

GREEN/DUWAMISH AND CENTRAL PUGET SOUND (WRIA 9) IMPLEMENTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE



WRIA 9 Implementation Technical Committee Meeting November 20, 2024 | 9:30 am – 11:30 am

[Click here to join the meeting](#) or call in (Teams audio only) [+1 425-653-6586](tel:+14256536586), [185643467#](tel:+14256536586)

Meeting ID: 212 285 313 251

Passcode: t9wk6N

9:30 **Welcome & Introductions**

9:35 **Des Moines Creek Estuary Restoration Project Alternatives**

Tyler Beekley

Presentation followed by Q&A

The City of Des Moines and partners will present draft concepts for a Des Moines Creek Estuary Restoration project that would remove hard shoreline armor and improve shoreline and estuary habitat at the mouth of Des Moines Cr. The project is also intended to address flooding impacts to the Des Moines Cr Beach Park. This project is Tier 2 nearshore project NS-67 in the WRIA 9 Salmon Habitat Plan.

10:35 **2025 WRIA 9 Grant Round – Review Requests for Proposals**

Suzanna Smith

Presentation followed by group discussion

Each year, the WRIA releases requests for proposals (RFPs) for the competitive grant programs as part of their annual grant round. This year, that includes the Regreen the Green RFP and the Monitoring and Research RFP. The ITC will review and provide feedback on draft RFPs.

11:20 *(if time allows)* **Gilliam Creek Cost Increase Request**

Joshua
Hopkins/Suzanna
Smith

Note: if time does not allow, this item will be moved to email.

The ITC will evaluate and determine whether to approve a cost increase request for the Gilliam Creek project sponsored by City of Tukwila. If approved, the lead entity coordinator will submit the request to RCO. The project has already received preliminary approval by the ITC. The WRIA 9 Watershed Ecosystem Forum has approved the project as part of the 2021 Salmon Habitat Plan, and as part of the 2020, 2021, and 2022 WRIA 9 Funding Packages.

11:30 **Adjourn**

WRIA 9 ITC web page: <http://www.govlink.org/watersheds/9/committees/ImpleTechCmte.aspx>

Participant list:

Alex Johnson, Alicia Kellogg, Erik Rigaux, Halley Kimball, Heidi Watters, Iris Kemp, Jackie Weber, Jenn Stebbings, John Dickey, Joshua Hopkins, Julian Douglas, Kyle Landon, Laura Hartema, Leska Fore, Mike Perfetti, Nikki Redden, Nikolas Novotny, Paul Fendt, Rowena Valencia-Gica, Suzanna Smith, Tyler Beekley, Zach Wilson

Des Moines Creek Estuary Restoration Project Alternatives

Tyler, Nikki, Paul, and Kyle presented draft concepts for a Des Moines Creek Estuary Restoration project. Two project components are under consideration: creation of estuary habitat and improved creek habitat on the north side of the existing park and improvement of shoreline habitat on the south side of the park. This potential project is in early stages. Internal city staff have been briefed; this is the first external touchpoint. Staff anticipate that the next step will be taking project concepts to Council and, once designs are more solid, beginning public engagement.

Project concepts include a no-action alternative (if no action taken, site will continue to experience flood impacts that negatively affect function and use), creek mouth widening, partial estuary creation, maximum estuary creation, partial beach/shoreline improvement with moderate park area, and maximum beach/shoreline improvement with minimum park area. All concepts are high-level. Next steps are continuing to narrow down concepts to more detailed alternatives. Combining the two project components to start looking how the pieces all fit together. Goal is to have a WRIA 9 backed project that is Council-supported.

Q&A:

- Zach – what vehicles are accessing the beach?
 - Tyler – there are residential Normandy Park properties to the north with an easement for beach access to their residences. Vehicles ranging from cars, trucks, utility vehicles.
- Laura – is there a way to incorporate wood, spurs, etc. into design instead of rock? Favor maximization of natural area. The south side of park does not need parking; there is lots of nearby parking already. There was public pushback against previous stream improvements (blackberry removal, fence installation) but once it was completed people loved it.
 - Kyle – as designs progress, would consider anchored logs, wood elements, spurs along road.
 - Tyler – anticipate upward battle with Council and public to change park space – likely will want to preserve park space as much as possible. May be able to land on moderate park area option. Anticipate public education will be a big part of this effort.
 - Zach – signage will be important.
- Mike – appreciate balancing a lot of elements and need for Council and public buy-in. Being able to show how public use can be equal to or better in the post-project condition will help get buy-in.

- Suzanna – discuss in-water fill and permitting challenges?
 - Paul – we don't want to eliminate alternatives preemptively based on potential permitting risk. Currently trying to evaluate project based on positive aspects first. Permitting will be a consideration in alternatives analysis.
- Zach – will the bridge require any modifications to accommodate the changes made to the stream?
 - Paul – it depends. The bridge is a big constraint. Mainly because of utilities. Our preference is relocation so it does not constrain habitat restoration.
 - Laura – bridge would inhibit restoring lower reach, but community will not be happy to give up that access point.
- Laura – did a spawner study here that showed 70+% pre-spawn mortality for returning coho, which are passable up to 200th St. Need to fix water quality issues for salmon recovery. Some of these concepts would be good improvement for habitat, but just being realistic about water quality needs too.
- Heidi – sympathize about messaging – it's difficult, especially about a beloved park. Recommend being straightforward and honest that we have to have space for salmon habitat. We think that Council knows that but they don't. They are only thinking about what they are losing.
 - Paul – agree. We can't put salmon habitat just anywhere – this site is really the best location Des Moines has. And there is no true no-action. Hoping that Council will see the need to take control of the future of this site.

Further questions? Contact Tyler at tbeekley@desmoineswa.gov.

2025 WRIA 9 Grant Round – Review Requests for Proposals

[Link to slides](#)

Suzanna presented the timeline for WRIA 9's 2025 grant round, anticipated funding levels, grant opportunities, and RFP changes and process updates. See slides and attached RFPs for details.

The ITC approved RFPs for 2025. Suzanna will finalize at the end of this week and open RFPs next week.

Further questions? Contact Suzanna at susmith@kingcounty.gov.

Gilliam Creek Cost Increase Request

Josh presented a cost increase request of \$278k for the Gilliam Creek fish barrier removal and habitat enhancement project. The total overall budget for Phase 1, 2, and 30% design is \$1.6M. This cost increase request would address increased costs in the project's flood study, hydraulic analysis & scour design, engagement (stakeholder workshops), value engineering, constructability review, and 30% design finalization. The request would be addressed first with

state dollars (returned dollars for already-approved projects) then if needed within the WRIA 9 2025 funding package allocation.

The ITC raised no concerns and approved moving this cost increase request forward.

Further questions? Contact Josh at joshua.hopkins@tukwilawa.gov.