

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



WRIA 9 Implementation Technical Committee Meeting

January 18, 2023 | 9:30 am – 11:30 am

[Click here to join the meeting](#) or call in (Teams audio only) [+1 425-653-6586](tel:+14256536586), [911155469#](tel:+1425911155469)

Meeting ID: 291 061 535 541

Passcode: uafR9e

9:30 **Welcome & Introductions**

9:40 **Our Green Duwamish**

Todd Hunsdorfer

Presentation followed by Q&A and group discussion

The Our Green/Duwamish (OGD) initiative was launched in 2014 to develop strategies to strengthen communities and improve air, land, and water conditions in the Green/Duwamish watershed. The initiative is now in Phase 3: Implementation, guided by the 2021-2025 OGD Implementation Plan.

For more information: <https://ourgreenduwamish.com/>

10:25 **Grant Program: Open Space – River Corridors**

Rusty Milholland

Presentation followed by Q&A and group discussion

The Open Space – River Corridors grant program supports projects that help restore the natural functions of rivers, create or restore public access, and/or increase public awareness of river corridors as valuable natural resources. This grant program incentivizes multi-benefit projects that integrate recreation and habitat restoration with larger floodplain management effort. Rusty Milholland will introduce the program, review 2022 grant projects/awards in WRIA 9, and discuss the current funding opportunity for 2023.

For more information: [Open Space River Corridor Grant Summary](#)

11:00 **Round Robin Updates**

All

Slide deck activity

- **Pre-meeting prep (5 minutes)** – Please find instructions on slide 1 at this link: https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1JhbQTH3K5k8NMXEa-jxdrMJEU4FTUUao_1SWqLI4oNM/edit?usp=sharing. Use your slide to include relevant updates from your jurisdiction, project, or team. You can also email updates directly to Iris (ikemp@kingcounty.gov) for inclusion in the slide deck.

11:30 **Adjourn**

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

Participant list:

Antonia Jindrich, Bridget Kaminski, Chris Gregersen, Cleo Neculae, Debbie Meisinger, Iris Kemp, Josh Kahan, Josh Hopkins, Julian Douglas, Matt Knox, Marc Marcantonio, Matt Goehring, Natane Moore, Rusty Milholland, Rowena Valencia-Gica, Suzanna Smith, Todd Hunsdorfer

Round-table Updates and Reminders

Read through our **WRIA 9 ITC January round robin** slides at this link:

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1JhbQTH3K5k8NMXEa-ixdrMJEU4FTUUao_1SWqLl4oNM/edit?usp=sharing. Includes updates from WRIA 9 Team, RCO, King County, Ecology, Conservation NW, WDFW, Puget Sound Partnership, Covington Water District, DNR, City of Kent, and Mid Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group.

Our Green Duwamish ([slides here](#))

Our Green/Duwamish (OGD; <https://ourgreenduwamish.com/>) began in 2014 to develop strategies to strengthen communities and improve air, land, and water conditions in the Green/Duwamish watershed and has evolved into a coalition of many partners with a core team of county staff that develop agendas, facilitate conversations, and draft products for the larger partner group to review and comment on. OGD has a fluid and informal membership with a set of agreed-upon values and shared goals. OGD subgroups work on timebound discrete tasks. The OGD coordination subgroup has engaged with WRIA 9 in the past to foster partnerships and reduce redundancy. OGD operates in a co-design context where stakeholders have a sense of ownership/commitment and choose to participate in decision making (but are not required to participate).

The [OGD Implementation Plan](#) was completed in early 2021 and upon its completion the group jumped into working on actions. Many partners lack operating funds to support engagement; OGD is working on ways to support these partners as well as stormwater permittees since a large portion of the partner base is municipal stormwater managers. One early product was a beta proof-of-concept tool for mapping out drainage basins.

OGD's [first annual report](#) was published in 2022. It included an analysis of how the coalition was making progress, status updates on 78% of OGD actions, and results of a partner survey with great participation rate about how OGD is functioning across governance dimensions (a self-reflective practice on how OGD partners work together).

Based on their annual report results, OGD developed a [2023-2024 work plan](#). The workplan explores decision guidance support. For example, OGD will be relied upon for information in King County's decisions on where to build stormwater retrofits. Other work plan items include funding support, exploring public-private partnerships (OGD's private partners are small/medium businesses with a strong environmental ethic that are uncertain how best to support the community and help with stormwater issues), and a focus on engaging with decision-makers.

Support that OGD can provide includes grant letters of support, connecting with stormwater professionals, community engagement connections, coordination for multiple benefits, and a forum for sharing and gathering input.

All documents linked above and more can be found at the OGD Document Library:

<https://ourgreenduwamish.com/document-library/>

Further questions? Contact Todd Hunsdorfer at thunsdorfer@kingcounty.gov.

Grant Program: Open Space – River Corridors ([slides here](#))

Four new grant programs are being funded by Parks Levy: Aquatic Facilities, Parks Capital and Open Space, Open Space – River Corridors, and Healthy Communities and Parks Fund. The website for Parks Levy Grants is linked here: <https://kingcounty.gov/services/parks-recreation/parks/get-involved/partnerships-and-grants/levygrants.aspx>. Parks is planning webinars on their funding programs the week of January 30th. Webinars will be live and recorded. The River Corridors webinar will be Thursday, February 2nd at 11am. Register for webinars: <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/9d8f20d478e3444a9ba1bc832ac7826d>

Historically King County Parks has focused on funding projects on Parks properties and youth sports. The new Open Space – River Corridors grant program supports projects that help restore the natural functions of rivers, create or restore public access, and/or increase public awareness of river corridors. The goal is to incentivize and support multi-benefit projects, although an individual project/sponsor does not need to drive a multi-benefit project. There is no match requirement. Sponsors can contract for projects that take up to 5 years.

Projects that this funding program could support include floodplain restoration via removal or setback of flood protection features; developing passive recreation amenities like trails, viewpoints, and interpretive signs; enhancing ecological function through invasive species removal, revegetation, or installation of critical habitat features; land acquisition; and outreach and educational programs associated with capital projects.

The first grant cycle of this program in 2022 funded 14 projects for a total of just over \$5M. Eight project sponsors were internal to King County, four cities, one tribe, and one nonprofit. Rusty hopes that moving forward, increased familiarity with the program will result in higher diversity of project sponsors. Please spread the word!

In the Green/Duwamish, the 2022 grant cycle supported Gateway Park North Park Development (City of Seattle), Nelsen Side Channel (City of Tukwila), Auburn Parks Green River Restoration (Mid Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group), Auburn Narrows Restoration Design (King County), Turley Levee Acquisition for Future Restoration (King County), and Green River Riparian Restoration – Flaming Geyser (King County).

Further questions? Contact Rusty Milholland at rmilholland@kingcounty.gov.