the Red-Breasted Sapsucker birds that we often see eating bugs out of the trees here. The birds make small, pencil eraser-sized holes in rings around the trees to get to the bugs inside. Watch the video for some ideas of how to explore this creek, and keep an eye out for Sapsucker holes!

Learn more by watching the [video here!](#)

Trail Talk

What evidence did you find that Sapsucker Creek was built by humans?

Why would engineers want to slow down the water in this creek?

LOCATION 8

CLIMBING THE PEAKS OF BRIGHTWATER



How many of Brightwater's five hills can you climb? Once you climb the first hill, spend some time exploring at the top.

Learn more by watching the [video here!](#)

Trail Talk

What is different about this habitat than the other habitats that you've visited at Brightwater on this tour?

What other hills have you climbed?

What other hills have your friends or family climbed?

LOCATION 9

MISSION TO THE TOP OF SNAIL HILL



Snail Hill is named for the spiral-shaped trail that leads to the top. It's a great spot to take a break, have lunch or a snack, and enjoy the view. Watch the video to learn a little bit more about wastewater while you're up here!

Learn more by watching the **video here!**

Want to learn even more about wastewater treatment? Take a virtual tour of the Brightwater Treatment Plant [here!](#)

Trail Talk

How have you used water today?

When you have used water, what did you put into it?

LOCATION 10

FINDING SOLITUDE ON THE FOREST LOOP



Welcome to the forest loop trail! This is a great time to slow down a little bit, find a quiet spot, and make observations about what you see, hear, and smell around you. In the video, Max and Ella will demonstrate one way to do this, but we encourage you to find your own way to relax and enjoy this place.

Learn more by watching the **video here!**

Trail Talk

What does this place remind you of?

Is there a place that you go when you need to find your own quiet time alone?

LOCATION 11

NORTH FORK, SOUTH BRANCH



If you're here on a sunny or dry day, you'll want to watch the video to see this art installation by Chris Bruch in action!

Learn more by watching the [video here!](#)

LOCATION 12

GRANDFATHER'S WISDOM



This is a welcoming longhouse, featuring carvings of orca, octopus, and thunderbird - animals of great importance to the Coast Salish peoples, including the Snohomish people whose traditional land the Education Center sits on.

Learn more by watching the [video here!](#)

Trail Talk

Look closely at the carvings. Are there animals from your own culture that teach important stories or lessons?

LOCATION 13

BIO BOULEVARD & WATER MOLECULE



Artist Buster Simpson created Bio Boulevard and Water Molecule. These large red and white spheres represent a single water molecule, made up of two hydrogen molecules (the white spheres) and one oxygen molecule (the red sphere). In chemistry, this is written as H₂O. The purple pipe is the color used for “reclaimed” or cleaned water that is safe to reuse in toilets or for watering plants or sports fields. The purple pipe you see has the words “reclaimed water” written on it in many different languages.

Learn more by watching the [video here!](#)

Trail Talk

What do you think the artist was trying to show with this sculpture?

What does this sculpture remind you of?

LOCATION 14

THE PEAK OF MOUNT BRIGHTWATER



Congratulations! You’ve made it to the top of the highest peak at Brightwater. We’re so glad that you’ve chosen to explore Brightwater and we hope that you enjoyed all of the activities and investigations that we planned for you. If there are locations you haven’t visited yet, then you’ve still got some exploring to do! And if you did visit all of the locations, you can visit Brightwater again in different seasons to watch how it changes, or bring a friend and show them around!

Learn more by watching the [video here!](#)

Trail Talk

What was your favorite place at Brightwater?

What was your favorite activity or investigation?