

Date: August 14, 2002
Project Name: Sammamish River Weir Restoration
Non-Federal Sponsor: King County, Washington
Location: Marymoor Park
Congressional District: 8
Project Completion: November, 1998
Project Cost: \$261,000
Authority: Section 1135 of WRDA 1986, PL 99-662
Project Manager: Corey Loveland, 206 764-3488
Coordinated with: Save Our Dog Areas (SODA)



Grade Control Sill (Weir) Notch is four feet in width



Riparian vegetation and river public access point



View of vegetation along fence line

Project Location:

The Sammamish River (length 13.7 miles) connects Lake Sammamish with Lake Washington. The project is located 22 miles northeast of Seattle and is located within the boundaries of Marymoor Park (King County). The project area extends from Lake Sammamish downstream approximately 3,000 feet to what was designated in the original flood control project as the “transitional area.”

Project Description:

The intent of the restoration project was to improve upstream and downstream migration of juvenile and adult salmon at the weir, particularly during low flow conditions. The Sammamish weir sets the lake elevations for Lake Sammamish. The weir is part of a flood control channel constructed by the Corps of Engineers at the request of King County in the 1960's. Additionally, the restoration project improved fish and wildlife habitat downstream of the weir, and improved water quality by reducing bank erosion and improving the riparian habitat. King County was the local project sponsor.

The project design reduced the width of the low flow notch from 12 feet to 4 feet and deepened the notch to insure a good attraction flow for salmon during low flow conditions, without altering the set lake elevations for Lake Sammamish. The design included fencing the riverbank along the flood control channel and encouraging river access only in four selected areas to prevent erosion. Replanting of native trees and shrubs occurred in all areas between the access points to provide shade and cover for fish, reduce erosion, and improve water quality. The increased density of vegetation was designed to provide habitat for birds and small mammals.

The goal of this restoration project, implemented in Autumn 1998, was to restore the riparian habitat by establishing a vegetated riparian corridor on the east side of the Sammamish River bank at Marymoor Park. Planting the site with native trees and shrubs, and constructing fencing to deter pet access from the surrounding off-leash area, would accomplish this.

Project Results/Monitoring Status:

Construction and planting was completed in November 1998. Monitoring will be conducted through 2004 to assess bank erosion and riparian vegetation.

The site was last visited on August 13th 2002, with monitoring results indicating the system is establishing well. Overall, plant survival and health are good. Some plants on the upper banks are stressed from direct sun exposure and inadequate irrigation. This condition could have been lessened had the species been more sun tolerant and regularly irrigated through the dry summer months. Some invasive weeds are present, however, they only comprise about 5 percent cover. On-going weed control should continue until trees and shrubs have entirely established. Some additional planting could accelerate establishing native cover on the upper bank where occasional mortality has occurred.