

Welcome to the Winslow Ravine

You are standing at an amazing intersection of Bainbridge Island's geology, ecology and human history.

During the last **glacial period**, about 16,000 years ago, miles of ice pushed south across the Salish Sea, then retreated north, gouging deep grooves that became the **channels** of many of our island streams. After glaciation, the ravine's wildlife arrived and adapted to their new home.

The **Suquamish people** call the body of water into which this stream flows Elaledaltx, Home of Eagles. Suquamish families, here since time immemorial, have stories of foraging and fishing in the waters and watershed of this ravine.



You are standing where a bridge was first built in the 1880s to connect the eastern and western halves of the town.

After **European settlers** arrived, the ravine divided the growing town into two distinct halves: Hawley to the east, and Winslow to the west. Upstream of here are the remnants of an old dam that supplied water to the Eagle Harbor shipyard. The stream's origins are in **headwater wetlands** half a mile to the north. These wetlands were **mined** for peat and **dammed** to provide irrigation water for strawberries in the early 20th century.

As you look out into the ravine, you see both **native** and **invasive plants**. Invasive plants have been brought here by people over the past few centuries and have thrived in their new home, often to the detriment of native plants and animals.

Increasing development has removed trees and brought more parking lots and roads that channel stormwater into the ravine. Stormwater erodes the creek bed and introduces pollutants into the stream, making life harder for many species, especially salmon. Some salmon species are no longer found upstream, though cutthroat trout can find their way. Chinook, chum and coho salmon occur where the mouth of the creek meets Eagle Harbor.

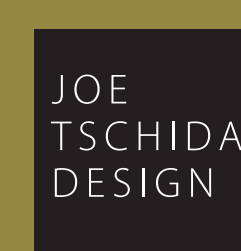


This ravine is a beautiful, natural area close to our island's urban center.

As our island's development continues, so does the challenge of balancing human needs with those of the many species with whom we share our island home.

Standing on the ravine bridge in the photo is Sadie Woodman, an early postmistress of Bainbridge Island.

Many of our stream channels have a north-south orientation that reflects their glacial origin. This ravine is one of the deepest on the Island.



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