



SR 520 Bridge Replacement and HOV Program



Medina to SR 202: Eastside Transit and HOV Project

Eastside wetland mitigation at Evans Creek



A view of Evans Creek, looking east.

The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) provided wetland mitigation at the confluence of Bear Creek and Evans Creek in the city of Redmond. This work was part of the Eastside Transit and HOV Project.

WSDOT, the city of Redmond, and local watershed groups identified the Evans Creek mitigation site as an important wetland habitat area.

The mitigation work will strengthen the local natural environment by improving the quality of wetland habitat. Improvements will mitigate for a loss in wetlands resulting from the construction of the Eastside project.

What did the Evans Creek mitigation project include?

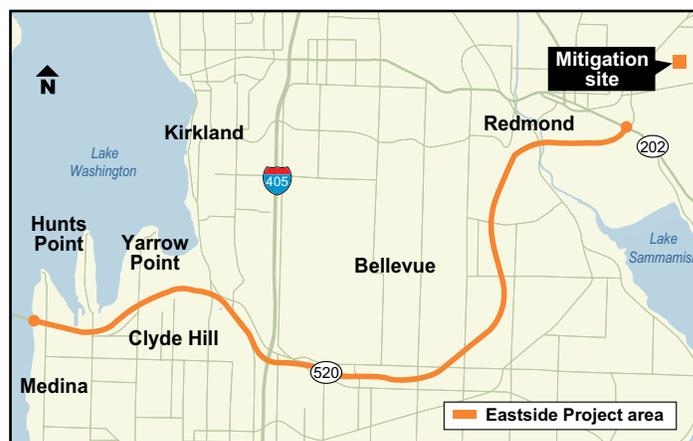
WSDOT provided wetland mitigation of approximately 32 acres near the city of Redmond. This mitigation occurred on land that was previously farmed.

With restoration work on the site completed, WSDOT will monitor this site and collect data on plants, wildlife, soil and water for up to 10 years to ensure the site is compatible with and contributes to the local ecosystem.

Why did WSDOT provide mitigation?

Through the environmental review process, WSDOT works to avoid, minimize and mitigate the environmental effects of its construction projects. While we have avoided and minimized effects to the greatest practical extent, highway construction of the project resulted in the loss of approximately six acres of wetlands in the Eastside project area.

To mitigate for these wetland effects, WSDOT provided improvements at the Evans Creek site.



Vicinity map.

What are the ecological benefits of the mitigation project?

The Evans Creek mitigation site supports a variety of wetland plants and wildlife. Evans Creek and nearby Bear Creek also contain Cedar River, Issaquah and north Lake Washington Chinook salmon populations.

Newly planted native plants provide better habitat than the non-native reed canarygrass that had taken over this area. The restoration work improves water quality and benefits salmon and other species.

Native wetland plants include dogwood, salmonberry, willow, and native wetland grasses. Other native plant species include black cottonwood, red alder, Western red cedar, and Sitka spruce. The project also incorporated habitat enhancing features such as large and small woody debris.



The mitigation improves wetland plant and wildlife habitat.

How were resource agencies and tribes involved in this mitigation project?

The project team worked with resource agencies and tribes to identify the Evans Creek site. WSDOT also worked with resource agencies and tribes through project design and coordinated with these stakeholders during work on the site.

What is the project timeline?

Work began in summer 2012 and was fully completed in 2014. WSDOT anticipates monitoring the site from 2014 to 2024.



SR 520 staff tour the mitigation site.

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