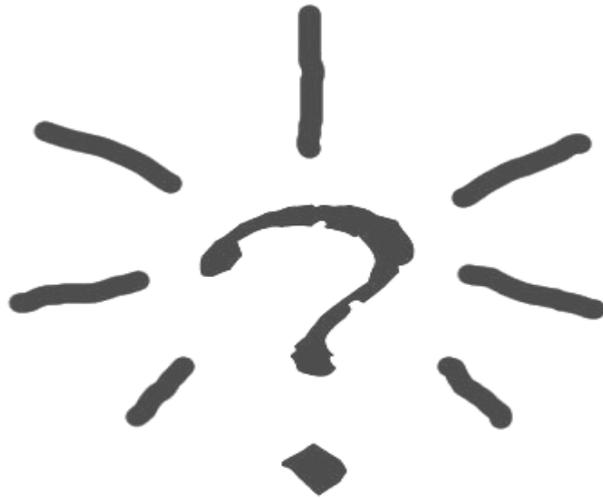


# WaterShed MySTery TOUR

## In Yost Park



City of Edmonds  
Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services  
425-771-0227  
[www.ci.edmonds.wa.us](http://www.ci.edmonds.wa.us)



Yost Memorial Park  
96th Ave W. & Bowdoin Way,  
Edmonds, WA

# USE THIS MAP OF YOST PARK TO HELP YOU SOLVE THE WATERSHED MYSTERY TOUR!

Driftwood Players Lot

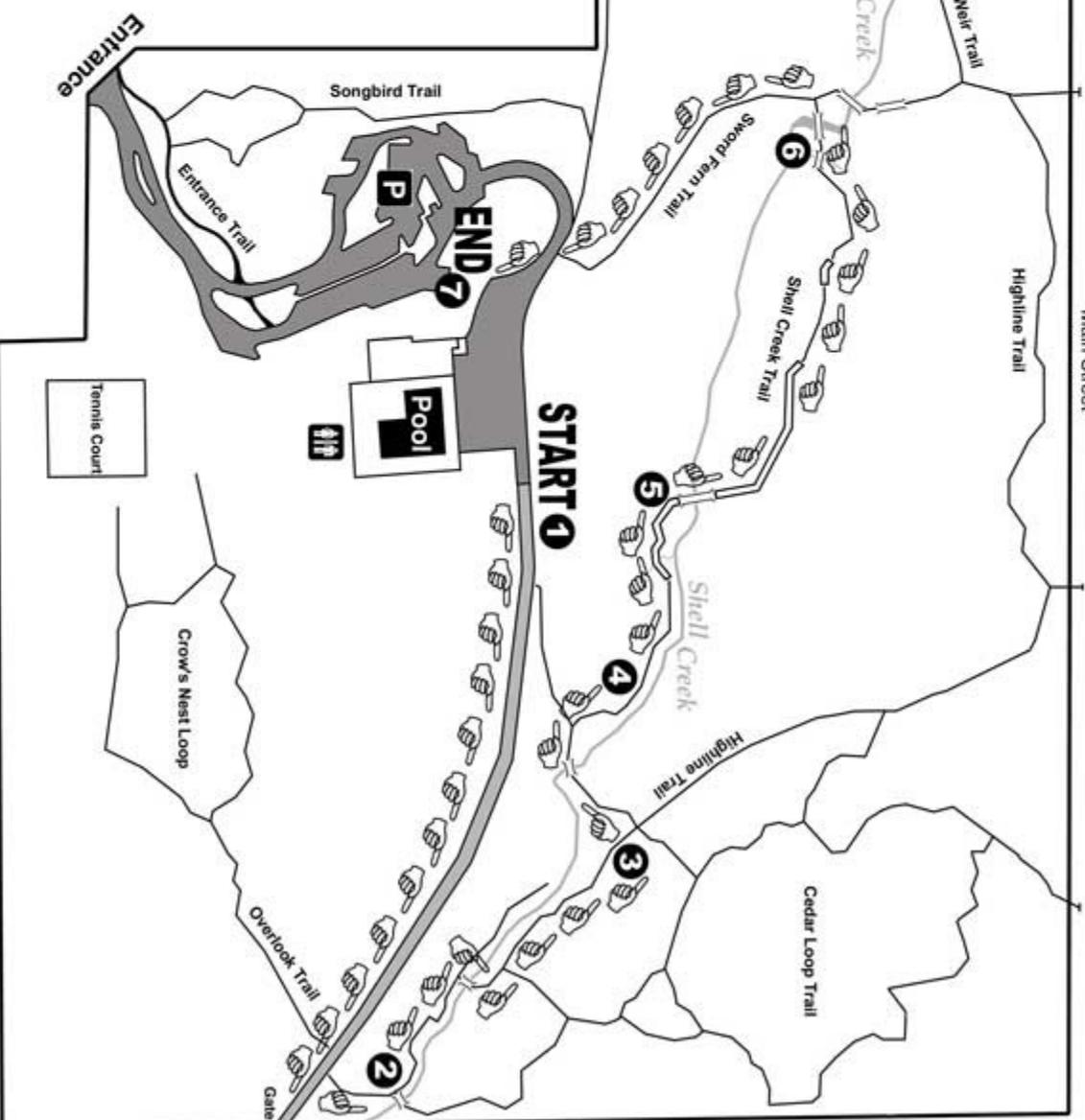
Main Street

## YOST PARK City of Edmonds, WA

- 5** Tour Stop
- P** Parking
- Bridge
- Boardwalk
- Trail
- Creek
- Park Boundary
- Service Road
- Tar



Source: 2001 Surveying - Discovery Programs, 1994 Aerial Photography and Topographic Quadrangle - U.S.G.S.  
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**FOLLOW the Numbered Tour Stops. At Each Tour Stop Read the corresponding page in this booklet.**

# Watershed Mystery Tour

As you walk along the trail here are some things to consider.

- 1 The Shell Creek Watershed:**
  - A) How long do you think it took Shell Creek to carve this ravine?
  - B) Where does the water in this watershed come from?
- 2 Growth and Development:**
  - A) Where do the excess fertilizers and pesticides we use end up?
  - B) Which is best for landscaping; concrete or brick & flagstone?
- 3 Trail Relocation:**
  - A) How could eroded sand and silt affect salmon eggs in Shell Creek?
  - B) What time of year do you think most erosion would occur?
- 4 History of the Watershed:**
  - A) Can you imagine this place covered by huge evergreen trees?
  - B) What evidence of past logging do you see along Shell Creek?
- 5 Tributary Streams:**
  - A) Can you think of any small streams near where you live?
  - B) If pollution from your yard washes into them where will it end up?
- 6 Storm Drain Outfall Pipe:**
  - A) Does your car leak oil?
  - B) Does washing your car in the driveway harm the environment?
- 7 “Dump No Waste”:**
  - A) Would you knowingly eat polluted food?
  - B) As the region’s population grows, do you think our watersheds will be more at risk?
  - C) Can you think of things you can do to protect your watershed?

## Find The Mystery Message:

Write down the **BOLD** words from the tour stop descriptions to complete the message.

Match the Tour Stop number where you found a **BOLD** word to the numbered blanks below (i.e. Put the word from *Tour Stop 6* where you see the 6 below). Guess the correct first word to complete the message.

\_\_\_\_\_ ? \_\_\_\_\_ 6 \_\_\_\_\_ 5 \_\_\_\_\_ 4 \_\_\_\_\_ 7 \_\_\_\_\_ 1 \_\_\_\_\_ 3 \_\_\_\_\_

# 1.

Watershed: A **watershed** is an area of land that drains into a river, stream, lake, or man-made drainage system. All of Yost Park is within the Shell Creek watershed, which ends two miles downstream from this point, where the creek's water flows into Puget Sound (a bigger watershed).



## 2.

Growth and Development: In the natural environment, rain falls on the ground and soaks into the soil where it is cleaned and filtered before it enters the stream.

When land is covered by houses, driveways, and roads, rainwater can't soak into the soil and become groundwater. Instead, it is channeled into ditches and storm drains. Even a lawn can shed more water than it absorbs. The stormwater picks up and carries pollutants as it makes its way through the watershed. Fast and violent stormwater runoff from heavy rains can cause erosion of soil from stream banks. The eroded soil and polluted runoff ends up downstream where it can kill fish and other aquatic animals and damage salmon spawning beds.



### 3.

Trail Relocation: Erosion and siltation of streams are major causes of reduced stream life **health**. Erosion along this nature trail prompted the realignment of the trail itself, and the erection of this barrier to prevent the use of the old route. Do you think the change has reduced the amount of sand and silt entering the creek during the rainy season?



# 4.

History of Watershed: One hundred years ago this watershed was forested with huge fir and cedar trees. Most of them were cut for timber in the early 1900's. Pioneering alders and maples growing in their place have prepared the soil with the right nutrients **to** once again support these mighty evergreens. In a generation the Shell Creek watershed will once again be dominated by these majestic trees.



# 5.

Tributary Stream: Unnamed tributary streams and seeps add their water to Shell Creek's, raising the water level in the creek bed.

Such tributaries offer **important** opportunities for wildlife - for drinking, hunting, and foraging. These small tributaries are also very vulnerable to pollution, blockage, and diversion due to human activity. What can be done to safeguard small streams?



## 6.

Storm Drain Outfall Pipe: This storm drain pipe carries water collected off of streets and parking lots from the higher ground above. Pollutants that **are** carried from above with stormwater runoff include oil, anti-freeze, and other fluids leaked from our vehicles.

These pollutants poison not only the tiny aquatic insects, but also those creatures that eat them and use the streams, such as salmon.



# 7.

“Dump No Waste”: Water entering storm drains does not receive any waste-water treatment before being discharged into streams. The toxic pollutants carried by stormwater runoff into storm drains like this one end up being transported throughout the watershed.

These toxins are consumed by aquatic animals and become concentrated as they move up the food chain. Ultimately they may end up on your dinner plate, and in your body. Protect your watershed, and **your** family’s health.

