

2019 PROJECTS REVIEW

GREEN-DUWAMISH URBAN WATERS FEDERAL PARTNERSHIP

Two-thousand nineteen was an eventful year in cleanup, restoration, preservation, and engagement with the Green-Duamish River. Major events include the NOAA fish passage opinion at Howard Hanson Dam, and the final report from Gov. Jay Inslee's Orca Task Force. This year also saw the continued growth of volunteer restoration efforts with Duwamish Alive! and Orca Recovery Day both in October.

The Urban Waters Federal Partnership – Green Duwamish (UWFP-GD) participated in various convenings and workshops as well as sitting on the Watershed Recovery Inventory Area – 9 (Green Duwamish) Ecosystem Forum, and many other networks and partnerships. The Our Green/Duwamish Stormwater group convening and the Green the Green Network revegetation group both led by King County were two other collaborations where UWP-GD led substantial development of their networks. Benefiting from nominations from the UWFP-GD, members of the Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition won awards; Paulina Lopez was awarded the 2019 Urban Waters Learning Network Award and James Rasmussen was awarded the 2019 River Network River Hero Award. The Duwamish Alive Workshop co-developed by the UWFP-GD had the first productive regional conversation around homelessness' impacts on the river and ecological restoration efforts.

The UWFP-GD supported and provided funds for numerous key projects in the watershed, key projects listed below.



2019 Project Highlights

Green the Green Communications Strategy Implementation



The UWFP-GD provided funding to retain a communications firm to help the Green the Green Network organize revegetation efforts in the Lower Green River. The contractor completed a communications strategy for the Network that the UWFP-GD is now working with partners to implement. This includes strategies and messages for five different target audiences, as well as Network-wide branding and communication tools and approaches.

The Green Duwamish Learning Landscape (GDLL)



The GDLL is a Forest Service- led partnership focused on cross sector collaboration for projects in the watershed. 2019 saw the implementation of multiple projects using this collaborative structure, demonstrating the value of such a collective approach. The UWFP-GD continues to be a convening partner and organizing agent for this partnership.

Riparian Restoration Return on Investment Study with American Rivers



UWFP-GD is partnering on a study that will analyze the impact that floodplain restoration projects have on property values to determine the effect on communities' tax base and revenue. Results will be organized by land use in order to better understand the impacts based on level of development. Information developed during this study may also shed light on the impact that restoration plays in gentrification, displacement, and access to open space. Results will inform decision makers on the full cost calculation when making land use decisions for sustained community benefit.

Using Trees and Moss as Air Quality Indicators - Community Study



With UWFP-GD as the organizing and funding lead, members of the Duwamish Valley Youth Corps among other partners learned about the relationship between trees, moss, and air quality, and were trained in the moss sampling process and protocols. They then collected more than 60 moss sample from street trees and prepped them for laboratory analysis. The samples are being analyzed for 29 different heavy metals potentially impacting the community. The results will indicate where there may be different concentrations of atmospheric pollution that could impact the health of residents in the Lower Duwamish Watershed communities. The process is a screening tool for local air pollution management and a learning tool for local schools, youth groups, and community members.

Desimone Oxbow Study



At 45 acres, the largest potential site to restore shallow-water estuarine habitat on the Duwamish is the Desimone Oxbow. The space is currently used as a parking lot and storage yard, however its location in the transition zone make it uniquely suited for restoration. The Forest Service PNW Research Station, the local lead agency of the UWFP-GD, engaged an engineering student team at Seattle University to evaluate how green infrastructure can support salmon population recovery in the Duwamish River. The team developed three conceptual design alternatives for redevelopment addressing the need tidally inundated habitat, with two of the three designs also incorporating commercial development. They also produced an analysis of estuarine habitat restoration opportunities and constraints, preliminary plans for each design alternative, and recommendations for next steps in the planning and design process.

Expanding Federal Partnerships...

An important goal of the UWFP-GD is expanding partnerships with additional Federal partners. In 2019 new project work was explored with the US EPA; USDA Forest Service, Mt. Baker- Snoqualmie; U.S. Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry; and the USGS.



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Questions? Ideas?

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