

Continuing our commitment: Key projects still underway in the watershed



While many salmon restoration projects listed in the WRIA 8 Chinook Salmon Conservation Plan have been completed over the last ten years, key efforts are still underway in the Lake Washington / Cedar / Sammamish Watershed. In this complex and populous watershed, critical salmon recovery projects are often large, involve many steps and have multiple partners – and multiple benefits. Below are just some of the works in progress that need our continued commitment to move to completion.

RECONNECTING A TIDAL MARSH IN EDMONDS

- Daylighting the Willow Creek outlet of Edmonds Marsh to Puget Sound will restore tidal inflow to the largest remaining salt marsh along the WRIA 8 nearshore, providing juvenile Chinook salmon access to 28 acres of important – and rare – rearing habitat.
- Restored tidal access will benefit other wildlife, help control invasive species, improve water quality, and reduce risks from projected sea level rise.
- Railroad trestles are already in place for the daylighted channel to pass under the BNSF rail lines, installed by Sound Transit and eliminating a major barrier, cost, and source of uncertainty.
- The City of Edmonds is completing the final feasibility study for the project and will subsequently begin preliminary design.



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RESTORING FLOODPLAINS ALONG THE CEDAR RIVER

- In 2013, King County bought the 18-acre Riverbend Mobile Home Park for nearly \$7 million to remove people from an area of flooding and channel migration risk.
- The Riverbend purchase connects the Cavanaugh Pond and Ricardi Natural Areas, completing five miles of public ownership along the Cedar.
- In addition to removing people from harm's way, the property acquisition will allow for reconnecting the river to the floodplain. This type of floodplain restoration is the highest priority for salmon recovery in WRIA 8.
- King County is initiating preliminary design to set back and remove existing flood control levees and facilitate future restoration.



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(continued on reverse)

MOVING EVANS CREEK TO A NICER NEIGHBORHOOD (FOR FISH!)

- The City of Redmond seeks to relocate and restore a ditched section of Evans Creek from an industrial area to adjacent open space.
- The project will improve habitat for Chinook and coho salmon by constructing a new 3,500-foot segment of creek, restoring more than 10 acres of riparian buffer, and enhancing 12 acres of existing wooded wetland.
- Portions of the old channel will be filled, accompanied by offsetting wetland areas created on neighboring industrial land.
- The new channel will connect to a 1,100-foot restored channel completed by WSDOT in 2013.
- Beyond the habitat benefits, moving and restoring the creek will improve passive recreation and stewardship on the Bear-Evans Trail.



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FACTORING IN FISH AT CONFLUENCE PARK

- The City of Issaquah is restoring aquatic and riparian habitat at Confluence Park, the junction of Issaquah Creek and East Fork Issaquah Creek in downtown Issaquah, to benefit Chinook, coho, sockeye, and kokanee.
- Key project elements include restoring more than 1,400 feet of stream and 2.3 acres of riparian buffer by removing hardened creek banks and floodplain fill, adding large woody debris and engineered log jams to form pools, creating off-channel habitat, and replacing invasive plants with native species.
- The upland area of the park will be primarily passive open space.



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IDENTIFYING KEY ACTIONS ON THE LOWER CEDAR

- In 2014, the City of Renton received a WRIA 8 grant to identify habitat restoration opportunities on the lower Cedar River.
- The river in this area is confined by levees and bank armoring, which limits productive adult and juvenile Chinook habitat. The high proportion of impervious surfaces also affects water quality.
- Through the grant-funded habitat assessment, the city will identify property and infrastructure constraints and restoration opportunities from the mouth of the Cedar at Lake Washington to the Renton city limits near Ron Regis Park. Conceptual restoration designs for areas upstream of the I-405 crossing will be developed.
- Developing feasible restoration projects for these reaches will fill a significant gap in the WRIA 8 Chinook Salmon Conservation Plan.



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