



# Salmon Days

Salmon Days occurs on the first weekend in October and has grown into the largest 2-day festival in the state. This long-standing family friendly event started 49 years ago to educate the public in a fun and engaging way, via the spectacle of Salmon returning to spawn in the Issaquah Creek.

From the moment it starts on Saturday morning October 5th until the closing late on the afternoon of the 6th, Salmon Days presents non-stop entertainment, with four stages for live music, over 50 food vendors, 300 juried arts and crafts vendors, a farmers market with 30 fresh fall produce vendors, and Field of Fun packed

with events for children. There is a barbecue of fresh salmon, tours of the salmon hatchery and a family-friendly 5k run on Sunday morning.

Last year the Travel Channel named Salmon Days as the Best Festival in Washington. Have I caught your interest yet? Well then, let me describe the opening parade. Saturday morning at 10am the "Fintastic" Grand Parade starts the march with more than 100 entries, including floats, local high school marching bands, and equestrian, school and dance groups.

This year the parade's "Ohfishal" Grand Marshall is Issaquah resident Bryan Clay, the

## Celebrating their 50th year of fun, parades, international foods, craft vendors and fishy metaphors

"World's Greatest Athlete". Brian is a Decathlon Gold and Silver Medalist. The parade begins where Dogwood Street intersects with Front Street. Marchers move north on Front to Sunset and then west towards SR900. The entire route is lined with spectators, so arrive early for a prime spot near one of the three locations along the route where the announcers describe every entry.

Following the parade, the crowds graze slowly south on Front Street visiting the craft booths, which cover both sides of the street to beyond the intersection with Sunset- then along both sides of Sunset for two blocks in each direction.

Most of the food booths are to the east side of Front St towards the historic train depot. Just beyond the food area is the Field of Fun in Memorial Field. This is a "Flippin Fabulous" destination for the kids. One of the most watched events is the Dock Dogs, where dogs seem to fly as they make great leaps, landing with a crowd-pleasing splash into a pool of water.

Want to attempt a little leaping of your own? Try the Trampoline experience or the inflatable bounce house. Most kids love having their faces painted or making prints using a fish they have painted.

This year there will be music presented by 40 live bands

performing on the four separate stages throughout the area. The largest is the Main Stage, which also features a beer garden to soothe the spirits of the parents who need an intermission from all the attractions.

For Klahanie residents, you can catch a shuttle from the Issaquah Highlands down to the festival and avoid the drive and looking for parking.

For more information please visit [www.issaquahchamber.com/salmondays](http://www.issaquahchamber.com/salmondays). To learn more about the Run with the Fishes 5k event or register visit [www.issaquahrotary.org](http://www.issaquahrotary.org)

