

Cemetery Pond Wetland Protection and Restoration Project

April 2023 Newsletter

About the Project

The Cemetery Pond Wetland Protection and Restoration Project will expand the wetland, restore required planting buffers, reduce maintenance costs through sustainable design practices and encourage community stewardship. King County began site investigation, design, and permitting of this effort in 2022. The existing wetland spans approximately 7.6 acres with 5.4 acres of buffer. The project will remove about two acres of fill, depending on the results of community co-design, permitting, and construction funding.

Why is it called Cemetery Pond?

When traveling east out of the City of Renton toward the pond, you pass two cemeteries, including the resting place of Jimi Hendrix. These cemeteries have colloquially inspired the pond's name. In the future, the project team may explore renaming the pond to acknowledge its local significance.

Project Goals



Photo courtesy of Aspect Consulting Phase 1 report, 2023 (1968 Cemetery Pond)

Cemetery Pond Wetland Protection and Restoration
Project Location 164th Ave SE and SE 128th St, Renton WA



Help restore the wetland. The project will restore the natural functions of soils and native plants that help slow and absorb rainfall, reduce flooding, and provide habitat and green space. Wetlands provide important fish and wildlife habitat. Protecting and restoring streamside vegetation (buffers) on the wetland helps support the food web and improves water quality.

Community amenities. The County will work with neighbors and the community on the design of stormwater park amenities, providing habitat restoration while improving public access. The project may consider walking trails, educational signs, benches, waste bins, etc.

Create a stewardship plan for long-term maintenance of the wetland. Community stewardship will improve habitat by removing invasive species from the wetland to help native plants thrive and support a high-functioning wetland habitat. We welcome continued participation in the protection, restoration and maintenance of this important wetland.

Expanded protection through continued property acquisitions. If you are interested in discussing the sale of your property with King County, please contact [King County Open Space Acquisitions](#). We are committed to working with neighborhood property owners and other interested partners.

Get Involved!

Community involvement is fundamental to Cemetery Pond wetland restoration and preservation work. Get involved in creating natural open space, gain knowledge about wetlands and water quality, and be a part of the solution. Mark your calendars!

May 6 & 7, 2023, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., C.A.R.E. Annual Plant Sale

- The 18th annual plant sale at 6220 SE 2nd Place, Renton, WA. 98059 will raise funds for Community Alliance to Reach out and Engage (C.A.R.E.). The plant sale will offer PNW native plants, trees, mature rescued plants, herbaceous perennials, shrubs in many sizes, ornamental and edible plants. Volunteers from C.A.R.E. and neighbors are helping restore this habitat by removing invasive weeds in the Cemetery Pond Wetland. Buy some plants and get involved! For information about participating in C.A.R.E. maintenance at the Cemetery Pond wetland, contact highlands_neighbors@hotmail.com.

June 10, 2023, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., Community Work Party

- We invite you to the Cemetery Pond Protection and Restoration community work-party. Come for the Chuck's donuts and coffee and stay for the habitat restoration!

Follow the King County event signs to the gathering spot at [SE 128th St and 165th Ave SE, Renton, WA](#).

August 2023, Community Input Design Open House

- A community input session is planned for August 2023. Please check the [website](#) later this spring for more details on date and location. The project team will solicit input on improved public access and potential stormwater park amenities like educational signs, benches, waste bins, etc.

**Saturday, June 10,
2023**

9:30 a.m.
Update on project
history and a preview
of next steps

9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Help restore habitat
by removing invasive
weeds in the
Cemetery Pond
Wetland!

Other Project Updates

- Project site investigation continues through March 2023 to better understand the existing soil conditions and inform the restoration design.
- Visit the project website for more information at kingcounty.gov/CemeteryPond.

Project Benchmarks and Community Engagement Timeline

Project Benchmark	Community Engagement	Targeted Date
Site Investigation	Community kickoff meeting and Fall work party	October 2022 - March 2023
		December 2022
	Spring work party	June 10, 2023
30% project design		June 2023
	Design Open House to collect community input	August 2023
State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA)		September 2023
	Winter work party	October-December 2023
	Stewardship plan	December 2023
90% project design		April 2024
	Bi-annual onsite work party	2024 and ongoing
Construction (dependent on permitting and funding)		2025-2026