



## 2009 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*

- Convened October 1 workshop to explore ways to better integrate flood protection and salmon habitat recovery in the Lower Green River in response to the leaking abutment at Howard Hanson Dam and the aging levee system
- 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
- Analyzed innovative ways to fund investments in watershed health (work will be completed in 2010)
- Spearheaded legislative outreach/bill support leading to unanimous approval by Washington State Legislature of House Bill 2199 to make it easier to restore habitat in urban areas by reducing negative regulatory impacts to neighboring property owners



*In July 2009, the old, unneeded Pautzke levee east of Auburn was removed. This will allow the river to meander and naturally create new spawning and rearing habitat for salmon.*

*Partnering*

- Worked with the King Conservation District Board to direct \$1.17 million to seven high priority watershed recovery projects

*Restoring*

- Constructed 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)
- Constructed the Pautzke levee removal on the Green River east of Auburn (proponent: King County; funding: SRFB, King County)
- Controlled highly-invasive knotweed along the lower five miles of Soos Creek (proponent: King County; funding: King County, King Conservation District, and Washington State Department of Ecology)
- Planted 8,500 trees and shrubs along the Middle Green River (proponent: King County; funding: King County)



*In December 2009, construction was completed on the estuary restoration project at North Wind's Weir. Thousands of trees, shrubs, and marsh plants are being planted in 2010.*

## Conserving

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- Wallace Acquisition – King County acquired a 39-acre parcel along the Middle Green River to protect fish and wildlife habitat and to facilitate future ecological restoration
- Bass/Beaver Lake Complex Acquisition – King County acquired 28 acres of undeveloped land in the lake complex to preserve for water quality protection and habitat preservation
- Anderson Acquisition – King County acquired 6 acres along Newaukum Creek
- Beaconsfield-on-the-Sound Acquisition – Normandy Park acquired five narrow parcels of nearshore for preservation and eventual bulkhead removal
- Point Heyer – King County acquired 13 acres with 450 feet of shoreline along the east side of Vashon Island

## Learning

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- Post-construction monitoring at the Olympic Sculpture Park by the City of Seattle (\$30,000 from King Conservation District)
- Pre-construction monitoring at Big Spring Creek by Mid-Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group (\$19,000 from King Conservation District)
- Conducted bus tour of Middle Green and Lower Green River habitat restoration projects on July 14 for city officials and staff and Congressional delegation staff

## Leveraging and Matching Funds

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- \$1.17 million in King Conservation District grants for seven high priority salmon recovery projects
- \$2,210,000 in Conservation Future Tax funds to preserve natural lands and water in Black Diamond, Kent, and King County
- \$3,910,000 in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act for Seahurst Park shoreline restoration (Burien) and Riverview Park side channel habitat (Kent)



*The Point Heyer acquisition included part of this beach. Unarmored bluffs provide sediment that maintains the health of beaches to the south, including the wetland at Pt. Heyer (KVI).*

- \$1.5 million for three projects from the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) and Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration Grant (PSAR) funding:
  - The City of Auburn received \$301,103 to set back the Fenster levee to restore habitat in the Green River and its floodplain
  - The Burien Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services Department received \$750,000 to return the northern portion of the park and shoreline to a restored, more accessible, and more natural condition, complementing a previous restoration of the south beach of the park
  - The City of Kent received \$500,000 to create a channel off the Green River with benches, large woody materials, spawning gravels, and riverbank plantings adjacent to the mouth of lower Mill Creek
- \$363,000 for two projects from the Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account:
  - King County received \$312,000 to complete the North Wind's Weir estuary restoration on the Duwamish in Tukwila
  - King County received \$51,000 to conserve high-quality marine nearshore habitat at Point Heyer on Vashon Island