

# Sno-King Watershed Council 2017 Year In Review

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Members of the Sno-King Watershed Council worked hard defending, protecting and restoring streams, wetlands, and watersheds in King and Snohomish counties. This included work in the areas of volunteer water monitoring, environmental activism, and restoration projects. Here you will find a description of our activities and accomplishments in 2017.

## SNO-KING WATER WATCHERS

### Volunteer water monitoring

- Volunteer monitors identified extremely high levels of bacteriological contamination in Little Swamp Creek in Bothell & are partnering with the City of Bothell to identify and control the sources.
- We responded to instances of construction stormwater runoff violations and worked with local jurisdictions to get contractors to take proper erosion control measures.
- 21 certified monitors spent nearly 1000 volunteer hours performing monthly monitoring at 24 stream sites in north King and south Snohomish counties. Monitors assessed physical, chemical, bacteriological, and biological indicators.
- Monitored during hottest weather, coldest weather, and first flush rain conditions.
- Conducted annual assessment of benthic macroinvertebrates at all stream sites.
- Met with Pierce Conservation District Stream Team coordinator to compare programs.
- Monthly data from volunteer water monitoring was shared on the Sno-King Watershed Council website.

### Training

- Trained 19 new volunteer water quality monitors in Physical and Chemical, Bacteriological, and Biological Monitoring.
- Trained members from Thornton Creek Alliance, Puget Soundkeeper, and Unleash the Brilliance Teens, who will use the training to advance their own programs and projects.
- Got certified by program partner Global Water Watch to “train our own trainers”.
- Recertified all existing monitors in monitoring techniques.

### Outreach and education

- Coordinated and conducted a Swamp Creek Watershed Forum in March 2017 in partnership with the City of Kenmore. The event highlighted history, issues, and ways to

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protect Swamp Creek. Over 60 people including citizens, staff, and elected officials attended.

- Participated in the Green-Duwamish Watershed Symposium.
- Delivered watershed presentations to Horticulture Program students at Lynnwood High School in April to approximately 50 students.
- Participated in the Storming the Sound for Salmon event in May & shared information with approximately 750 students over 3 days about stream health, salmon and killer whales, and what students can do.
- Gave a formal presentation in June to the Kenmore City Council on water quality issues, including construction stormwater issues, and ways Kenmore can help.
- In July, participated in the Sustainability Fair held at the Northwest Stream Center in McCollum Park. Shared information with approximately 300 people about water quality and local stream issues, and provided opportunities for children and adults to conduct hands-on water quality tests.
- Obtained outreach materials including sandwich boards and handouts to highlight water quality issues and monitoring efforts at high-visibility monitoring sites.

## ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVISM

### Paine Field Airport wetland protection leads to rain garden construction

- In 2016, SKWC filed a Clean Water Act citizen lawsuit jointly with Waste Action Project, to force the Snohomish County Airport to repair damages from a 5-acre parking lot constructed without permits or code required water quality treatments, and protect another high-value wetland.
- This resulted in a legal settlement of \$175,000 to be used for construction of rain gardens in the Swamp Creek watershed.
- In 2017, partners Earth Corps and Farmer Frog used the settlement money to construct so far 20 rain gardens in the Swamp Creek watershed.

### Penta-Treated poles replaced in Swamp Creek wetland in Kenmore

- In 2016, SKWC discovered that Puget Sound Energy (PSE) installed utility poles treated with pentachlorophenol (Penta) wood preservative in the Kenmore Swamp Creek Wetland, in violation of its Hydraulic Project Approval (HPA) permit.
- SKWC worked with the Washington State Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW) and the US Army Corps of Engineers to force PSE to remove the illicitly installed Penta utility poles.
- Pole removal and replacement was successfully completed in 2017.

### Paine Field terminal review results in improved stormwater design

- In March 2017, Snohomish County Airport issued a DNS determination for construction of a new 1-acre terminal building, 600-vehicle parking lot, and removal and replacement

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of pavement in the aircraft operations area totaling over 7-acres of replaced impervious surfaces.

- SKWC found that that the project's flow control and water quality treatment were inadequate and appealed the SEPA DNS determination and grading plans to the County Hearing Examiner.
- Subsequently the Terminal Building tenant, Propeller, Inc and the County negotiated an agreement which resulted in the project being redesigned to meet County Drainage Code and tree/landscaping requirements.

### We are working to close code loopholes

- Loophole - Only massive redevelopment triggers new stormwater flow control at Snohomish County Airport. In 2017, SKWC appealed a proposed redevelopment project at Snohomish County Airport on the basis that as its value exceeded 50% of the assessed value of the property, a redesign threshold was triggered. However, this was denied when the subject site value was aggregated with that of multiple other tenants on a 153-acre parcel. Essentially, over 50% of the whole parcel would have to be redeveloped to trigger new stormwater flow controls. SKWC is now lobbying the Snohomish County Council and County Executive to close this loophole. SKWC has also contacted the Dept. of Ecology to close this loophole in its next edition of its *Stormwater Management Manual for Western Washington*.
- Loophole – Snohomish County will issue grading and building permits to tax scofflaws. SKWC was asked to evaluate a development project impacting Swamp Creek and learned that grading and building permits had been issued even though the property owner had failed to pay their taxes to Snohomish County. SKWC is advocating to the County that they not issue permits unless property taxes are paid.

### Logan Woods project appeal – working to protect a Swamp Creek tributary

- In March 2017 SNOCO Planning & Development Services issued a DNS determination for Applicant Logan Woods, LLC to construct a 14-lot subdivision and rezone from R-9,600 to R-7,200. The project is located adjacent to wetlands and a tributary stream to Swamp Creek.
- In April 2017 Appellants Hilltop Locust Community Group and SKWC appealed the project SEPA threshold decision for failing to address critical areas issues of wetlands, wetland buffer, and impacts to Swamp Creek and its tributary stream.
- Hilltop-Locust Community Group is working to negotiate better protection for the tributary stream to the stretch of Swamp Creek which contains some of the most intact salmon redds on Swamp Creek.

## RESTORATION PROJECTS

### Squire's Landing Park in Kenmore

- This is a 42-acre open space at the intersection of Swamp Creek and the Sammamish River. SKWC received grant funding in 2015 from the Salmon Recovery Funding Board and Washington State Recreation & Conservation Organization for a 2-acre riparian restoration. Project partner Adopt A Stream is managing and implementing the project.

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- Invasive control, mowing, and planting started in 2016, with several hundred plants and trees planted by volunteers. This project continued through 2017 and into 2018.
- As described below, we were successful in obtaining additional grant funding for restoration on this site, though work is on hold pending the City of Kenmore determining its own need for areas in this park to do mitigation for planned improvements.

### Rain Gardens

- As described above, \$175,000 in settlement money was obtained and is currently being used by partners EarthCorps and Farmer Frog to construct rain gardens in the Swamp Creek watershed.
- Thanks to King County Councilmember Rod Dembowski, an additional \$20,000 is being made available to construct more rain gardens in the Swamp Creek watershed.

### GRANTS AND PROGRAM SUPPORT

- SKWC received a \$2500 grant from King County via Councilmember Rod Dembowski to support our work protecting streams and watersheds in King and Snohomish counties.
- We obtained new grant funding of \$25,000 over 2 years for project reviews and appeals, from the Puget Sound Stewardship and Mitigation Fund, created by Puget Soundkeeper and administered by the Rose Foundation.
- We were granted new funding of \$15,000 for the Sno-King Water Watchers Program Enhancement. This came from the King County Wastewater Treatment Division Water Works council-allocated funding via Council Member Rod Dembowski.
- \$20,000 was granted for construction of rain gardens in the Swamp Creek watershed. This was also from the King County Wastewater Treatment Division Water Works council-allocated funding via Council Member Rod Dembowski.
- With project partner Adopt A Stream Foundation, received \$65,000 in new grant funding for Squire's Landing Riparian Restoration, from the King County Wastewater Treatment Division Water Works council-allocated funding via Council Member Rod Dembowski.
- We continue operating under a 2016 \$15,000 grant from King County's Wastewater Treatment Division competitive grant funding for Water Watch program operation.
- The Charlotte Martin Foundation granted \$5000 in late 2016, for work protecting streams and watersheds & helping work on climate change, money which was utilized in 2017.

### Thank you!

Thank you to our many supporters and volunteers! We couldn't do it without you! Thanks especially to King County Councilmember Rod Dembowski for major program support.

Sno-King Watershed Council is a 501(c)(3) organization and donations are tax-deductible.



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## GLOBAL WATER WATCH

## 5A - LITTLE SWAMP CREEK, 234th BACTERIOLOGICAL MONITORING

Group: SNO-KING WATER WATCHERS

Monitor(s): Jeff Staley, Marilyn Knutson

Address: 801 234th Street SE

City: Bothell

Country: USA

Zip: 98021

Phone: 206-701-4865

Sample Date: 9/11/17

Sample Time: 1030

GWW Site Code:

Watershed: Little Swamp Creek

Waterbody: Little Swamp Cr

State & Municipality: WA, SNOHOMISH

Site Location: Jeff Staley's property, 234th St SE, Bothell. North of little red bridge in backyard.

(Notify the GWW office about any changes in the sampling site location.)

Waterbody Condition:		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adequate depth	<input type="checkbox"/> Inadequate depth	<input type="checkbox"/> Dry	<input type="checkbox"/> No access
Tide influenced stream:		<input type="checkbox"/> Raising tide	<input type="checkbox"/> Falling tide	<input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	
Variable	Value		Comments		
Temperature	Air: 21 Water: 13.5 °C		Measure air temp before water temp.		
Sample Volume	1 mL		Use same volume for all replicates		
Incubation Time	11:50		Use 24 hr format, (1:45 pm = 1345)		
Incubation Temp.	35 °C		Keep incubation temp between 29 y 37 °C.		
Incubation Period	45 hrs		Count bacteria within 30 a 48 hr incubation		
Media Expiration Date	2 - 18		Use short date format, May - 16.		
Plated on Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		Plate at horizontal, shaded surface		
Transported on Ice	<input type="checkbox"/> < 3 hrs <input type="checkbox"/> No ice < 30min		Plate as soon as possible.		
Rep. No.	No. of <i>E. coli</i> colonies in plate (blue-green to dark blue-purple)*	No. of Others Coliform colonies (pink to dark red) *	Text Code for Abundance Other Coliform **		
1	105	15	Common		
2	140	16	Common		
3	116	10	Common		
* When colonies are too numerous to count record 250					
** Abundance: None (0), Rare (1-9), Common (10-100), Abundant (101-200), Too Numerous (250).					
Other Bacteria Tests		IDEXX, Coliscan MF, etc.			
Comments: Note evidence of rainfall, runoff within previous 24 hours, unusual smell, unusual color, cows or other animals in creek, etc.		GWW use Only			
I hereby declare that at the time of this monitoring event my GWW Bacteriological Monitoring Certification was current and that I confirmed the freshness of the media used for the tests.					
<input type="checkbox"/> Check for electronic signature		Monitor signature			
Global Water Watch		Global Water Watch			
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Email: gww@auburn.edu ~ Web: www.globalwaterwatch.org		Email: gww@auburn.edu ~ Web: www.globalwaterwatch.org			

GUEST MONITOR(S):

STUDENT MONITOR(S):







