



Tier 1 Project: NS-15

McSorley Creek Pocket Estuary and Feeder Bluff Restoration

Project Status: ON HOLD

Green / Duwamish & Central Puget Sound

January 2025 Update



PROJECT AREA MAP



LOCATION MAP



PROJECT FACTS

Subwatershed:
Nearshore (NS)

Drift cell:
Des Moines (KI - 8 - 3)

Bankside jurisdiction:
Des Moines
Project sponsor:
King County/
Washington State Parks

Budget:
\$14M

PROJECT TYPE:



Acquisition



Enhancement/
Planting



Monitoring &
Assessment



Planning/
Design



Restoration

KEY HABITAT:



Nearshore
Feeder Bluff



Nearshore
Pocket Estuary

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Create pocket estuary, protect feeder bluffs, remove marine shoreline armoring and enhance low-impact recreational activities.

Primary strategy

Protect, restore and enhance marine shorelines.

Benefits:

- Forage fish spawning habitat
- Recreation opportunities
- Shoreline armor reduction
- Coastal resilience/sea level rise
- Nearshore sediment delivery and transport
- Juvenile salmon rearing habitat

Contribution to goals metrics:

- Marine riparian vegetation
- Shoreline armor

Project website:

www.kingcounty.gov/saltwatersp





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PROJECT OVERVIEW

King County and Washington State Parks completed 60% design of the McSorley Creek Shoreline and Estuary Restoration Project at Saltwater State Park in Des Moines, WA. Project design is on hold as of January 2025. The project goal is to restore salmon and forage fish habitat and natural habitat-forming processes while making the park more resilient to the impacts of coastal erosion and sea level rise. The project will remove armoring from 1,000 feet of shoreline and the lower 450 feet of McSorley Creek, and create a pocket estuary.



Climate Resilience

This project will directly address ongoing issues with habitat impairment, coastal flooding and sea level rise, and limited public use during and immediately following storm surges or king tides, and will provide direct benefits for habitat processes, sustainability, resiliency, and recreational use.



Green Space for Underserved Communities

This project helps to advance King County's equity and social justice goals by providing equitable and improved access to parks and natural resources. The State Park receives an estimated 200,000 visitors per year and is less than one mile away from some of the most diverse and low-income communities in King County. These adjacent census tracts are home to 50% or more Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) with 30% or more of the households at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level. Diverse communities use the park for annual cultural festivals, including the Cambodian Cultural Celebration and the Pacific Islander Festival.



Salmon and Orca Recovery

This project will restore natural habitat and ecosystem process that support recovery of forage fish, Chinook salmon, and Southern Resident Orca.



Project website:

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FUNDING NEED

The estimated total project cost for improved climate resilient park infrastructure and restored salmon habitat is \$14 million*, including approximately \$4 million for design and \$10 million for construction. Washington State Parks will seek additional resources to complete final design, permitting, and construction when project design resumes.

*Construction costs are in 2026 dollars.