

SR 18 Preston Mill Park Mitigation Site Project

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Colleen Brennan, WSDOT Landscape Architect, Restoration Lead

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Project Overview

- **Location:** Preston Mill Park, King County, Snoqualmie River Basin
- **Purpose:** Establish and restore wetland and stream habitat to offset unavoidable impacts
- **Status:**
  - 90% Design
  - Permitting: Early 2027
  - Project Advertisement: Fall 2027
  - SEPA public comments received
  - Tribal consultation
  - Ongoing WSDOT/King County Coordination

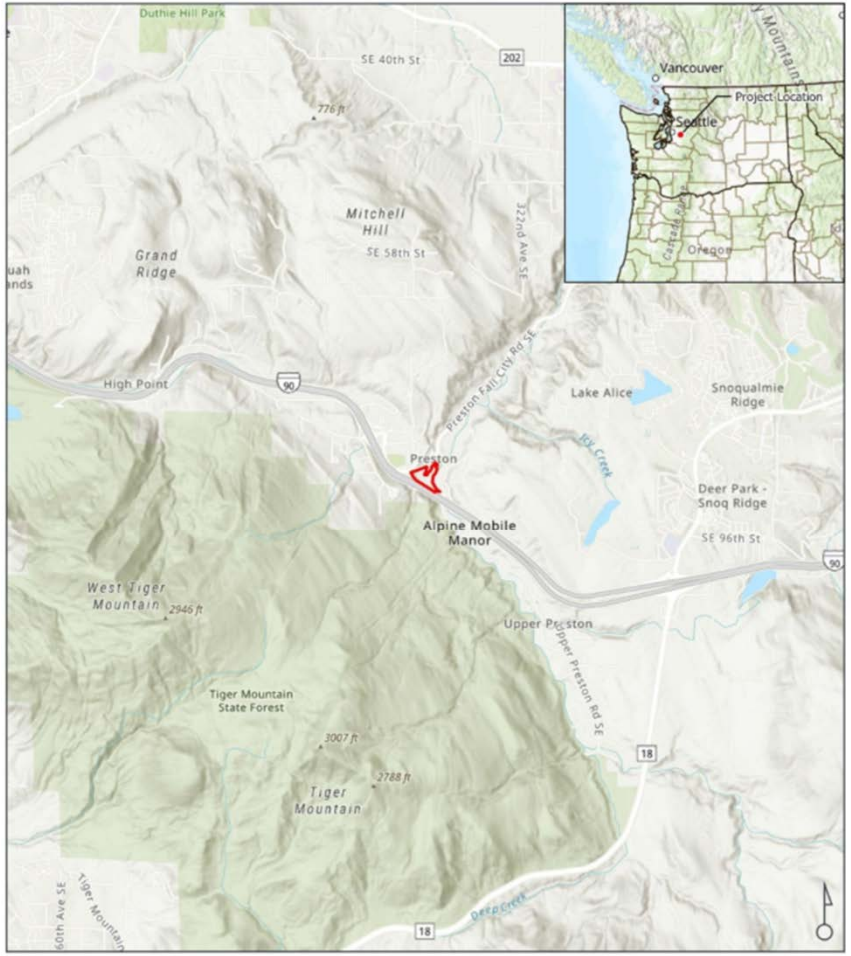
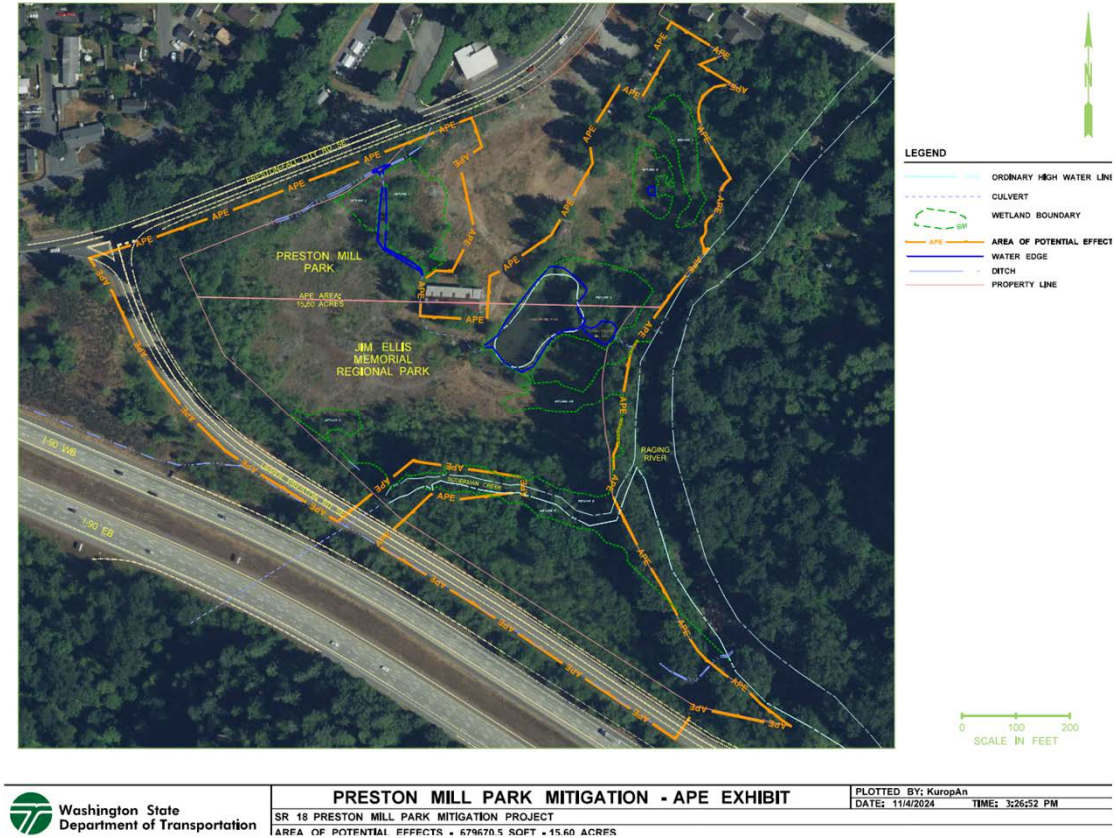


FIGURE 1
VICINITY MAP
PRESTON MILL PARK
MITIGATION SITE | XL5966
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

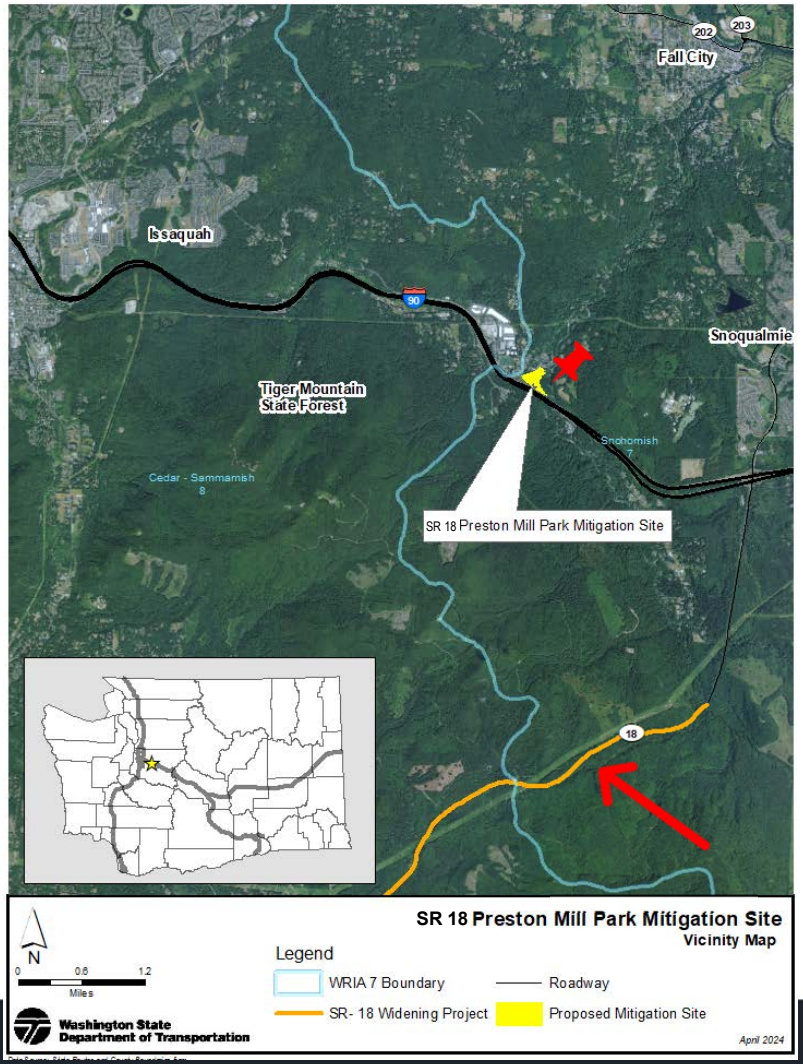
Why Preston Mill Park?

- Conceived of during 2020 initial site visit for I-90 Soderman Creek Fish Passage Project
- Restoration opportunity in the watershed
- Soderman Creek Fish Passage Project delivery has been delayed, awaiting funding



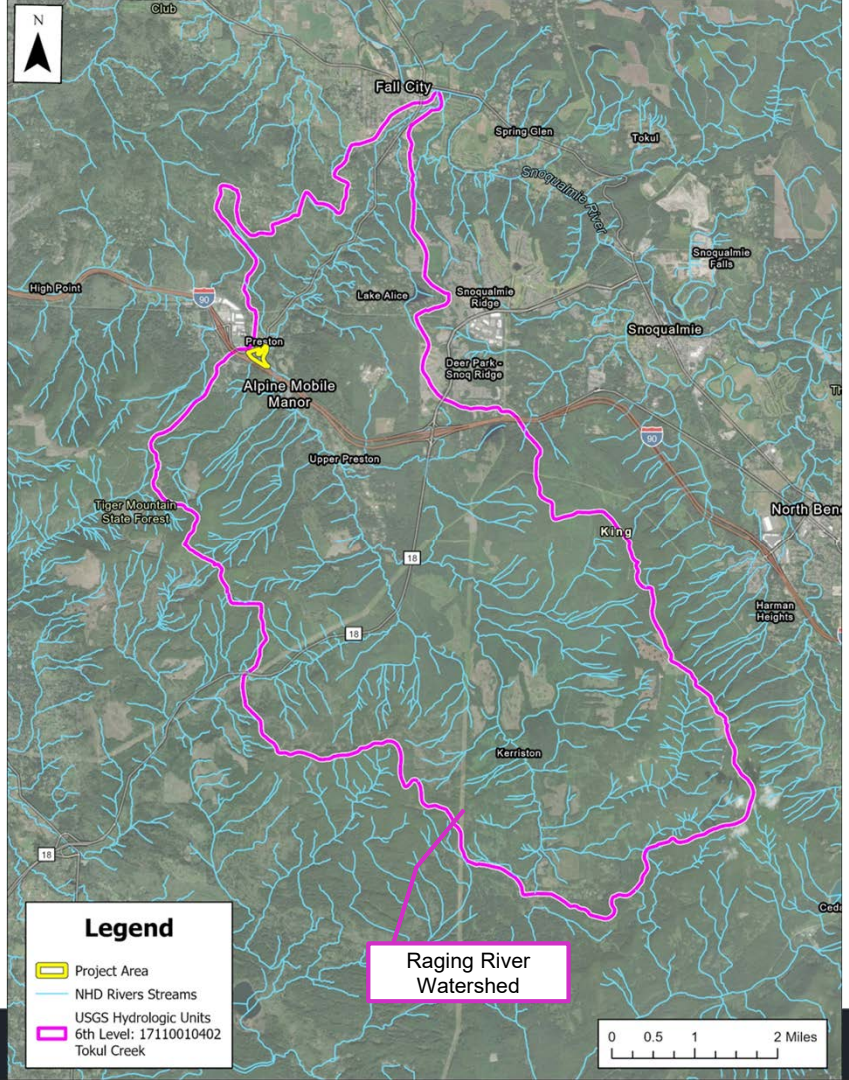
Mitigation in WRIA 7

- SR 18, Issaquah Hobart Rd to Deep Creek Vicinity – Widening & Fiber (SR 18 Widening Project)
- Unavoidable impacts to wetlands and streams in WRIA 7
- Need for off-site mitigation



Site Selection

- A watershed approach
- Preston Mill site identified as a priority area for restoration targeting surface water storage functions
- High likelihood of success:
  - High water table
  - Planned soil prep and plantings for natural recruitment
  - Connecting existing wetlands expands connections to floodplains
  - Wetlands created reflect wetlands to be impacted along SR 18



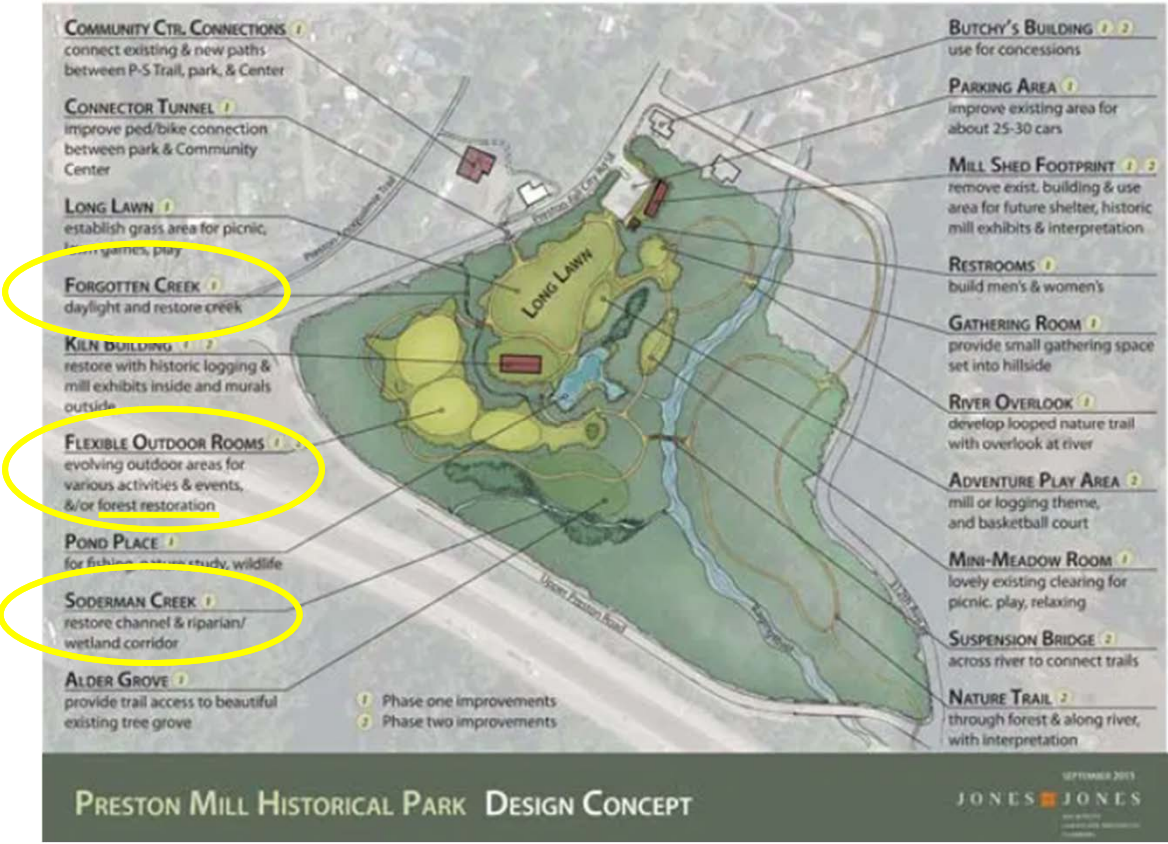
The Preston Mill Company

- Former lumber mill 1896-1990
- Heavily degraded
- Fill placement preventing infiltration and vegetation growth
- Isolated areas of soil contamination



The Preston Mill Park

- King County acquired in late 1990's
- 2017 Preston Mill Park Schematic Plan – restoration and passive recreation
- Mitigation functions as restoration
- WSDOT began coordinating with King County Parks in 2021



Mitigation Project Goals

- Generate mitigation credits in WRIA 7
- Create depressional and riverine, forested and scrub-shrub wetlands
- Rehabilitate and enhance existing wetlands
- Enhance fish habitat
- Restore/enhance stream buffer
- Protect site from development in perpetuity






SE 68th St
Preston Fall City Rd
Preston Mill Creek
Kiln Building
Preston Mill Pond
Raging River
Upper Preston Rd SE
Soderman Creek
Raging River
Preston Mill Park Mitigation Site Plan and Work Elements
Stream
Walking Trails
Preston Mill Property Boundary
Type F_S Buffer Restoration
River Viewing Area
New Alcove Habitat Feature
Protected Mitigation Site Boundary
Approximate King County Park Future Development
Flow Direction
N
0 60 120 180 240 Meters
0 300 600 900 Feet
Microsoft Vantor

Planting Palette

UPLAND ⟷ **WETLAND**

















Dominant species

Top row (from left): *Douglas fir, vine maple, cascara, Western red cedar, Sitka spruce, Pacific crabapple*

Middle row: *snowberry, sword fern, thimbleberry, salmonberry, swamp rose, lady fern*

Bottom row**:** *smallfruit bulrush, hardstem bulrush, slough sedge*

Streambank Stabilization

- **Bioengineering** is the use of live plant cuttings to stabilize soil
- Bioengineering features such as live stakes, live fascines, and brush mattress will be utilized to stabilize riparian slopes at Preston Mill Creek and Soderman Creek









Habitat Complexity

- Microtopography- depressional emergent wetland features
- Habitat boulders, brush piles, and rock piles for amphibians
- Wildlife snags
- Large woody material for stream and wetland habitat complexity



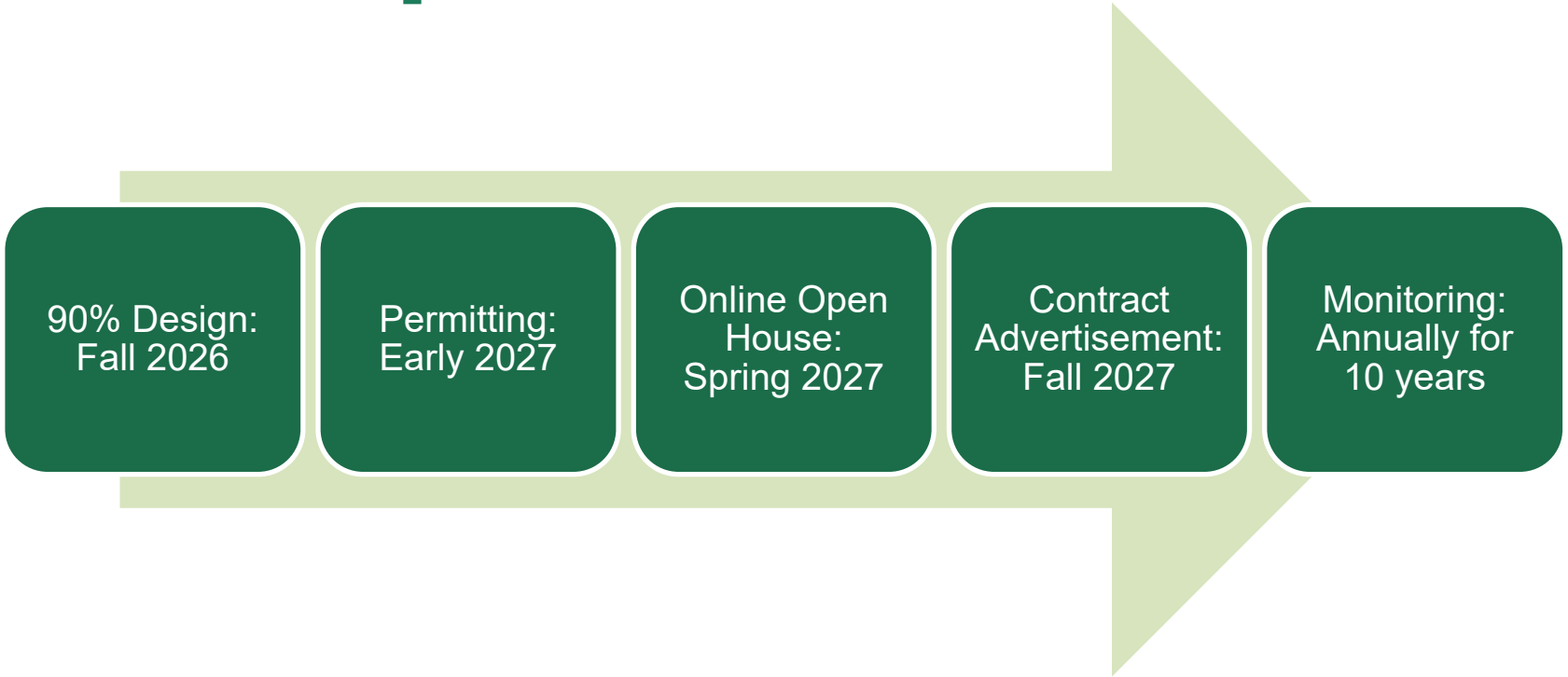








Next Steps


90% Design: Fall 2026
Permitting: Early 2027
Online Open House: Spring 2027
Contract Advertisement: Fall 2027
Monitoring: Annually for 10 years


Questions?

SR 202 Snoqualmie River Bridge Vicinity – Emergency Repair



Before (April 2026)



After (August 2026)

SR 202 Snoqualmie R Bridge Vicinity – Emergency Repair

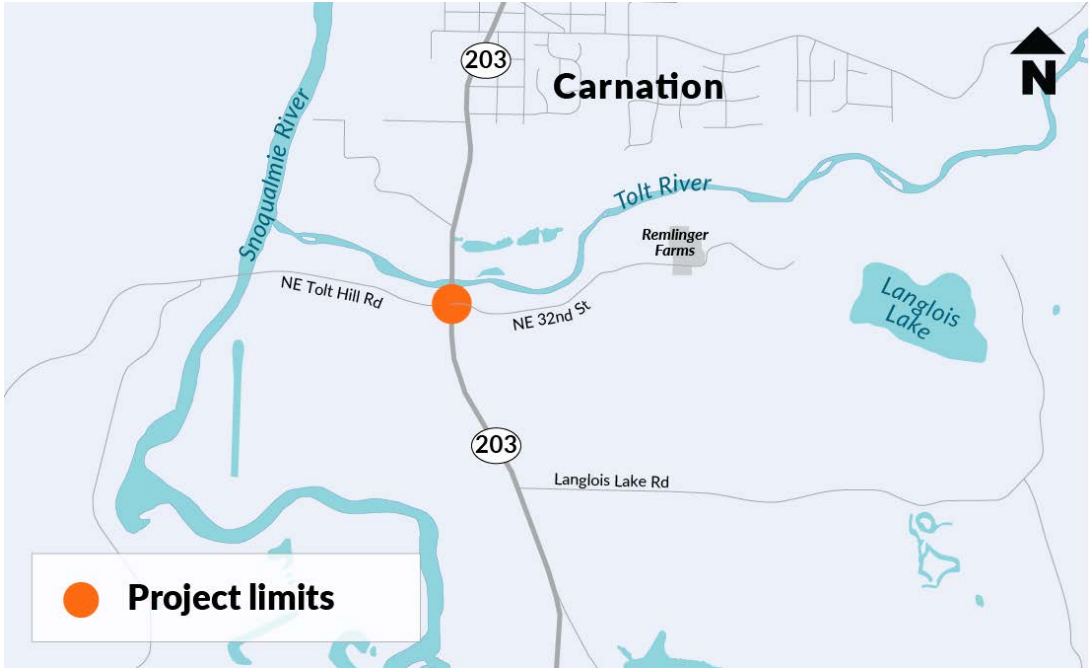


Post Construction Snorkel Survey (August 2026)



SR 203/NE Tolt Hill Road - Roundabout

- **Scope:** Construct a compact RAB at intersection of SR 203 and NE Tolt Hill Road to improve mobility and safety
- **Status:** Design initiated in September
- **Construction:** TBD, earliest 2028
- For more information, visit the [project website]



Questions?

Contact Us:

- Melissa Mearns (Environmental Coordinator): melissa.mearns@wsdot.wa.gov
- Colleen Brennan (Landscape Architect): colleen.brennan@wsdot.wa.gov
- Conrad Guadagni (Project Engineer): conrad.guadagni@wsdot.wa.gov
- Eric Zackula (Communications): eric.zackula@wsdot.wa.gov

Project Websites:

- SR 18 Preston Mill Park Mitigation Site
- SR 18 Issaquah Hobart Rd to Deep Creek Vicinity – Widening & Fiber
- I-90 Soderman Creek - Fish Passage
- SR 203 NE Tolt Hill Rd - Roundabout