

Seahurst Beach Restoration Phase 2

Project Overview

The Seahurst Phase 2 project is part of the Puget Sound and Adjacent Waters Restoration Program authorized under Section 544 of the Water Resource Development Act of 2000. The program focuses on implementing critical projects for the preservation, protection and restoration of critical ecosystem processes, habitats, and functions within the Puget Sound basin. Priority projects are selected by consulting with regional stakeholders including non-Profit organizations, tribes, the state and federal agencies.



The Seahurst Phase 2 project restores and reconnects 1,800 feet of forage fish nearshore habitat by removing the seawall and riprap along the beach. Improved habitat aids recovery of species, such as bull trout, steelhead and Chinook salmon, listed under the Endangered Species Act. Burien's Seahurst Park provides a significant and unique restoration opportunity in the heart of Puget Sound. The 4,500 feet of shoreline make up the largest public shoreline park between Seattle and Tacoma.

Seahurst's seawall and rip rap prevent coastal bluff sediment from reaching the intertidal zone, reducing the amount of beach sediment. Armoring is listed as a significant "threat" in the Puget Sound Action Agenda as well as the NOAA Salmon Recovery Plan. Puget Sound recovery efforts have identified lack of feeder bluffs as a major concern with the decline of the Puget Sound ecosystem.

The Army Corps of Engineers and the City of Burien signed a partnership agreement in 2011, and the Corps completed design of the Phase 2 project in 2012. The Corps awarded a \$6.2 million construction contract Sept. 6, 2013, to California-headquartered CKY Inc., a civil and environmental construction company with a Seattle office. Construction is scheduled to be complete in Spring 2014.

The Corps of Engineers is providing \$5 million, the maximum allowed by PSAWR authority. The City of Burien, sponsor for the Corps project, partnered with several federal, state and local organizations. City partners are supporting the city by providing \$4.2 million state capital allocated by Puget Sound Partnership through the Puget Sound Acquisition & Restoration fund; \$1.2 million from the Environmental Protection Agency and Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife's Estuary & Salmon Restoration Program; and \$510,000 from the Green/Duwamish Watershed Forum through the King Conservation District.

Phase 1 removed about 1,000 feet of seawall and Phase 2 will nearly double that, removing about 1,800 feet of the armoring. In 2005 the southern portion of Seahurst Beach (Phase 1) was successfully restored and won the American Society of Beach Preservation Association's 2010 Best Beach Restoration Award.