

North Wind's Weir Habitat Restoration Project in the Duwamish River Estuary

Project Contact Information

Project Web page

www.govlink.org/watersheds/9/plan-implementation/SRFB-northwinds.aspx

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King County

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July 2009 File Name: 0907NorthWindProgram.indd skrau • 1202M
Produced by King County DNRP, WLRD, GIS & Visual Comm. Unit

Purpose of the Project

The North Wind's Weir estuary habitat restoration project will create 2.5 acres of high quality habitat for juvenile salmon on the Duwamish River. Young fish migrating downstream from the Green River will feed and rear in the new mudflat and surrounding marsh. During this time, the fish will transition from being fresh water fish to becoming creatures of the ocean. This increase in habitat is expected to boost survival rates. The project contributes to reducing the critical shortage of what is termed "transition zone" habitat in this watershed.

The project also will increase habitat for other aquatic creatures, birds, and wildlife.

Finally, the project will add green space in the Duwamish River corridor.



US Army Corps of Engineers
Seattle District



King County



Schedule

3:00 p.m. Welcome – The Honorable Jim Haggerton, Mayor, City of Tukwila

Remarks

- The Honorable Zack Hudgins, Representative, 11th District, Washington State House of Representatives, *on behalf of the state funder Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (including the Salmon Recovery Funding Board)*
- The Honorable Dow Constantine, Councilmember, King County, *on behalf of the Water Resource Inventory Area 9 Watershed Ecosystem Forum*
- Olton Swanson, Deputy District Engineer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, *on behalf of the federal funder and construction manager*
- Joanna Richey, Assistant Division Director, King County Water and Land Resources Division, *on behalf of a local funder of the project design team*
- Jeffrey Possinger, Executive Director, King Conservation District, *on behalf of a local funder*

Ceremonial groundbreaking

- Invited participants including representatives of all funding entities and project partners

3:30 p.m. Conclusion

Funding

This project was made possible by generous contributions from local, state, and federal partners.

- Acquisition phase (completed 2001):
 - Elliott Bay/Duwamish Restoration Panel - \$611,000
 - Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (Recreation and Conservation Office) - \$500,000
 - Salmon Recovery Funding Board (Recreation and Conservation Office) - \$500,000 (mix of federal and state funds)
 - City of Seattle - \$100,000
 - City of Tukwila - \$100,000
 - King County - \$100,000
- Design, cleanup, construction phase:
 - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - \$1,700,000
 - Salmon Recovery Funding Board (Recreation and Conservation Office) - \$950,000
 - King County - \$635,000
 - King Conservation District - \$413,500

Project Timeline

Time immemorial:

North Wind's Weir was a place of great importance to local tribes.

1991: Property was first on a list of "Potential Intertidal Habitat Restoration Sites in the Duwamish River Estuary," produced by Curtis Tanner for the Port of Seattle and the Environmental Protection Agency. This was the origin of its name as "Site 1" for many years.

1998: Project was included in the 45-project "Green/Duwamish Ecosystem Restoration Project" developed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in partnership with the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe and local government partners.

2001: King County purchased the 2.5 acre parcel using funds from six partners. Last use of parcel prior to purchase was as a storage yard for pallets and vehicles.

2001-2004: Scientific research reinforced understanding that the property is in the heart of the critical Duwamish River "transition zone" for juvenile outmigrating Chinook salmon.

2005: Project was included in the "WRIA 9 Salmon Habitat Plan: Making Our Watershed Fit for a King." Implementation became a top priority for WRIA 9 Watershed Ecosystem Forum partners.

2008: King County removed oil-contaminated soil and concrete debris.

February-April 2009: King County removed remaining contaminated soils along the river bank.

August 2009 – 2010: U.S. Army Corps constructs off-channel habitat.

The Project Over the Years



When purchased in 2001, the property was used to store pallets and vehicles.



In 2008, oil-contaminated soil and buried chunks of concrete were cleaned up.



In February 2009, a "PortaDam" was installed to allow removal of the last contaminated soil on the riverbank.



This March 2009 photo shows the property as soil cleanup was nearing completion.



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
Seattle District



WASHINGTON STATE
Recreation and
Conservation Office



City of Seattle



**Elliott Bay/
Duwamish
Restoration Panel**