

PUGET SOUND

National Estuary Program

ASSESSMENT OF DEVELOPMENT TIMING ON B-IBI & FRESHWATER QUALITY

This project assessed how the timing of development may have affected freshwater quality and benthic index of biotic integrity (B-IBI) scores in King County streams.

What we did

King County scientists assessed if stream macroinvertebrate communities and B-IBI scores have responded to management actions that have been implemented over time throughout the stream basins.



What did we find

King County scientists analyzed when development occurred in B-IBI basins and found that basins with the newer development had better B-IBI scores than basins with older development. This suggests actions that have been implemented to minimize effects of urban development have had some positive effects.

WHY IS THIS ISSUE IMPORTANT

Efforts to prevent and mitigate impacts from development have been phased in over decades, but the collective effectiveness of those actions on local



streams and the macroinvertebrate communities they support had not been measured. The study results indicate that urban development is still the leading cause of degraded conditions, but the relative impact of newer development may be less than previous development.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Everyone can help minimize the impacts of development on streams and their communities. Any action that helps rain seep into soils instead of running straight to streams can help. This could include installing rain gardens, as well as encouraging local planners to implement effective stormwater controls as they develop and redevelop our urban areas.

ABOUT KING COUNTY WATER AND LAND RESOURCES DIVISION

The Division protects, restores, and manages King County's water and land using the best available science, data, and innovations in collaboration with its partners and the community.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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