

RIVERVIEW WILDLIFE REFUGE
SNOHOMISH WA



1. LOCATION

Riverview Wildlife Refuge is located on the west end of 1st Street in the town of Snohomish. The address is 1805 First St. Park on the south side of the street as far west as possible. Then walk west past extensive rain gardens and toward the city's Combined Sewer Overflow pump station. The trail to the refuge takes off on the left side of the building. It goes under Highway 9 before reaching the actual refuge.

2. DESCRIPTION

This refuge (established in 2013) combines a variety of habitats in a location that is convenient and central for county birders. It is easily covered in about 3 hours and views of the Snohomish River can be enjoyed while checking the trees and shrubs for birds. Pilchuck Audubon owns four acres of the refuge on the northeast corner and is proud to have had a role in creating this special wildlife sanctuary.

3. AT A GLANCE

Habitat types: water treatment ponds, riparian corridor, open field, marsh with large ponds and year round creek, native plant restoration area, tidally influenced river.

Terrain: At this time, you will have about one mile of flat dike to walk with an out and back trail. Wheelchair accessible areas are planned in the future.

Birds: The current birding checklist for the refuge has 114 species. In winter there are hundreds of ducks and gulls on the treatment ponds. In summer there are five species of swallows over the field and five species of warblers in the trees and shrubs. Year round residents include Great Blue Heron, Northern Harrier, Virginia Rail, Anna's Hummingbirds, Belted Kingfisher, Brown Creepers and the resident pair of Red-tailed Hawks. Sightings in the recent past include Lazuli Bunting, Red Crossbills, Peregrine Falcon, nesting Red-breasted Sapsuckers and Bullock's Oriole. Pick up the checklist at the Snohomish Visitor Center at 1301 First St or on the trailhead sign.

When to go: The Refuge is available and easily walked all year round. August and September are the least productive due to migration and molting.

Amenities: The refuge will be more developed in the years to come. Plans are underway to convert the interior field into a series of swales and detention ponds to filter stormwater from city streets. Native plants and walking paths will be installed. Viewing platforms and accessible paths will be included. There are public restrooms at the Visitor Center 1301 First St, 10 - 5 pm daily. The quaint City of Snohomish is just east of the refuge featuring antique shops and a variety of restaurants. Come bird the refuge in the morning and then enjoy lunch and antiques in the afternoon.

Access: The refuge is open to the public daily during daylight hours. There is no charge for admission or parking.

Tips: Scopes are not needed. Be sure to check out the marsh ponds on the northeast corner of the refuge which includes Pilchuck Audubon property. Drive west on Riverview Rd and take the first left after the entrance to Highway 9 south. There will be a large gravel area with a road leading to the sewage treatment plant. Park where you are not obstructing traffic and bird both sides of the gravel road. The Pilchuck property, including Janssen Pond, are to the north. Unlike the larger part of the refuge, this area can be birded within yards of your car.

5. NEARBY SITES:

Field's Riffle County Park - 8119 Lowell-Snohomish River Rd. Across the river from the refuge and a reliable summer nesting area for Lazuli Buntings.

Bob Heirman Wildlife Preserve - 14913 Connelly Rd. Amazing assortment of wintering ducks, swans and geese on Shadow Lake.