Feed the Beach!
Restoring and protecting marine shoreline habitat on Vashon Island

Science Seminar
November 2018
Water and Land Resources Division
Shoreline armoring
A Drift Cell = the area within which sediment transport is confined. Includes:
Source or Feeder Bluff
Transport Zone
Deposition or Accretion Area
Armored Shorelines vs. Natural Shorelines

- Smaller / steeper beaches
- Less spawning habitat
- Less riparian vegetation
- Less drift wood
- Less beach wrack
- Fewer invertebrates = less fish food

Dethier et al. 2016
Extent of the problem: Shoreline Armoring

- 26% of Puget Sound
- 50% of Vashon 25 of 50 miles
What is the Vashon Stewardship Program doing about it?

- Protect
- Restore
- Engage
Protect and Restore Priority Drift Cells

- Pt Heyer

- Three largest drift cells in the Maury Island Aquatic Reserve.
Pt. Heyer Drift Cell

Over 2 miles long

90% of shoreline is natural and unmodified
Maury Island Aquatic Reserve

- Large blocks of intact shoreline
- High impact armoring
- Sand lance, surf smelt and herring spawning
- Maury Island Aquatic Reserve
Strategy for success

- Broad geographic scope
- Build off of successes
- Engage with residents
- Excellent Team
Goal

Protect and restore about seven miles of shoreline in four drift cells.
Point Heyer Drift Cell

2015
2010
2010
2011
2015
2016
2009
2008
2011
2013
2014
Public Engagement and Education

• BeachNET - Vashon Nature Center

• Vashon Ed talks

• Media

• Site visits
Sea Level Rise

• Remove infrastructure.

• Room for erosion.

• Creates resilient projects.
Progress

• Over 1400’ of armoring removed

• Pt. Heyer (KVI) 35% complete
  ¾ mile of 2 miles

• Maury Island Aquatic Reserve 60% complete
  3.2 miles of 5.4 miles

• About 40 potential sellers remain
Piner Point  Before
Dockton Natural Area After
Maury Island Natural Area After
Lost Lake Before
Forest Glen After
Piner Point  Before
Piner Point After
Challenges

• Funding/capacity
• Landowner willingness
  • Long timeline
  • Property value
• New armoring
  (unpermitted and permitted)
Unpermitted shoreline armoring
Thanks to our sponsors, supporters and partners!
Thank you.

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