



2008 Activities and Accomplishments to

Make Our Watershed Fit for a King

*Improving the Health of the Green/
Duwamish and Central Puget Sound
Watershed for People and Fish*

Water Resource
Inventory Area 9
Watershed
Ecosystem Forum

Leading

- WRIA 9 Forum Chair and Burien Mayor Joan McGilton served on the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council
- Commissioned an innovative study on how to fund investments in watershed health (due in early 2009)
- Was one of three watersheds to participate in Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council “report card” on implementation progress

Partnering

- Worked with the King Conservation District Board to direct \$1.15 million to 13 high priority watershed recovery projects
- Worked with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to enter all watershed projects into new Habitat Work Schedule database
- Convened September 18 summit with partners from WRIAs 7, 8, and 10 to coordinate state and federal legislative agendas



Citizens and staff from across four watersheds in Snohomish, King, and Pierce Counties worked together to identify joint state and federal legislative priorities in a workshop in Tukwila on September 18.

Restoring

- Completed the second phase of the Fenster revetment re-construction and restoration in Auburn (proponents: King County and City of Auburn; funding: SRFB, City of Auburn, King County)
- Completed the Lower Newaukum Creek restoration near Enumclaw (proponent: King County; funding: SRFB, King Conservation District, King County)
- Purchased 2.1 acres for the future Duwamish Gardens restoration project in Tukwila (proponent: City of Tukwila; funding: SRFB, Conservation Futures, ALEA, PSAR, King Conservation District, City of Tukwila)
- Completed Ellis Creek estuary planting on Vashon Island (proponent: King County; funding: SRFB and King County)
- Completed removal of contaminated soils at North Wind's Weir in Tukwila, clearing the way for final restoration phase (proponent: King County; funding: King County, Army Corps of Engineers)



The Fenster restoration in Auburn under construction in October 2008, showing large wood used to armor the toe of the bank while providing shelter for fish. Photo courtesy of King County.

Learning

- Funded post-construction monitoring of nearshore restoration at Olympic Sculpture Park in Seattle and Seahurst Park bulkhead removal in Burien (funding: King Conservation District)
- Taught two-day workshop to 70 planners from cities, counties, and state and federal agencies on how to protect the nearshore environment (funding and participation from King Conservation District and Puget Sound Partnership) – see associated video <http://winmedia.kingcounty.gov/dnr/dnrp/NorthshoreEnvironment.wmv>
- Conducted bus tour of low impact development sites for city officials and staff (funding: Department of Ecology)
- Wrote the first annual progress report on implementation of the Salmon Habitat Plan to evaluate progress and provide accountability
- Redesigned the watershed web site and moved it to a new, easier-to-remember URL: www.govlink.org/watersheds
- Taught three one-day workshops for local planners on watershed ecosystem processes



King County staff Kollin Higgins explains nearshore habitat creation processes to shoreline planners at two-day workshop.

Watershed staff Dennis Clark introduces Highline school children to their watershed in Normandy Park. Photo courtesy of Environmental Science Center.



Conserving

- Purchased 100 acres in the Middle Green Subwatershed (King County project)
- Purchased one acre of nearshore on Maury Island (added to seven acres previously protected by King County)



Piner Point on Maury Island. The final purchase of one acre has completed conservation of eight acres of high-quality nearshore habitat.

Leveraging and Matching Funds

- \$1,151,000 in King Conservation District grants for 13 high priority salmon recovery projects
- \$1,983,239 for five projects from Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) and Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration Grant (PSAR) funding
- \$2,500,000 in Conservation Future Tax funds for property conservation

To learn more

- Visit the watershed web site www.govlink.org/watersheds/9/news/
- Contact Watershed Coordinator Doug Osterman, 206-296-8069, doug.osterman@kingcounty.gov.