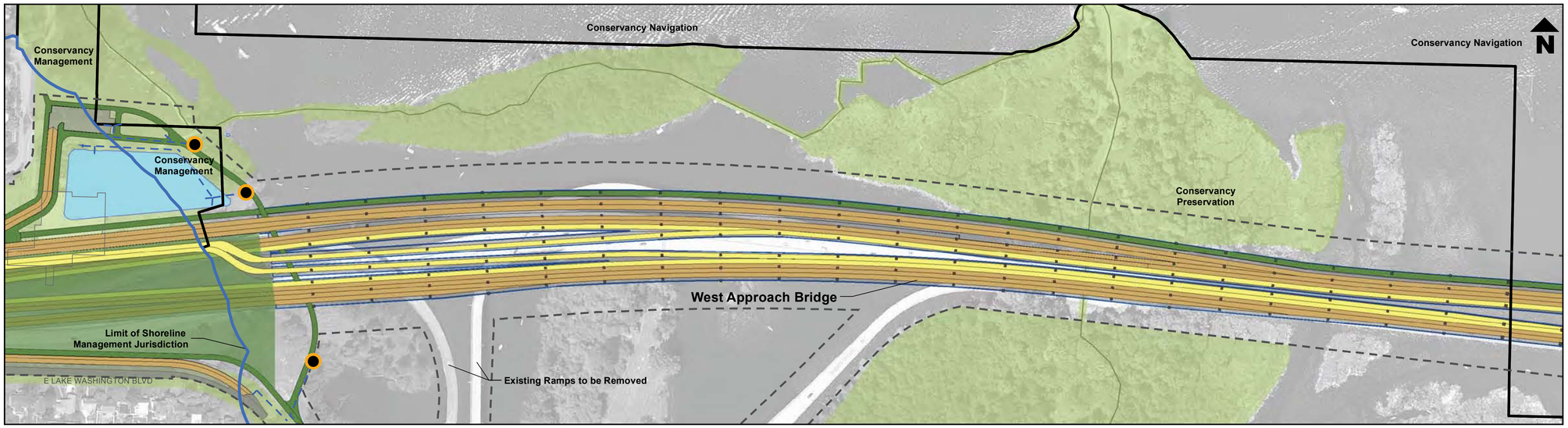
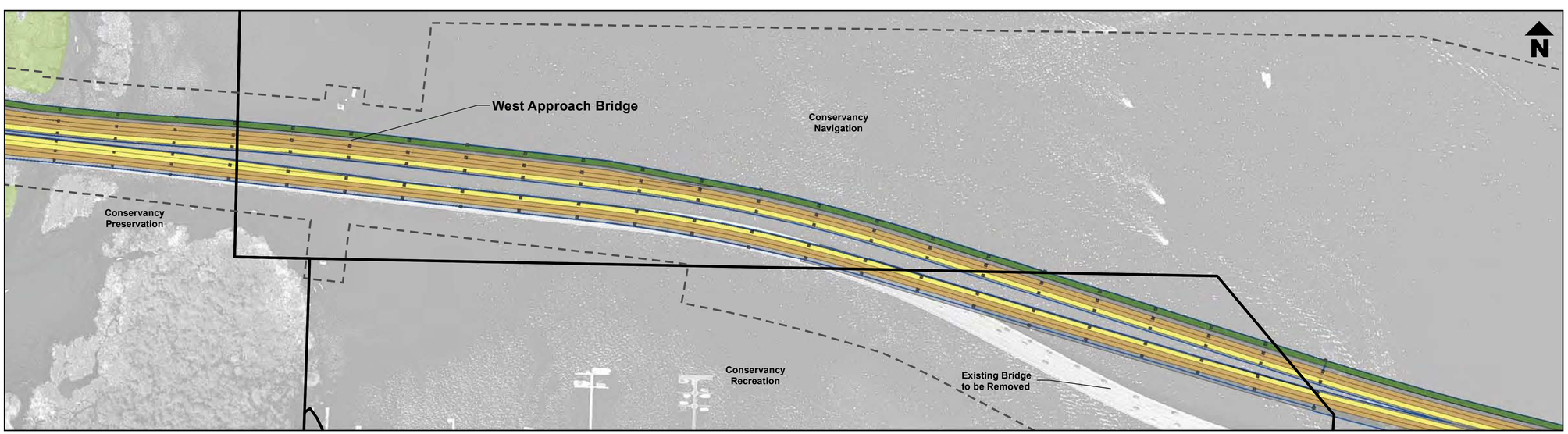
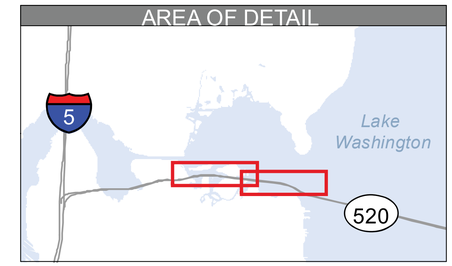
October 2011

West Approach Bridge (Shoreline application #3012587)







- Columns
- Existing regional bicycle/ pedestrian path
- Proposed bicycle/pedestrian path
- Limits of construction
- General-purpose lane
- HOV, direct access, and/or transit only
- Westbound managed shoulder
- Bridge limits
- Lid and landscape feature
- Stormwater treatment facility
- Pavement
- Park and open space
- Shoreline environment designation
- Limit of shoreline management jurisdiction
- Outfall
- Stormwater utilities

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What elements are WSDOT requesting shoreline permits for?

- West Approach Bridge (including all construction, demolition and construction staging)
- Street improvements
- Stormwater utilities (water quality facilities, including a bioswale; stormwater outfalls and drain pipes)
- Bike and pedestrian path

What Seattle shoreline environments does this project occur in?

- Conservancy Management (CM)
- Conservancy Preservation (CP)
- Conservancy Recreation (CR)
- Conservancy Navigation (CN)
- Urban Residential (UR)

When will project construction begin?

- As part of the larger, I-5 to Medina project, construction of the West Approach Bridge is targeted to begin by 2013 and conclude by 2018. **No site work or construction, including clearing of trees or vegetation, would occur until all local, state and federal permits are obtained, and the construction contracting for the West Approach Bridge and mitigation is in place.**

Is mitigation needed for the West Approach Bridge?

- Mitigation will be needed for unavoidable impacts. WSDOT will mitigate for a variety of natural resource and community impacts. The natural resource mitigation requires additional shoreline permitting.

In addition to on-site restoration, mitigation for the West Approach Bridge will take place at:

- **Union Bay Natural Area**
- **WSDOT Peninsula**
- **Seward Park**
- **Taylor Creek**

October 2011

West Approach Bridge – Impacts and Mitigation

Are there natural resource impacts requiring mitigation?

- There are temporary construction-related and permanent impacts. These impacts, such as clearing, filling and shading, would affect wetlands and aquatic resources. The proposed mitigation for these impacts will take place at the following sites:

  ~ Union Bay Natural Area ~ Seward Park

  ~ WSDOT Peninsula ~ Taylor Creek

What is the mitigation for temporary impacts?

- Temporary construction-related impacts comprise the majority of impacts associated with the West Approach Bridge and will primarily consist of clearing of wetland or buffer vegetation and shading of aquatic habitat.
- Restoration of temporary impacts will occur on-site to complete construction of the West Approach Bridge. To offset temporary impacts occurring during construction, off-site mitigation has also been offered.

What is the mitigation for permanent impacts?

- Permanent impacts will result in either a loss of habitat or an indirect effect that results in a loss of habitat function.
- Mitigation will be conducted at both on- and off-site locations where habitats can be restored and/or enhanced to improve the ecological functions of the entire watershed.
- The WSDOT Peninsula is on-site mitigation, and will provide a portion of the mitigation needed to offset impacts.
- Other on-site mitigation opportunities are limited because the majority of the area has either high density development or properly functioning natural habitat that does not require further restoration.

October 2011

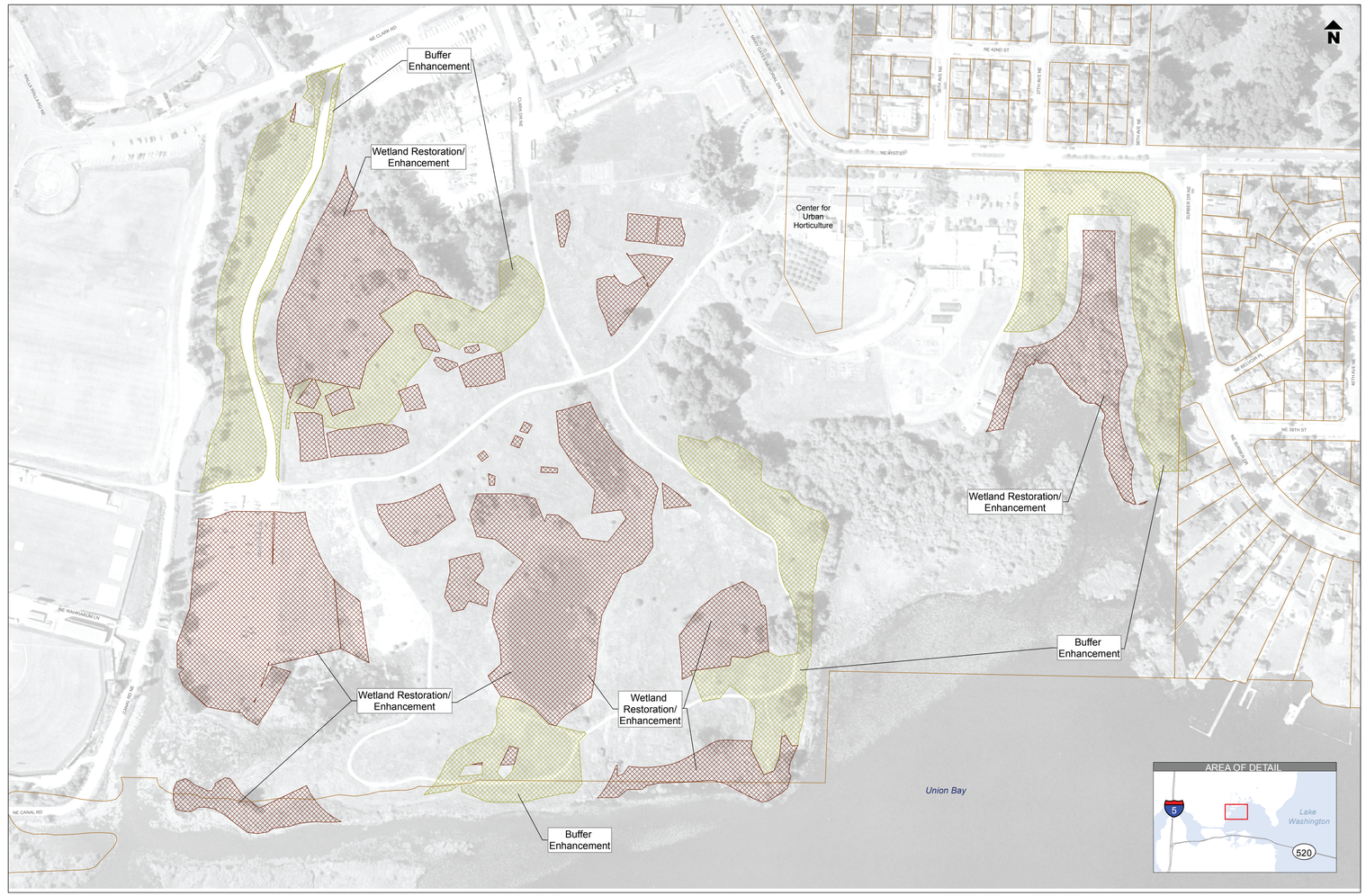
Union Bay Natural Area mitigation site (Shoreline application #3012592)

Why is mitigation for the West Approach Bridge happening at the Union Bay Natural Area?

- The Union Bay Natural Area is located in close proximity to project impacts.
- Mitigation at the Union Bay Natural Area will provide ecological functions similar to those impacted by the West Approach Bridge, such as improved water quality and wetland habitat.

What is proposed at this site?

- Wetland enhancement and establishment, consisting of:
  - ~ Removal of an existing parking lot to create wetland habitat.
  - ~ Removal of invasive and non-native species and replanting with native species.
  - ~ Wetland buffer enhancement.
- The proposed mitigation continues work begun by the University of Washington as part of the Union Bay Natural Area Master Plan.



When would mitigation at this site be constructed?

- Mitigation at the Union Bay Natural Area must be built in in advance of, or concurrent with construction of the West Approach Bridge, as required by regulations.

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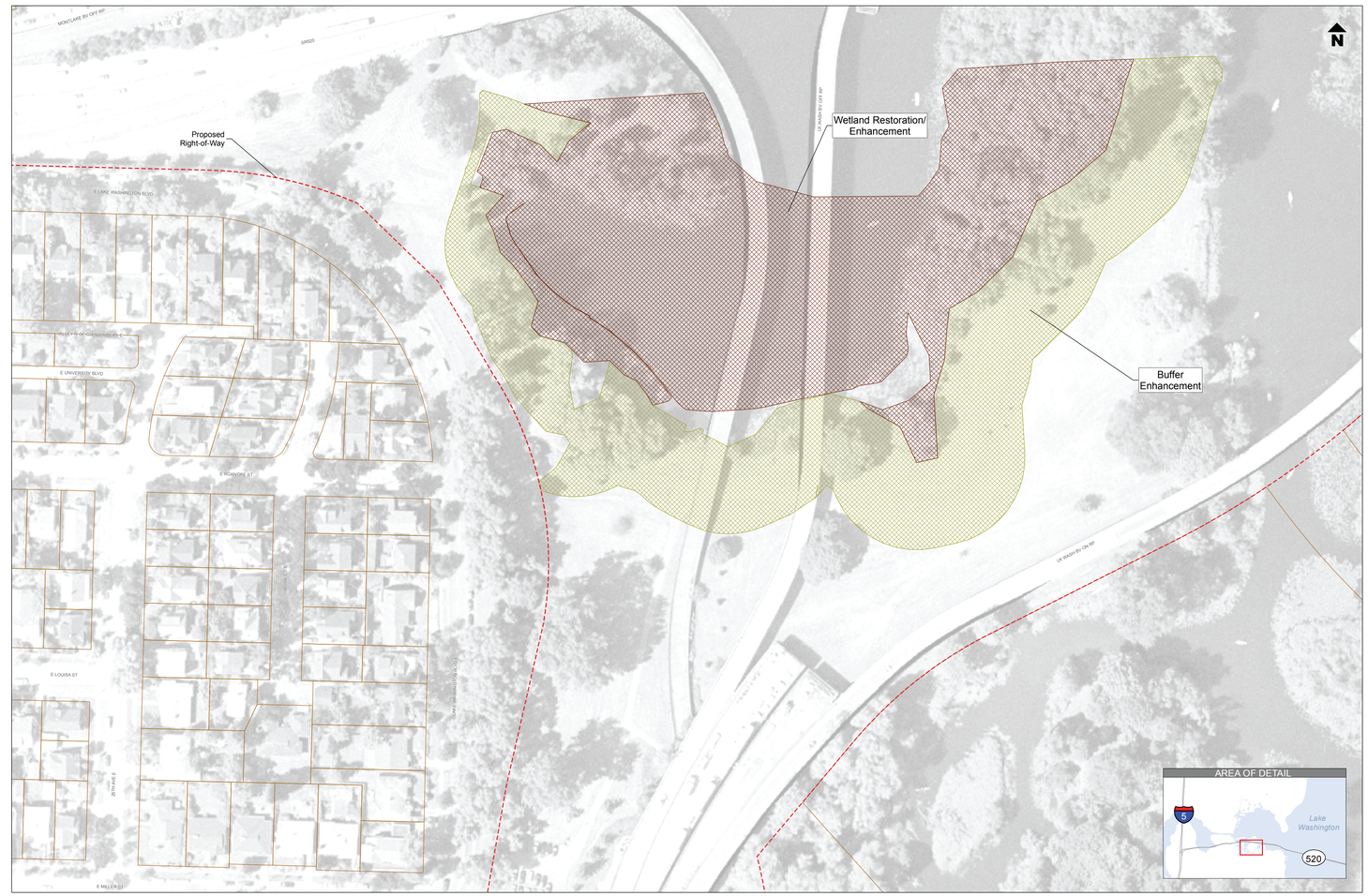
WSDOT Peninsula mitigation site (Shoreline application #3012593)

Why is mitigation for the West Approach Bridge happening at the WSDOT Peninsula?

- The WSDOT Peninsula is located within the project corridor and provides mitigation in the same wetland complex.
- Mitigation at the WSDOT Peninsula will provide ecological functions similar to those impacts by the project, such as improved water quality and wetland habitat.

What is proposed at this site?

- Wetland establishment and enhancement, including establishment of wetland in historically dredged areas. Work to consist of:
  - ~ Grading to re-establish lake fringe wetlands.
  - ~ Removal of existing invasive and non-native species and replanting with native vegetation.
  - ~ Wetland buffer enhancement.



When would mitigation at this site be constructed?

- Mitigation at the WSDOT Peninsula must be built in advance of, or concurrent with construction of the West Approach Bridge project, as required by regulations.

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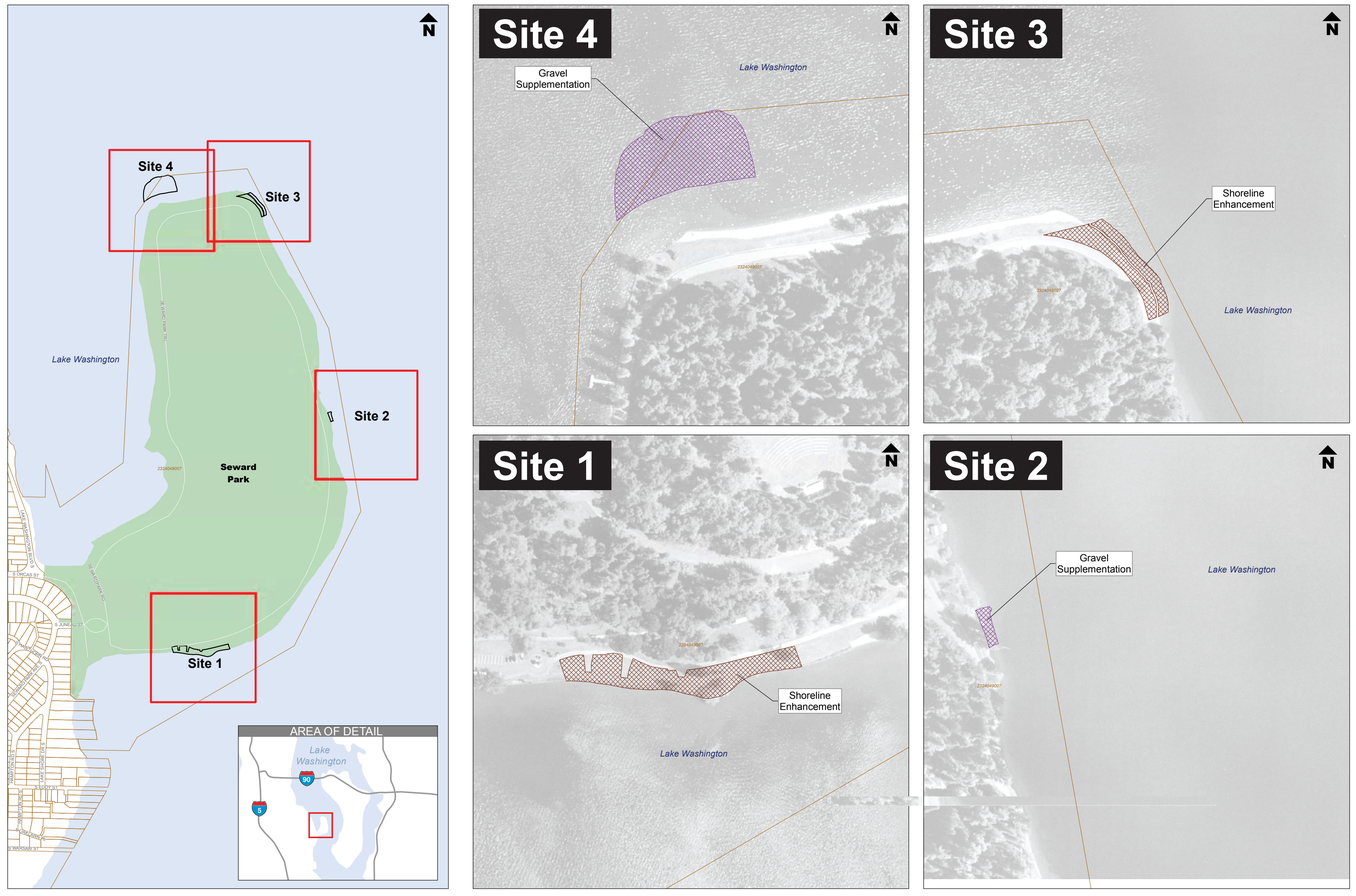
Seward Park mitigation site (Shoreline application #3012594)

Why is mitigation for the West Approach Bridge happening at Seward Park?

- Seward Park is a key location on Lake Washington, with documented use by juvenile Chinook salmon, that can provide an appropriate area to mitigate for aquatic impacts resulting from construction and operation of the West Approach Bridge.
- Mitigation at Seward Park will provide ecological functions similar to those impacted by the project, such as juvenile salmon rearing, feeding and migration habitat.

What is proposed at this site?

- Shoreline enhancement consisting of:
  - ~ Removal of armored shoreline and bulkheads.
  - ~ Enhancement of shoreline vegetation.
  - ~ Gravel supplementation in the lake for fish spawning and rearing.
- The proposed mitigation continues work that was begun by Seattle Parks and Recreation.



When would mitigation at this site be constructed?

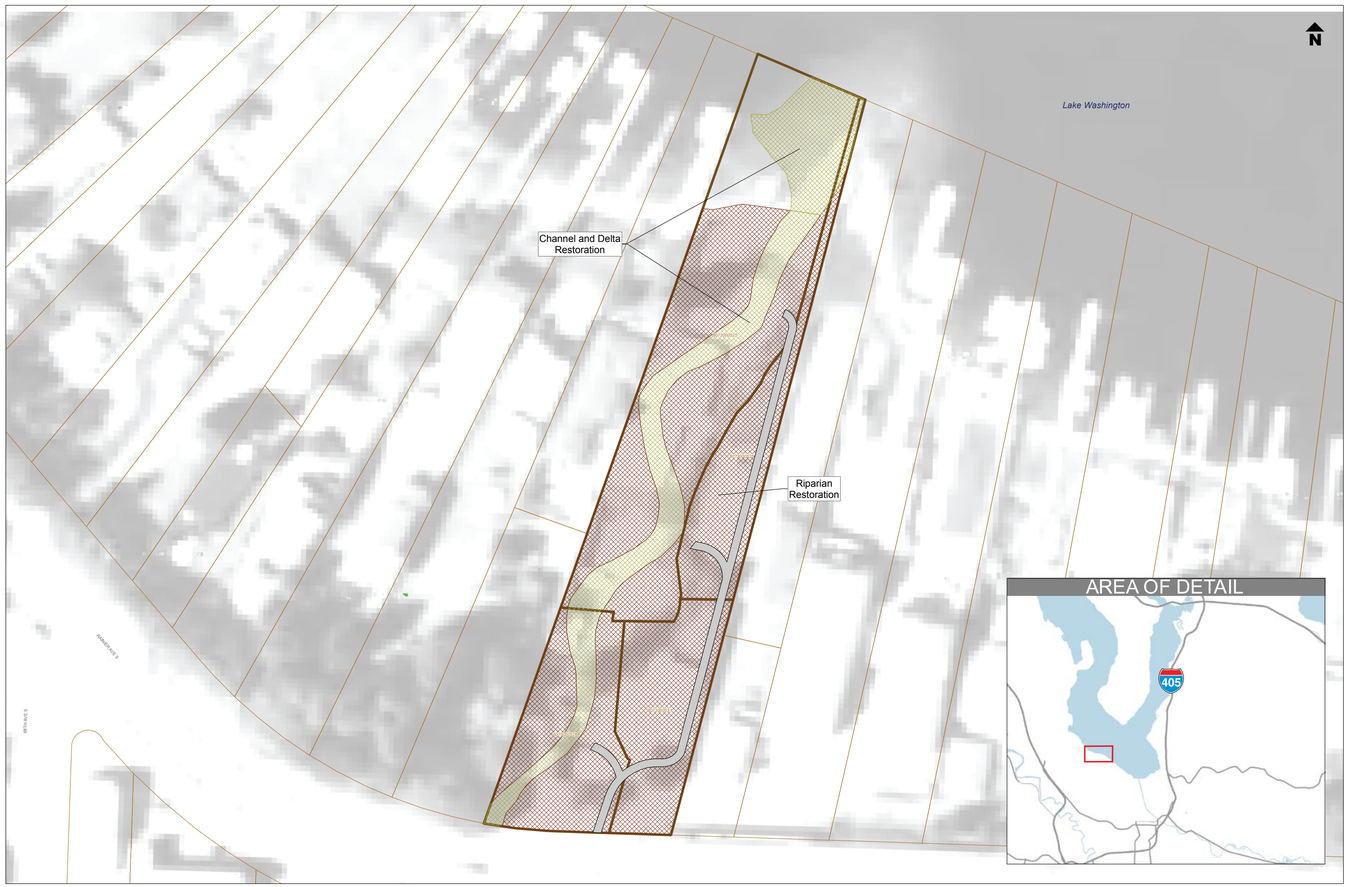
- Mitigation at Seward Park must be built in advance of, or concurrent with construction of the West Approach Bridge project, as required by regulations.

October 2011

Taylor Creek mitigation site (Shoreline application #3012595)

Why is mitigation for the West Approach Bridge happening at Taylor Creek?

- Taylor Creek is a key tributary on Lake Washington that can provide for juvenile salmon spawning, rearing and migration habitat, and Chinook salmon are known to make use of tributary habitat in South Lake Washington.
- Mitigation at Taylor Creek will provide ecological functions similar to those impacted by construction and operation of the West Approach Bridge.



What is proposed at this site?

- Stream and delta restoration, consisting of:
  - ~ Enhancing an open channel with an appropriate riparian buffer.
  - ~ Restoring fish access at the stream delta by removing oversized material.
  - ~ Providing an active and accessible floodplain.
  - ~ Planting of native vegetation.
- This work is a continuation of the restoration proposed and being pursued by Seattle Public Utilities at the site and upstream of Rainier Avenue.

When would mitigation at this site be constructed?

- Mitigation at Taylor Creek must be built in advance of, or concurrent with construction of the West Approach Bridge project, as required by regulations.