RESTORE OUR WATERS

Annual Report

2005

City of Seattle

A Message from the Mayor about Restore Our Waters

Reversing the effects of decades of environmental degradation in our streams, rivers, lakes and Puget Sound will not happen overnight. But after a year of progress on the city's Restore Our Waters program, we are clearly headed in the right direction.

This first year has been one of building relationships – among city departments, community stakeholder groups, local agencies and Seattle's private property owners. Only by coordinating our efforts can we improve our water quality and the valuable habitat it supports.

Water knows no boundaries. Heavy rains can carry pollution to water bodies, cause flooding in neighborhoods and destroy fish and wildlife habitat. The city has completed projects in various neighborhoods to "slow the flow" by building detention ponds, widening creek channels and other measures that reduce or impede the flow of storm water naturally.

The city is also making smart investments to restore habitat along our shorelines, from creating fish-friendly beaches to planting native vegetation for wildlife habitat. A top priority last year was to improve habitat for migrating salmon and other wildlife along Elliott Bay, Lake Washington, the Duwamish River, and Pipers Creek, to name a few.

We are also providing incentives, education and other resources to citizens who are improving habitat on their own properties, reducing pollution in creeks and even planning neighborhood restoration projects. For example, with funding from a city grant, property owners are working collectively with city staff to improve stream channels and restore natural habitat along portions of Thornton Creek that run through their properties.

Working together with the community, we are making Restore Our Waters a reality. Greatly encouraged by our progress in 2005, I look forward to continuing on this path to restoration for generations to come.

Greg Nickels

Mayor of Seattle

RESTORE OUR WATERS

INTRODUCTION

From the shores of Puget Sound to the smallest tributary, Seattle is a city defined by water. While Seattle's shorelines, lakes and creeks have been affected by more than a century of development, the city's waters continue to provide valuable habitat for salmon, waterfowl and a variety of wildlife. The City of Seattle is committed to restoring, protecting and enhancing these water bodies, and encouraging citizens and businesses to work with us in this effort.

In 2004, Mayor Greg Nickels issued Executive Order 03-04 to create a citywide program that would balance the city's growth and development with the benefits of restoring critical water resources. The Mayor's Restore Our Waters program is a cross-departmental effort that involves Seattle Public Utilities (SPU), the Office of Economic Development, the Office of Sustainability and Environment, the Department of Planning and Development, Seattle City Light, the Seattle Department of Transportation, and the Department of Parks and Recreation, among others. SPU is the program lead, responsible for reporting the progress of the Restore Our Waters program back to the Mayor and the citizens of Seattle.

Volunteers help maintain plants in a natural drainage system in Pipers Creek watershed.

The Mayor's Restore Our Waters Initiative required participating city departments to review all city policies, capital investments and activities that affect water resources within the city limits, and develop a strategy that fosters the major goals of the initiative:

- Focus the city's efforts toward improving water quality and aquatic habitats
- Establish decision-making criteria for prioritizing investments and implement best management practices
- Develop a long-term decision-making and communication structure for departments to coordinate activities and investments affecting our water bodies
- Resolve any inconsistencies among city policies and streamline regulations and enforcement
- Create educational opportunities that inspire the public to take action to protect and restore our water bodies
- Provide incentives for communities to steward, protect and restore these resources
- Create a mechanism for stakeholder involvement

This cross-city effort resulted in the *Restore Our Waters Strategy* report published in September 2004. The strategy makes recommendations for city action in priority action areas, ranging from regulatory changes to specific capital improvement projects, incentives for private citizens to improve habitat and water quality, innovations in stormwater management and scientific advancement.

Restoring the quality of Seattle's waters is not a task that can be accomplished by a single group in five or even fifty years. It is an ongoing, cooperative effort that must involve not only the City of Seattle but property owners, non-profit organizations, community groups and other government agencies. The concept of protecting and restoring water quality must be woven through all of the city's plans, programs and capital investments.

This annual report provides a synopsis of the program's achievements in its first year of implementation, including ongoing efforts and the development of long-range plans for in-city water resources. The program has made significant strides in 2005, but the team's agenda expands with the tide of growth and development in the city. The status of the Restore Our Waters program is presented in the context of the original nine priority action areas defined by the Restore Our Waters strategy.

Make Strategic Changes to the City's Policy and Regulatory Framework

One of the city's primary goals is to review and update city plans and regulations, as appropriate, to reflect the goals of the Restore Our Waters strategy. During 2005, progress was made on three critical fronts.

Environmentally Critical Areas Ordinance — In 2005, the Mayor presented to the City Council the first major update to the city's Critical Areas Ordinance, developed by the Department of Planning and Development. The ordinance is required for compliance with the state Growth Management Act. The goals of Restore Our Waters were used to evaluate provisions that govern protection of riparian and wetland areas that provide important habitat for fish and wildlife, as well as areas where development could lead to increased surface water runoff and the potential for pollutants to enter our waterways. The evaluation resulted in updates to the ordinance that increase or improve protection to wetlands, riparian corridors and shorelines.

Shoreline Alternative Mitigation Program (SAMP) — The intent of this new program is to focus mitigation efforts on heavily developed shoreline areas that are considered high priority. For example, the SAMP would allow the city to collect a fee from developers for shoreline restoration projects in lieu of requiring onsite mitigation. This approach would allow the city to consolidate mitigation efforts and enable larger, more effective shoreline restoration projects to be developed. Throughout 2005, the city's Department of Planning and Development met with a representative coalition of shoreline industrial, community and environmental groups to develop the SAMP framework. The goal of the program is "no net loss of ecological function," meaning that the freshwater shoreline of Lake Union/Ship Canal, from the Montlake Cut to the Chittenden Locks, is as ecologically sound after a project is constructed as before construction.

2005 Stormwater, Grading and Drainage Code — The Department of Planning and Development and SPU have formed a cross-departmental team that will draw input from city departments to update the Stormwater, Grading and Drainage Code. Staff developing the Rainwise program, which is intended to create incentives and credits for property owners who reduce their stormwater runoff, will also be involved with the code changes to ensure the two efforts support each other. Both the stakeholders for Restore Our Waters and interested constituency groups will be consulted as the code changes are developed.

Move Forward on Priority City Capital Project Investments

As part of the Restore Our Waters strategy, the Mayor identified 40 top-priority capital projects, which represent the "best" investments the city can make to restore water quality and aquatic resources and slow high-impact creek flows. These priorities make the best use of science-based evaluations to direct citywide efforts and resources. While several of these projects can be completed in the short term (1 to 3 years), there are several that will take longer to complete (5 to 10 years). The selected projects range from creek and shoreline restoration to projects to control peak stormflows and improve water quality. As of 2005, the city has 5 projects completed, 4 projects under construction, 10 projects in the design or engineering phase, and 9 long-term projects with ongoing monitoring and modeling work underway.

2005 Restore Our Waters Project Status Report

Projects Completed

- Green Lake water quality treatment and monitoring to prevent blue-green algal blooms
- Broadview green grid natural drainage system constructed to improve water quality and reduce peak flow of stormwater runoff to Pipers Creek
- Lake Washington shoreline restoration at Martha Washington Park
- Lake Washington shoreline restoration at Seward Park
- Duwamish River/Norfolk Basin water quality study

Pinehurst natural drainage system during construction.

Projects Under Construction

- High Point natural drainage system will improve water quality and reduce peak flow of stormwater runoff to Longfellow Creek
- Pinehurst natural drainage system will improve water quality and reduce peak flow of stormwater runoff to Thornton Creek
- Lake Washington shoreline restoration at Rainier Beach Lake Park
- Lake Washington shoreline restoration at Sand Point Magnuson Park

Projects in Design/Engineering

- Bitter Lake sediment dredging to improve water quality
- Bitter Lake stormwater vaults to improve water quality
- Investigation of creek flow control strategy to assess flow control measures (such as natural drainage, detention, bypass, etc.) for Seattle's five major creeks, Thornton, Pipers, Taylor, Longfellow and Fauntleroy
- Henderson project combined sewer overflow improvements to reduce combined sewer overflows and improve the water quality of flows entering Lake Washington
- Taylor Creek fish barrier removal at Rainier Ave. and immediately upstream
- Venema Creek natural drainage system to improve water quality and reduce peak flow of stormwater runoff to Pipers Creek
- Northgate water quality project(s) to improve water quality of Thornton Creek
- Mapes Creek daylighting and Lake Washington shoreline restoration in Beer Sheva Park

The Rainier Beach shoreline restoration project before (above) and after (left) - the marina, parking lot and rip-rap were removed and the area was restored to shallow beach habitat for use by juvenile salmon.

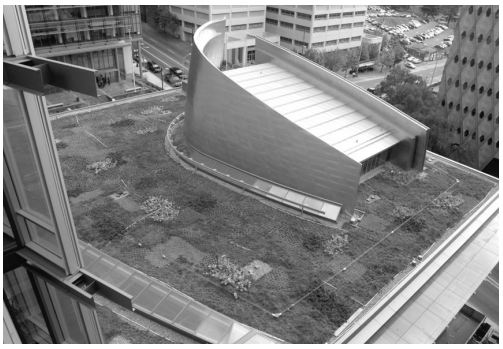
Projects in Design/Engineering *continued*

Salmon Bay natural area restoration site - upland revegetation work has begun and in-water work is in the design phase.

- Salmon Bay natural area shoreline restoration, downstream of the Ballard Locks, including revegetation of upland area and removal of overwater structures
- Densmore Basin water quality investments to benefit Haller, Bitter and Green Lakes and Lake Union

Long-Term/Ongoing Projects

- Channel widening and related habitat restoration assessments on Thornton, Pipers, Taylor, Longfellow and Fauntleroy Creeks
- Creek flow control strategies to construct flow control measures in Thornton, Pipers, Taylor, Longfellow and Fauntleroy Creeks
- Ballard combined sewer overflow improvements to reduce combined sewer overflows and improve the water quality of flows entering the Ship Canal
- Fremont/Wallingford combined sewer overflow improvements to reduce combined sewer overflows and improve the water quality of flows entering the Ship Canal
- Genessee project combined sewer overflow improvements to reduce combined sewer overflows and improve the water quality of flows entering Lake Washington
- Duwamish River sediment remediation
- Lake Union sediment remediation at Gas Works Park
- Elliott Bay shoreline restoration and habitat improvements in conjunction with replacement of the Alaskan Way Seawall
- Duwamish River/South Park basin water quality improvements



Green roof on Seattle's City Hall - planting on the roof helps reduce and improve the quality of stormwater runoff.

While work is proceeding on nearly three-fourths of the Mayor's priority projects, there are remaining projects that are not currently funded. The city is addressing these projects in a number of ways. For example, some projects will be integrated into the city's Capital Improvement Plan in 2006 and future years.

In 2005, a consultant was hired to review the unfunded projects in the Restore Our Waters strategy and make recommendations on how they might be funded. Many of the capital improvement projects are good candidates for grant funding and partnerships with other local, state and federal governments. For example, the Seward Park shoreline restoration project was completed in partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Also, in 2005 the city completed several projects that, while not among the priority projects, provided significant benefits to the aquatic environment. Among these were the new First Ave. South boat ramp, which incorporated shoreline restoration elements into the ramp design, and the Luna Park pier design, which eliminated an obstacle to out-migrating juvenile salmon. Other projects began in 2005 and will continue into 2006 and beyond. For example, monitoring equipment has been installed on new green roofs at the Ballard Library and the Woodland Park Zoo to assess the effectiveness of this technology in reducing run-off rates for stormwater and improving water quality.

Expand Partnerships with the Community and Private Property Owners to Restore Our Waters

Restoring Seattle's water bodies is an undertaking that the city cannot accomplish alone. Consequently, the city is moving forward on several programs to engage citizens and provide private property owners with information, volunteer opportunities and incentives to help in our restoration efforts.

Volunteer creek stewards care for native plants by removing invasive weeds from creekside areas.

Aquatic Habitat Grant and Technical Assistance Program— This new grant program was developed to match funds for community-driven projects that contribute to the city's Restore Our Waters goals. The program guidelines were developed in consultation with scientists, policymakers, grant administrators, attorneys and a Mayor-appointed Review Board. To date, $300,000 in grants have been awarded for projects on both public and private properties:

- Madrona Park Creek Daylighting and Restoration
- Kiwanis Ravine, Wolfe Creek Restoration - Stabilization
- Thornton Creek, Maple Leaf Reach Restoration
- Little Brook S. Natural Area Restoration
- Lower Fauntleroy Creek and Estuary Water Quality and Habitat Enhancements

Citizen Science Program — Citizen Science is a high school education program that trains students and their teachers to monitor and track changes in the biological diversity of local shorelines. From 2004 to 2005, the education program expanded from two schools monitoring Seacrest Park Beach to five schools monitoring seven different beaches, including Seacrest Park Beach, Lincoln Park, Emma Schmitz Memorial (Me-Kwa-Mooks), South Alki, Discovery Park, Golden Gardens and Carkeek Park. One hundred twenty-five students received

As part of the Citizen Science Program, Tyee High School students measure the beach slope at Seahurst Beach.

24 hours of training in marine biology and scientific survey techniques and participated in several field trips to document the physical and biological characteristics of local beaches.

Environmental Action Agenda — The Restore Our Waters effort was highlighted in the city's 2005 Environmental Action Agenda, which presents citywide goals for protecting environmental quality, promoting environmental justice and improving the quality of life in Seattle for current and future generations. The agenda creates a framework for integrated city environmental action, robust tracking and reporting, cohesive communication on environmental issues and links to environmental stewardship, economic development and social equity. The Environmental Action Agenda establishes four integrated themes for environmental action:

- Climate Protection Initiative
- Restore Our Waters
- Green Seattle Initiative
- Healthy People and Communities

Reduce Regulatory Disincentives - Standardize Shoreline Restoration Plans — In 2005, the Department of Planning and Development created a standardized restoration planning sheet. It includes instructions for habitat restoration that must be incorporated into any development project that will require restoration of shoreline, creeks or wetland habitats to mitigate project impacts. The planning sheet will assist the developer in identifying minimum standards for effective habitat restoration and city staff who must review the plans for compliance. The information developed has also been converted into a "Client Assistance Memo" or brochure from the Department of Planning and Development intended to assist anyone who may be interested in restoring aquatic habitat in doing the work properly and effectively, whether required as part of a development plan or not.

Rainwise – Stormwater Mitigation Partnerships Program — In July 2005, the Mayor presented the City Council with recommended changes to the drainage rate structure. Along with the changes were potential rate reduction and non-rate incentives, such as technical assistance, grants and materials, intended to encourage citizens to invest in onsite water quality and stormwater management facilities, including rain gardens, cisterns and green roofs.

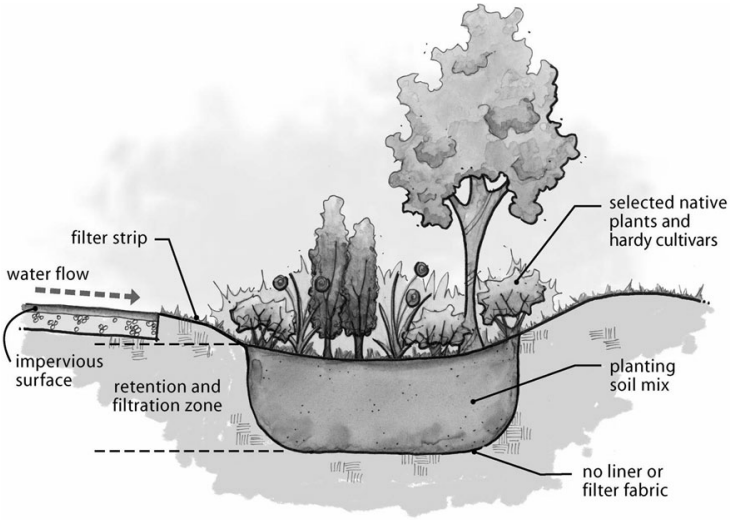


Illustration of a rain garden designed to slow stormwater flows and improve water quality.

For example, subsidies could be provided to citizens to help purchase cisterns, install rain gardens or implement other techniques for managing stormwater onsite. Or, SPU could award grants to cover the full cost of a drainage project on private property if the cumulative affect of projects on private property across a particular drainage basin would result in a reduction in utility expenses. In addition, grants could be offered for development projects to install and monitor "low-impact development" technologies as a means of testing performance of these facilities against goals for stormwater management. In 2006, the City Council will consider proposals for implementing the Rainwise program.

Natural Drainage System Local Improvement Districts — During 2005, SPU studied the possibility of partnering with property owners to establish Local Improvement Districts for natural drainage system improvements. The property owners within each district would help pay for new or improved sidewalks in areas where the city is working to install natural drainage systems. This issue is still under consideration by the utility.

Habitat-Related Property Tax Relief and Conservation Easements Program — As a first step, the new Aquatic Habitat Matching Grant guidelines developed and approved in 2005 include language allowing grant applicants to use donated conservation easements as a grant match. However, SPU has begun to explore with the county and the Department of Parks and Recreation how the city can improve both the conservation easement and the Public Benefit Rating System incentive programs to be more accessible to property owners along shorelines. This work will continue in 2006.

Make Investments to Ensure that City Operations Support Improved Aquatic Health

The Mayor's Restore Our Waters strategy identified several pilot programs to evaluate how modifying some of the city's operations can help restore water quality. Key projects underway include:

Targeted Street Sweeping — Street sweeping on select roadways is a pilot program with two primary goals: to prevent water pollution and to reduce maintenance on the drainage system. Once street sweeping trials have been completed near two key drainage basins, a report will be prepared that analyzes its effectiveness in removing sediment and pollutants that can be dispersed in water bodies or impede drainage. The pilot program is in the planning stages, with street sweeping trials beginning in March 2006.

Fecal Coliform Control Pilots — SPU launched a program to reduce fecal coliform bacteria associated with pet waste from reaching Seattle's water bodies. The city provided collection bags and receptacles for pet waste at 9 waterside parks, including 3 locations on Alaskan Way, 3 on West Lake Ave., 2 at Pipers Creek, and 1 at Camp Long. SPU also distributed more than 1,200 pet waste bags at other waterside locations, as well as literature to veterinary clinics, schools and neighborhood service centers explaining the importance of cleaning up after pets. SPU anticipates expanding this program to 17 locations across the city in 2006.

SPU is investigating the feasibility of using ultra-violet (UV) treatment to control fecal coliform in Pipers Creek. The Washington Department of Ecology has set a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for fecal coliform in Pipers Creek because levels have exceeded state water quality standards.

Strategic Maintenance of Combined Sewer Overflow and Drainage Infrastructure — SPU continued the program to make improvements to the combined sewer system, completing seven capacity and flow management projects. SPU is also developing models to assess the condition and potential failure risks of the sewer collection system. Locations with the highest risk of failure are inspected to determine if further action is needed. This work is being compiled in a comprehensive inventory and assessment of conditions for the city's drainage and wastewater outfalls. The information will be used to guide future rehabilitation and improvement projects.

Citywide Facility Assessment — One of the guiding principles of the Restore Our Waters strategy is for the city to be a leader in protecting water resources. Consequently, the Mayor's 2006 budget proposal included $100,000 to assess any city facilities that have the potential to pollute waterways and to identify operational or facility improvements that will enhance protection of the aquatic environment. Using this appropriation, the city will work with a consultant to conduct a review of the city's facilities to determine conditions and conduct field inspections as needed. Based on the results of the field inspections, the consultant will identify facilities that require operational changes or upgrades, and then prioritize those facilities based on the types of activities at the facility and the sensitivity of the water body to which it drains.

Use Science-Based Guidelines to Direct Citywide Efforts

Using science-based guidelines to make decisions about city expenditures is a key element of the Restore Our Waters strategy. The city is committed to developing processes that prioritize capital and program investments using the best available science, to ensure that the steps we take to restore aquatic environments make the best use of city resources.

In 2005, SPU began a pilot program to establish a procedure for ensuring scientific review of all capital projects. Project managers recognize that the key to scientifically sound capital projects is to involve SPU's scientific staff early in project development and design. By adopting this approach, nearly all capital projects receive a science-based review in their early design stages. This review will enable SPU to identify the scientific value of projects early in the development process, as well as improvements to projects that have the potential to benefit the aquatic environment. The hope is that this process will become a model for all city departments to follow on projects that could impact Seattle's water bodies.

Advance Scientific Understanding and Adaptively Manage City Efforts

The science-based investment guidelines established in the 2004 Restore Our Waters report represent the best science currently available. While these investment guidelines offer an excellent foundation for city efforts to improve the aquatic environment, Puget Sound, Lake Washington, and Seattle's urban creeks and lakes are extremely complex and dynamic environments that require further study. Consequently, the Restore Our Waters strategy identified additional investments in research necessary to advance scientific understanding of the city's water resources. During 2005, the city was able to make progress in the following areas of scientific inquiry:

Coho Pre-Spawn Mortality Investigation — SPU continued to participate with research scientists in the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration's Fisheries group, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to determine possible causes of pre-spawning mortality of Coho salmon in Western Washington. A research station has been established on Longfellow Creek to assist in this effort.

Lake Union/Ship Canal Habitat Areas and Fish Use — SPU worked with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 2005 to tag and track juvenile Chinook salmon passing through the Ship Canal and Lake Union. Fish were tracked in Portage Bay near the University of Washington and offshore of Gasworks Park in north Lake Union. Preliminary results indicate that juvenile Chinook vary in how they use habitat in the Ship Canal and Lake Union, with many fish using shoreline areas and spending time rearing near Gasworks Park. The findings from this study will inform decisions about priority areas to target for habitat restoration efforts.

Creek Type/Classification Mapping — The Department of Planning and Development has funded and worked closely with SPU staff to classify the various water courses in the city using the Washington State Stream Typing System. The results of this effort will substantially increase our understanding of the ecology of Seattle's streams and help the city manage these resources more effectively by targeting resources on the most critical water bodies. The typing of water bodies is expected to be completed by the end of 2006.

City Wetland Mapping — The Department of Planning and Development has worked directly with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to map wetlands within the City of Seattle. This is the first comprehensive effort to map Seattle's wetlands. The map will enhance the overall understanding of the ecological role of wetlands in Seattle's environment, and provide the public and regulators with the information necessary to make informed decisions about the effects of new development on the wetlands. Throughout 2005, the Department of Planning and Development has been field-testing the data gathered and will complete the mapping process in 2006.

Establish Clear, Quantifiable Goals and Measures of Progress

A central feature of the Restore Our Waters strategy is to translate resource aspirations into clear, quantifiable goals and establish benchmarks of progress. To advance this goal, the SPU Cross Utility Science Team is undertaking an ambitious project to develop quantifiable measures of the effectiveness of our restoration efforts. The final objective is to define measurable Desired Future Conditions for each of the city's water resources, based on the 2004 Restore Our Waters aspirations and informed by community input in 2006. These measures of progress and Desired Future Conditions will:

- Relate to ecosystem function
- Include both qualitative and quantitative measures of success
- Act as the city's benchmarks for monitoring progress in implementing the Restore Our Waters strategy

Establish a Stakeholder Group to Promote Long-Term Coordination within City Government and Between the Citizens of Seattle

At the heart of the Restore Our Waters strategy is an effort to establish better coordination between city departments, but also to involve the community in guiding the city to make scientifically sound investments that address community concerns. To assist with this effort, the Mayor formed a Community Stakeholders Group, comprising leaders from the environmental, business and scientific communities. The members of the Restore Our Waters group are:

Restore Our Waters Community Stakeholders Group

- Pieter Bohen – Cascade Land Conservancy
- Charlie Cuniff – City Neighborhood Council
- Rich Horner – University of Washington
- Pam Johnson – YES for Seattle
- John Kane – Ballard Interbay Northend Manufacturing and Industrial Center
- Bruce Lorig – Lorig Associates (Developer)
- David McCraney – Port of Seattle
- Michael McGinn – Sierra Club
- Gary Minton – SPU Creeks, Drainage, and Wastewater Advisory Committee
- Kate Pflaumer – Parks Commission
- Steve Ralph – Stillwater Sciences
- Joel Sisolak – Friends of Cedar River
- Ladd Smith – In Harmony Landscaping
- Lucy Steers – League of Women Voters
- Walter Trial – Herrera Environmental Consultants
- Jacques White – The Nature Conservancy
- Heather Trim – People for Puget Sound

During 2005, the stakeholders received several briefings on the status of the Restore Our Waters effort, including city drainage and surface water operations, development of a Desired Future Conditions framework, the Rainwise incentive program, and the Shoreline Alternative Mitigation Program. In 2006, the stakeholders will be working on a long-term vision for Seattle's water bodies that is grounded in science with measurable steps for success. They will be working with SPU staff to create a public dialog about the future of Seattle's creeks and share information about their current state. They will also continue to track implementation of the Restore Our Waters strategy and review related city initiatives.

Establish Long-Term Aspirations for In-City Water Resources

In 2004, as part of the Restore Our Waters strategy, aspirations articulating a long-term vision were developed for each of the city's water bodies, including Lake Washington, Puget Sound, Duwamish River, Lake Union and the Ship Canal, Thornton Creek, Taylor Creek, Pipers Creek, Longfellow Creek, Fauntleroy Creek, the city's smaller creeks, and inland lakes. The Restore Our Waters Community Stakeholders Group will be revisiting these aspirations in 2006 based on the Desired Future Conditions work described above and community goals. They will assist SPU staff in creating a public dialog on the long-term vision for the city's water bodies, starting with its creeks.

CONCLUSION

The Restore Our Waters strategy is intended to be a long-term, ongoing investment in the quality of our waters. While the city and stakeholders have made significant strides in 2005, there are ongoing projects yet to be accomplished. Among these are approximately 10 capital projects that require either feasibility studies or funding to advance them, a half-dozen community outreach programs that require funding, and a number of changes to the city's regulations and plans that are anticipated to be incorporated in 2006 and 2007.

In 2006, the city will begin developing Seattle's proposed Capital Improvement Plan for 2007 to 2013, and departments will be seeking opportunities to integrate Restore Our Waters projects into their individual capital plans. Additionally, SPU, on behalf of the Restore Our Waters city team, is working with a consultant to identify potential external funding sources and strategies for Restore Our Waters commitments. During 2005, as part of an ad hoc city effort, SPU and the Fleets and Facilities Department explored several opportunities to collaborate on retrofitting city facilities with improved water quality and flow control devices. Those efforts will be expanded in 2006.

The Restore Our Waters strategy represents the Mayor's and the city's long-term, focused commitment to rolling back more than a century of environmental degradation to Seattle's lakes, creeks and Puget Sound. Through a coordinated, targeted, and long-term approach, based on scientific analysis and collaboration with the private sector on restoration efforts, the city's waters can be restored to the highest quality to support our diverse aquatic resources for generations to come.

City of Seattle

For more information about Restore Our Waters, please contact Jean White at (206) 684-5185 or WhiteJE@Seattle.Gov