

Stay Informed & Provide Input

There will be opportunities for the public to participate during the development of the Bear Creek Watershed Plan, including public meetings and on-line surveys. Background information and updates are provided on the project website at www.kingcounty.gov/BearCreekPlan.

If you have questions, or wish to be more actively involved in the development of the watershed plan, please contact:

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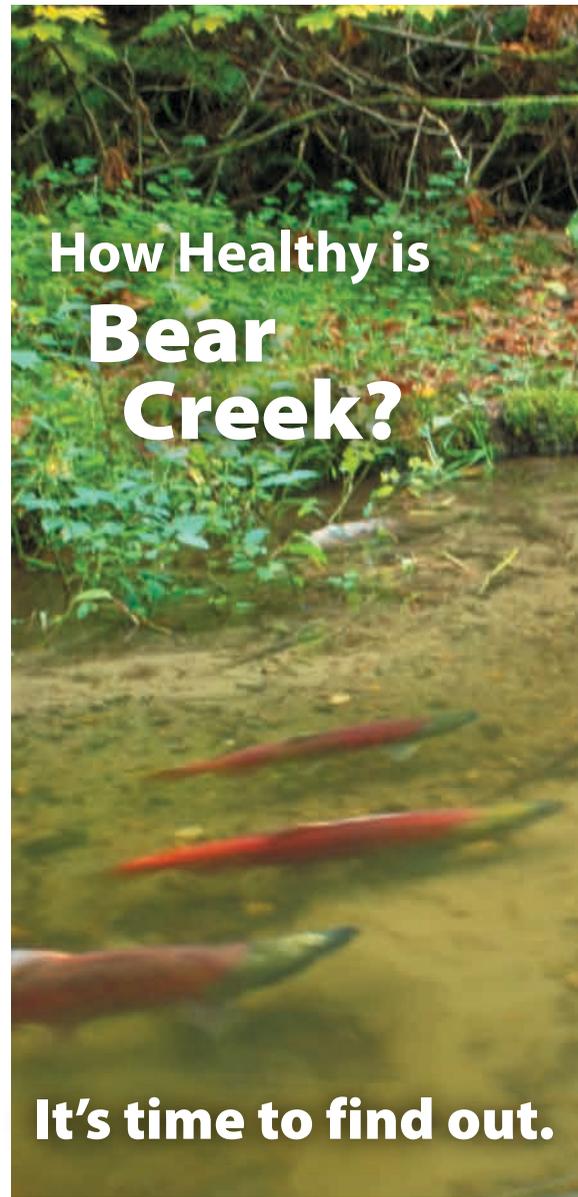
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Alternative formats available.
Please call 206-477-4658 or
TTY: 711.

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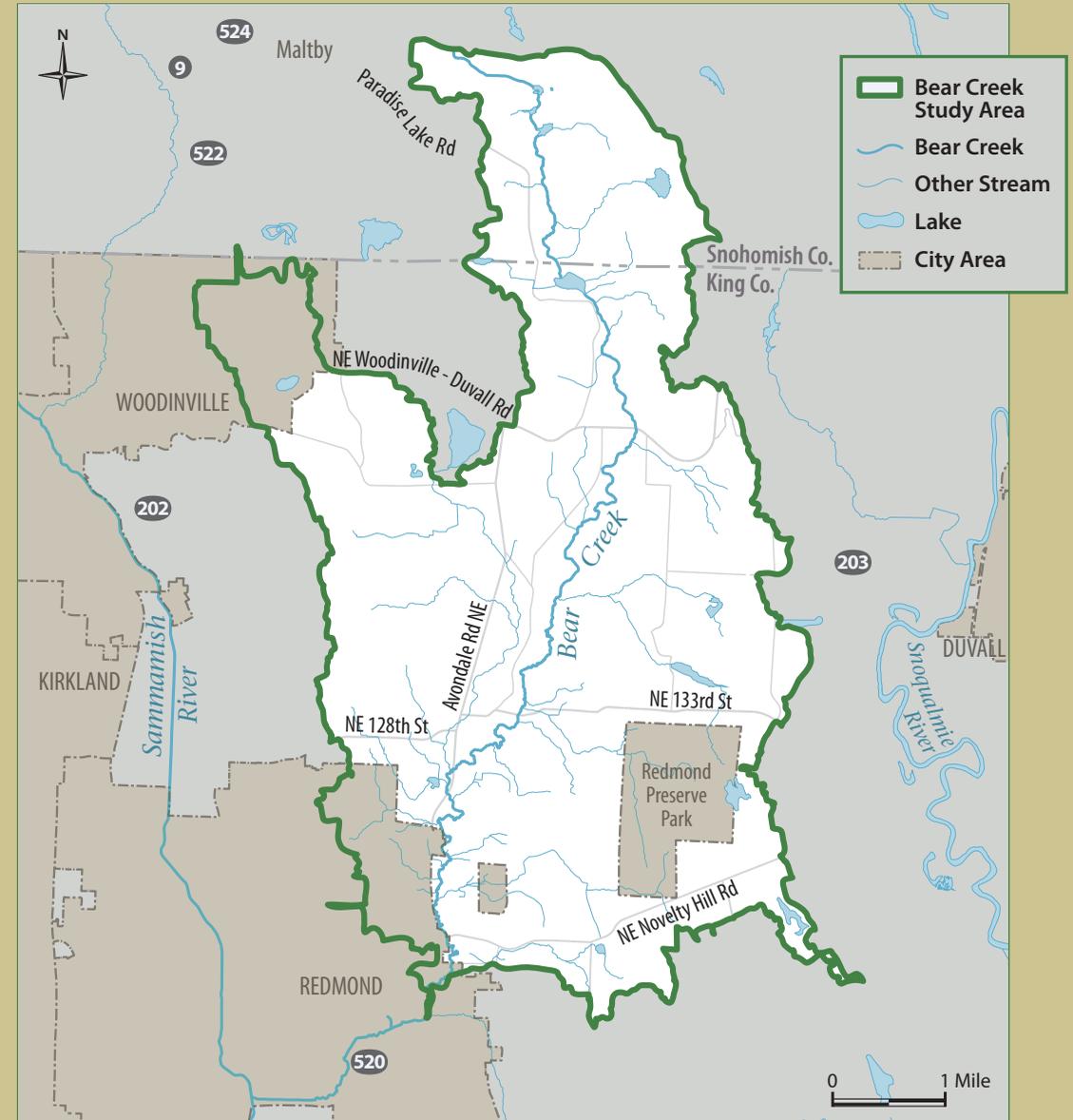
How Healthy is Bear Creek?

It's time to find out.

www.kingcounty.gov/BearCreekPlan

Ray Heller

The Bear Creek Watershed



26 ^{mile²}
study area

200
miles of roads

10,000
households



A Watershed-based Stormwater Plan

The Bear Creek watershed supports nearly 10,000 households and is home to several species of salmon and trout. It spans King and Snohomish counties and reaches into Woodinville and Redmond. With so many living things relying on the creek, protecting future water quality and habitat is important.

King County, Snohomish County, Woodinville, Redmond, and Washington State Department of Transportation are collaborating on a project to reduce stormwater pollution and restore and protect stream habitat. The resulting Bear Creek Watershed Plan will provide recommendations on how best to improve and protect the health of Bear Creek now and into the future.

The first step is to study the existing stream conditions within Bear Creek and evaluate the impacts of the developed watershed on water quality, habitat, and stream flows.

Why Study Bear Creek?

It will help us better understand the many impacts to Bear Creek so we can manage it in a way that reduces impacts and restores the stream so that it provides healthy habitat for Chinook salmon and other species.

What Data Will We Gather?

In the upcoming year, county staff and/or consultants will collect data on the following:

- Habitat conditions including stream bank stability, sediment sources, vegetation, and channel dimensions along Bear Creek and its tributaries.
- Stream temperatures and pollutants such as dissolved copper, dissolved zinc, and bacteria.
- Biological health of the stream, including the aquatic insects that fish depend on as sources of food.
- Stream flows during small and large storms.
- Existing stormwater infrastructure, such as detention ponds.
- Existing and estimated future land use intensity throughout the watershed
- Incorporate previous watershed activities (e.g., Bear Creek Basin Plan in 1990)

Staff and consultants will only access the stream and stormwater facilities on private property with prior permission from the landowners.



Some portions of Bear Creek have good water quality and stream habitat, others do not.

How Will the Data Help?

The data will be used in computer models to project the impacts of future growth in the Bear Creek Watershed and identify the tools necessary to improve and protect Bear Creek's health into the future.

The final implementation plan will be submitted to Washington State Department of Ecology by April 2018.



Volunteers planting native vegetation to increase stream habitat and reduce stormwater flows.

Healthy Streams & Good Water Quality...

- Protect people and pets from diseases caused by bacteria in the water.
- Provide juvenile salmon and trout with:
 - Places to hide such as side channels-providing protection from predators and winter high flows. This includes overhanging vegetation, tree roots, and fallen trees along the banks.
 - Cold and clean water that our native fish depend on. Warm stream temperatures, particularly where shade is absent, and even low levels of dissolved copper and dissolved zinc are lethal to juvenile fish. Warm water delays upstream migration of returning adult salmon and comprise spawning success.
 - Aquatic and streamside insects, an essential fish food source from the stream bottom and overhanging vegetation.

A **watershed** is the area where when rain falls on the ground it drains to the same place. For example, Bear Creek Watershed drains to the Sammamish River just north of Marymoor Park between Redmond

Town Center and SR-520.

