

# IMPROVING OUR REGION'S LOCAL PARKS AND NATURAL AREAS

When planning a transportation project, we try to limit any adverse effects it may have on the environment. Better still, we try to avoid them all together. When that isn't possible, we look for ways to mitigate those effects. How? We coordinate with resource agencies to improve parks, wetlands, and other sensitive natural areas. Here are the SR 520 Program environmental mitigation projects that are already completed or are underway.



## 6. SOUTH LAKE WASHINGTON



Improved about 4 acres of lake shore by planting native vegetation, removing decades-old industrial structures, and enhancing near-shore habitat. Completed in 2015.

## 7. CEDAR RIVER ELLIOTT BRIDGE REACH

Restoring about 5 acres of wetlands, side channels, floodplain and river habitat for migrating fish, including Chinook salmon. Completion expected in 2016.

## 8. YARROW CREEK



Restored wetlands and rehabilitated the stream to improve fish and wildlife habitat, and built eight large, fish-friendly culverts within SR 520's Eastside corridor. Completed in 2014.

## 9. SR 520 EAST APPROACH

Improving about 1 acre of sockeye-spawning habitat beneath the east end of the new floating bridge by adding lake-bed gravel, removing bulkhead and rubble, and restoring/replanting the shoreline. Completion expected in 2016.

## 10. GRASS CREEK

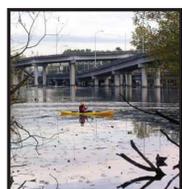


Restored wetlands and shoreline habitat in the 68-acre Grass Creek site in Grays Harbor County by removing a portion of earthen dike and re-establishing tidal channels to reconnect and restore tidal influence in the area. (SR 520 pontoons were constructed in Aberdeen, Grays Harbor County.) Completed in 2011.

## 1. NEW PORTAGE BAY PARK

Supporting the city of Seattle's creation of a new, approximately 4-acre public park on the north shore of Portage Bay, with water access for boaters and open space for other uses. Completion expected in 2018.

## 2. WASHINGTON PARK ARBORETUM



Performing a variety of improvements in the Arboretum, including creation of a new multiuse trail, and restoration work in Arboretum Creek, Azalea Way Pond and Foster Island. Projects are underway.

## 3. EVANS CREEK



Improved about 32 acres of wetlands at the confluence of Bear Creek and Evans Creek, near Redmond. Completed in 2013.

## 4. UNION BAY NATURAL AREA



Improving existing wetlands and buffers, and creating new wetlands – about 22 acres total – within the University of Washington's Union Bay Natural Area, northeast of Husky Stadium. Completion expected in 2017.

## 5. BEAR CREEK



Improved about 16 acres of important stream and riparian habitat for salmon by stabilizing creek bank, adding stream gravel and wood, and planting native vegetation. Completed in 2015.