



2010 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

- Spearheaded a cross-watershed effort to develop a funding mechanism to pay for investments in watershed health and salmon habitat plan implementation (work is on-going into 2011)
- WRIA 9 Watershed Ecosystem Forum member and Burien Mayor Joan McGilton served on the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council and Puget Sound Partnership – South Central Action Area Caucus Group
- WRIA 9 Watershed Ecosystem Forum co-chair and Auburn City Councilmember Bill Peloza led multijurisdictional/farmer effort to balance and resolve farm and fish issues in the Lower Green River subwatershed
- American Shore and Beach Preservation Association recognized Burien's Seahurst beach with the 2010 Best Restored Beach Award, one of four U.S. beaches so recognized
- With in-kind support from the City of Seattle, WRIA partners revived the Implementation Technical Committee to initiate development of an adaptive management and monitoring plan, advance project prioritization, and better integrate habitat work with hatchery and harvest elements of salmon recovery

Partnering

- Worked with the King Conservation District Board to direct over \$2 million to high priority watershed restoration, conservation, and education projects
- Coordinated lobbying efforts to secure \$5.5 million of funding for projects in partnership with the Army Corps of Engineers

Restoring

- Planted upland and emergent plants at the 2.5 acre shallow water estuarine habitat restoration at North Wind's Weir on the Duwamish in Tukwila (proponent: King County and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; funding: USACE, SRFB, King County, King Conservation District; stewardship partner: People For Puget Sound)



Even as upland and marsh plants were installed at North Wind's Weir estuary restoration during Duwamish Alive! on April 17, salmon began moving into the newly-created habitat!

- Controlled highly-invasive knotweed on 3.9 acres of riparian habitat after surveying 106.4 acres in the Middle Green River subwatershed (proponent: King County; funding: King County, Washington State Department of Ecology, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Community Salmon Fund)
- Planted 6,700 trees and shrubs along the Middle Green River (proponent: King County; funding: King County)
- Planted 5,700 trees on private property along Newaukum Creek (proponent: King County; funding: King County)

- Removed 225 feet of bulkhead and revegetated one-half acre with native plants at Piner Point (proponent: King County; funding: King County, King Conservation District)
- The Green River migrated laterally up to 120 feet following removal of the Pautzke levee east of Auburn (project completed in 2009)

Conserving

- Glacier Northwest property on Maury Island – King County purchased a sand and gravel mine on Maury Island that includes 250 acres of open space and one mile of undeveloped shoreline; the purchase ends 13 years of efforts to expand the mine (funding: King County Conservation Futures Funds, Asarco cleanup mitigation)
- Point Heyer – King County acquired 9.7 acres with 500 feet of shoreline along the east side of Vashon Island
- Beaconsfield-on-the-Sound Acquisition – Normandy Park acquired four narrow parcels totaling 0.86 acres of nearshore. To date, 16 of 26 target parcels totaling 2.5 acres have been conserved. When additional parcels have been obtained, the restoration phase of removing a bulkhead will move forward.
- Four properties Middle Green River Subwatershed – King County acquired 71 acres of riparian forests and wetlands

Learning

- The final report on the third year of post-construction monitoring at the Olympic Sculpture Park by the City of Seattle was completed, yielding valuable information for future restoration on Elliott Bay

Teaching

- The Seattle Aquarium’s popular Beach Naturalist program continued engaging residents in care of the nearshore with 185 Beach Naturalists volunteering on 16 dates and speaking to 34,944 persons on beaches (this number includes several beaches in WRIA 8)
- Conducted bus tour of Middle Green and Lower Green River habitat restoration projects on July 21 for city officials and staff and Congressional delegation staff
- The Environmental Science Center in Burien reached over 2,000 students, and an associated 170 teachers and chaperones, with their Salmon and You and Water Heroes classes and field programs within the Highline, Kent, Renton, Maple Valley and Tukwila school districts



The WRIA 9 annual “yellow bus tour” on July 21 focused on the nexus between habitat restoration and agriculture. At Newaukum Creek near Enumclaw, the participants saw a successful riparian restoration on private agricultural land.

Leveraging and Matching Funds

- \$2,088,909 in King Conservation District grants for nine high priority salmon recovery projects
- \$397,299 for two projects from the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) and Puget Sound Restoration Grant (PSR) funding:
 - The City of Tukwila received \$197,299 to design the Duwamish Gardens estuary restoration project
 - The City of Kent received \$200,000 for design of the Mill Creek Confluence/Green River Restoration project
- As an amendment to an active SRFB Grant, the City of Auburn received an additional \$100,000 towards construction of the Phase II Fenster Levee Setback project along the Green River
- \$1,885,000 in Conservation Future Tax and \$1,050,000 King County Park Levy funds to preserve natural lands and waters in Black Diamond, Kent, and King County



A decaying, creosote-soaked bulkhead on Piner Point on Maury Island was removed in the summer of 2010. Removal will allow the bluff to erode naturally to feed sediment to the beach.