

2014 WRIA 9 Collaborations & Accomplishments

January – December 2014

Awards:

- 2014 Futurewise Livable Community Award for collaboration with the City of Burien on the Seahurst Park Restoration project.



Major projects completed – Reports and Outreach

- [Duwamish Blueprint](#)
- [Green the Green Video](#)



Projects completed – Restoration:

- **Seahurst Park Restoration part 2** completed Summer of 2014 in partnership with the City of Burien and the USACOE – connected the park to the natural shoreline and planted 17,000 native plants and shrubs.
- **Big Spring Creek part 2** completed in 2014 in partnership with the City of Enumclaw and the USACOE - constructed and enhanced a new 1,400' channel on the Enumclaw Plateau. Restored five acres of wetland habitat and 2,000 feet of riparian buffer vegetation.
- **Fenster part 2** completed in 2014 in partnership with the City of Auburn – removal of 700 feet of rock armoring and replaced with native plantings.



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Projects completed – Acquisition:

- Acquired a property adjacent to **Pinnacle Peak Park** in south King County, near the White River, in partnership with the King County Parks Division. This 18-acre parcel will expand the ecological and recreational capacity of the park and reduce development pressure.
- Washington Department of Natural Resources approved the transfer of 80 acres of land adjacent to the Green River Natural Area to King County.
- Facilitated the transfer of 40 acres of King County Roads property next to the Green River Natural Area to the Parks Division.
- Funded the eventual acquisition of the 40-acre Matthaei property at the confluence of Newaukum Creek and the Green River. The property will close in January.
- Purchase will close in early 2015 on the 10-acre Budnick property next to the Turley Levee along the Green River.
- The 2014 results of the Vashon Island Conservation Initiative included nearly four acres of shoreline acquisition and over 26 acres of land acquisition on Vashon Island.

Projects completed – Planting:

- Completed the planting of the Gary Grant Soos Creek Park 40,000 native trees and shrubs have been planted in the natural areas in 2014.
- Completed plantings at Kanaskat Reach; 200 trees and 300 shrubs were planted in 2014.
- Bass-Beaver Lake continues to receive native plantings: 1,500 plants in 2014.
- The plantings at Porter Levee natural area (started in 2001) were completed in 2014.
- Wrapped up seven-year planting project along the Newaukum Creek riparian zone; 20,000 trees were planted in 2014.
- Completed Mill Creek Leber revegetation project: clearing and grubbing of 2.0 acres of invasive plants from underneath an existing canopy of big leaf maple and cottonwoods, planted nearly 8,000 riparian and upland plants along the south bank of the Green River.
- Duwamish revegetation – Completed ½ mile of shoreline invasive weed removal and replanted the shoreline with native plants.
- Ongoing stewardship by WRIA 9 cities, EarthCorps and Sound Stewards, Duwamish Alive, and Forterra.

Education:

- WRIA 9 funded the 2014 Beach Naturalists program: The beach education program reached an all-time high of 60,576 conversations/interactions throughout all of the Puget Sound beaches over 23 separate beach dates.
- WRIA 9 funded the Environmental Science Center which serves school-age children from the Highline School District, Renton, Tukwila, and Maple Valley. Approximately 1,500 students participated in this hands-on shoreline teaching environment.