



Hidden away near Renton, Washington is a large, thriving great blue heron colony. This 93-acre tract known as Black River was selected as one of the most significant environmental sites in King County.

To learn more visit:

[www.oneearthadventures.com/herons](http://www.oneearthadventures.com/herons)

### Directions from Seattle on I-5

Take I-5 South to exit #157, Martin Luther King Way East/900 East, which takes you east on Route 900. Stay on 900 for 2.9 miles.

The second stoplight is 68th Avenue South — turn right. You'll go down a windy wooded hill. The name of the road will change to SW Oakesdale. At the bottom of the hill, you'll cross some railroad tracks. Drive the equivalent of 2-3 blocks after you cross the tracks (Black River will be on your left) and turn left into the small parking area.

### Directions from From 405

Take 405 to the Interurban/West Valley exit and turn east on Grady Way. At the first traffic light, turn left onto SW Oakesdale. At the next light, go straight. and drive the equivalent of ~2-3 long blocks until you see the small parking area on your right. It's the beginning of a driveway that was never built.

Walk north along the grassy path following it down the short hill (total distance about 100 yds). At the base of the hill is a trail. Follow the trail to the right for another 100 yds. The main colony nest are in the tall cottonwood trees on the opposite side of the water to the northeast.

To clearly view the herons, you will need binoculars. A spotting scope will make your viewing better still. Do not attempt to get close to the birds or their nests. They are extremely shy and want to be as far away from people and dogs as possible.