



*Restored banks on the Sammamish River in Redmond, 2010*

# SAMMAMISH RIVER AND ISSAQUAH CREEK

## *King County Flood Hazard Management Plan Update*

### *King County's river and floodplain management vision and strategy:*

- Maintain the Sammamish River channel, banks, and weir to convey floodwaters consistent with the 1964 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers maintenance plan while improving conditions for fish and wildlife.
- Cooperate with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the cities of Kenmore, Redmond, Woodinville and Bothell to remove invasive plants and set banks back to accommodate flows and establish native plants along the river.
- Improve habitat by restoring tributary connections, creating overhanging shade and cover from riverside plants, and increasing the amount of large wood in the river, while maintaining a commitment to flood conveyance.
- Improve the Transition Zone between Lake Sammamish and the Sammamish River to address flood concerns in the lake and improve fish and wildlife habitat consistent with Endangered Species Act recovery efforts.
- Reduce risks to flood-prone homes and commercial buildings near Issaquah Creek through buyouts, structural improvements and setting back levees.
- Prevent new at-risk development, especially along Issaquah Creek, through land use policies and targeted acquisitions.

### *Existing conditions of the Sammamish River/Issaquah Creek:*

- The Sammamish River is a relatively flat, channelized and straightened river connecting Lake Washington and Lake Sammamish.
- Farmland, regional parks, and the well-used Sammamish River Trail line the river through its central valley. The core of the cities, homes, parks, light industry and businesses lie near the river.
- Rare floods bring minor overtopping of agricultural and recreational lands in the valley and docks and lawns overtop on Lake Sammamish. Flooding presents few threats to public safety.



*Residential flooding in the City of Issaquah, 2009*

*continued on back*

### ***Existing Conditions continued***

- Issaquah Creek flows from its largely rural upper watershed to the City of Issaquah's urban core in its lower reaches. Rapid residential growth in the basin means flooding now significantly affects parts of downtown. Flood risk reduction consists mostly of hardened banks within the city and acquisition of frequently flooded properties.
- Issaquah Creek is a significant resource for both native and hatchery salmon; lands acquired to mitigate floods also provide important habitat protection and restoration opportunities.

### ***King County Flood Plan accomplishments 2006-2012:***

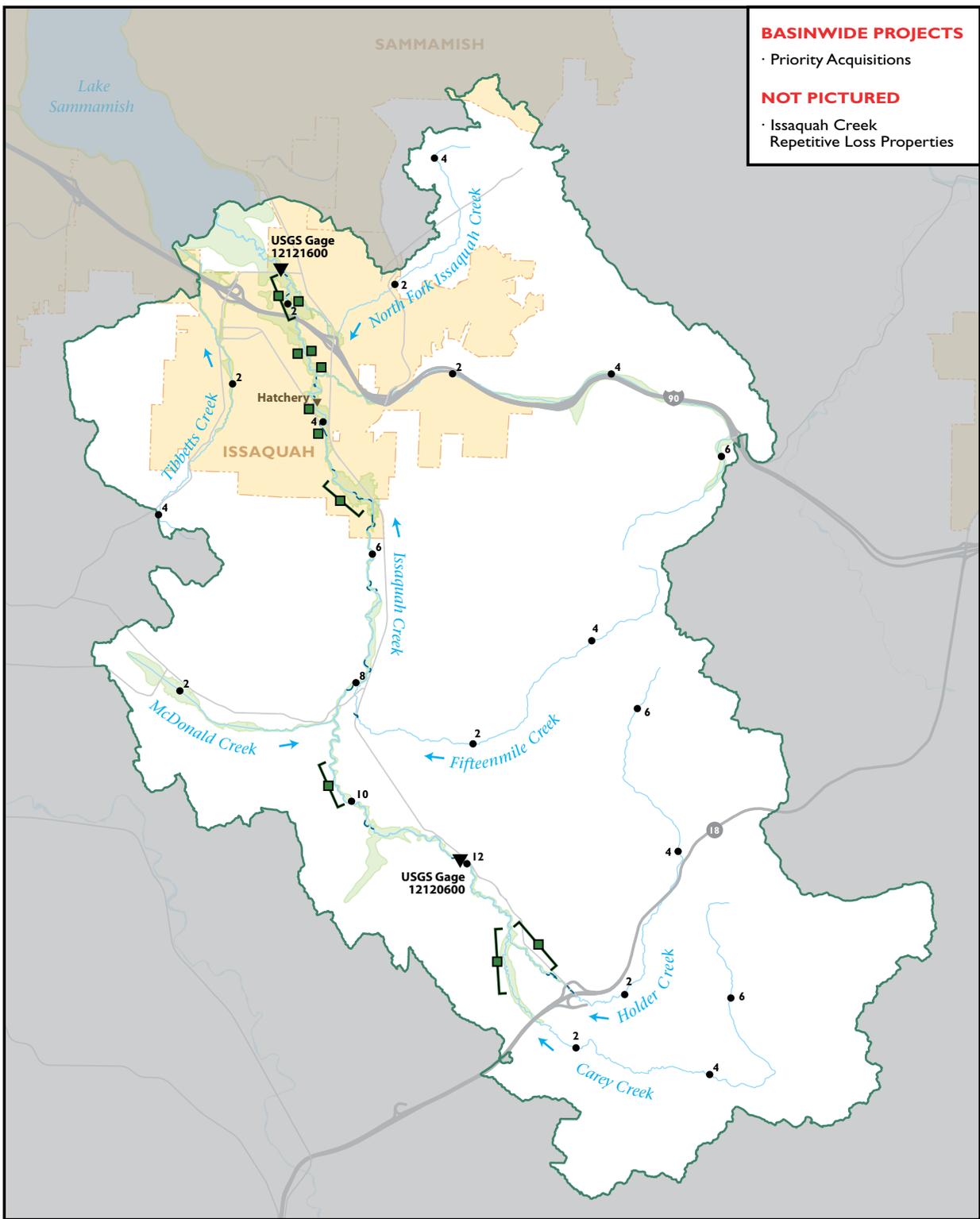
- Enhanced recreational, aesthetic and habitat values along the Sammamish River with a series of riverbank restorations, replacing invasive plants with Northwest native species in partnership with the cities of Redmond, Woodinville, Bothell and Kenmore.
- Improved habitat and recreation consistent with flood conveyance goals through city projects that have added wood in the river, native plants along the river and re-contoured banks.
- Increased the frequency and extent of vegetation maintenance in the Transition Zone between Lake Sammamish and the Sammamish River to make sure the lake drains as intended during high water conditions. Lake levels for 2012 have improved markedly after maintenance in 2011.
- The City of Issaquah acquired parcels, elevated buildings, set back levees and stabilized banks to reduce flood risks. Projects included an acquisition and partial levee removal in the Sycamore neighborhood in 2010. Overall, the city has preserved 100 acres of floodplain as permanent open space.

### ***Proposed river and floodplain management actions for 2013-2018:***

- Reconfigure the outflow from Lake Sammamish into the river, as part of the Willowmoor Floodplain Restoration Project, to maintain or reduce flood risk in a way that reduces impacts on fish and wildlife in the transition zone and supports recovery of endangered species, particularly fish migrating upstream through the weir into Lake Sammamish and Issaquah Creek.
- Continue Sammamish Riverbank restoration with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the cities of Redmond, Woodinville, Bothell and Kenmore to take advantage of opportunities to improve connections with tributary streams, re-contour and set back riverbanks and do native plantings. We will work with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to maintain the Sammamish River consistent with the 1964 plan and the endangered species listing for native salmon.
- Acquire, elevate and redevelops at-risk structures to reduce flood risks with the City of Issaquah, and acquire undeveloped property in known flood hazard areas to prevent new at-risk construction.

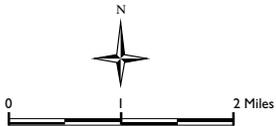
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or email [WLR-rivers@kingcounty.gov](mailto:WLR-rivers@kingcounty.gov).

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Call 206-296-6519 or TTY:711



- BASINWIDE PROJECTS**
- Priority Acquisitions
- NOT PICTURED**
- Issaquah Creek Repetitive Loss Properties

**ISSAQUAH CREEK**  
**KING COUNTY FLOOD HAZARD MANAGEMENT PLAN**

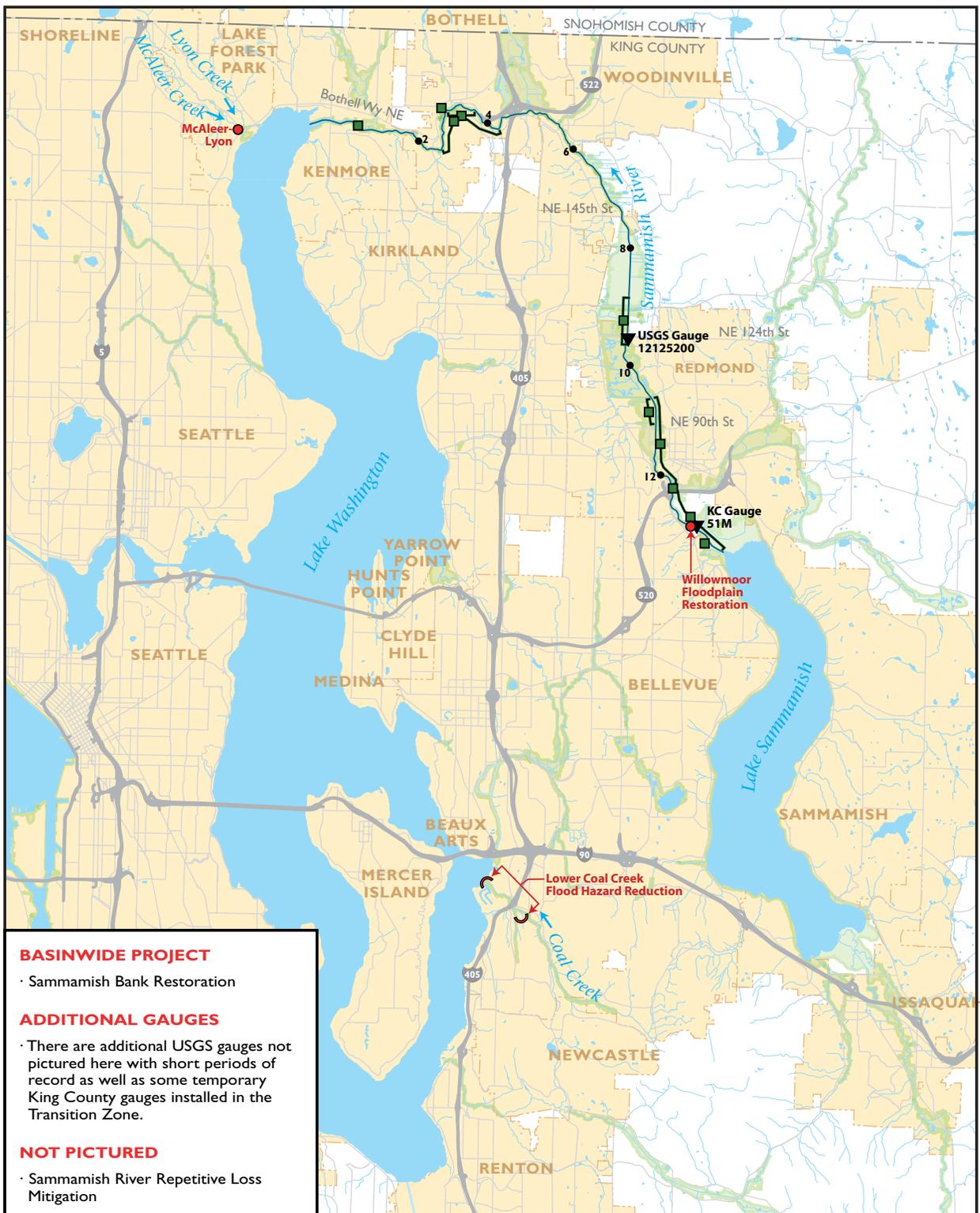


- Rivers and Streams with FEMA Mapped 100-Year Regulatory Floodplains
- Rivers and Streams with Unmapped Regulatory Floodplains
- Flood Protection Infrastructure (Levees & Revetments)
- WRIA Salmon Recovery 3-Year Work Plan Project Sites and Reaches
- River Miles (Approximate)
- Watershed/Basin Boundary
- Road
- Incorporated Area



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## SAMMAMISH RIVER AND LAKE WASHINGTON CREEKS

KING COUNTY FLOOD HAZARD MANAGEMENT PLAN

- Proposed Project Sites, as described in Chapter 5 (Project locations are approximate)
- ↪ Proposed Project Reach
- ▬ Rivers and Streams with FEMA Mapped 100-Year Regulatory Floodplains
- ▬ Rivers and Streams with Unmapped Regulatory Floodplains
- ▬ (WRIA Salmon Recovery 3-Year Work Plan Project Sites and Reaches)
- ▬ Flood Protection Infrastructure (Leaves & Revetments)
- 2 River Miles (Approximate)
- ▬ Road
- Incorporated Area



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