




North Creek Needs Your Help



Pollution in the North Creek Watershed

Did you know?

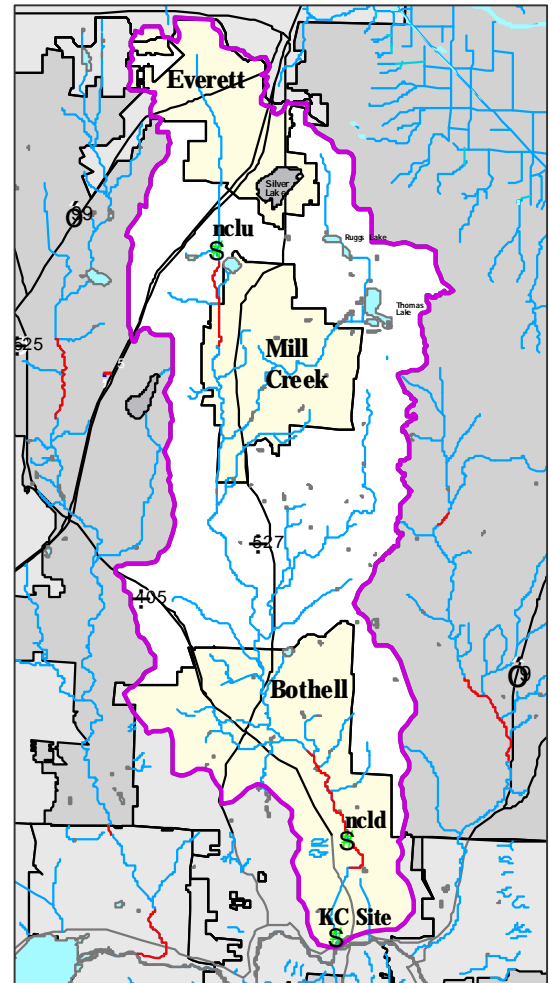
- North Creek waters exceed state bacteria standards for swimming and wading?
- The federal government lists North Creek Chinook salmon as threatened, and silver and sockeye salmon numbers are dwindling?



North Creek Watershed Forum

Wednesday, May 8

Open House: 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Presentation at 7:30 p.m.
Northwest Stream Center at McCollum Park
600 128th Street SE, Everett
Community Transit Routes 105, 810



You are invited to find out more

North Creek is degraded by fecal coliform bacteria and other pollutants.

- The open house will feature exhibits from the Washington State Department of Ecology, the Adopt-A-Stream Foundation (AASF), Snohomish County, and others.
- The Ecology and AASF presentation will provide more information about North Creek's pollution problems and Ecology's draft Water Cleanup Plan, which is aimed at improving water quality throughout the basin.

Why is North Creek polluted?

North Creek's pollution comes from thousands of small sources:

- A variety of pollutants come from failing septic tanks, animal wastes, at-home car washing, lawn and garden care, and other daily activities.
- Impervious surfaces – especially roofs, roads, and parking lots – greatly affect North Creek. Winter stream flows are very high causing erosion and sediment deposition. Because less stormwater soaks into the ground, summer flows are very low leading to higher water temperatures, concentrating of pollutants, and lower dissolved oxygen levels.

What can you do?

There are many things you can do now at home to improve North Creek. At the open house, you can talk with staff from Ecology, Snohomish County, the cities of Bothell, Mill Creek, and Everett, and the Adopt-a-Stream Foundation to learn more about current and future activities to clean up North Creek and how we can help you to reduce pollution reaching the creek and improve the creek in other ways such as:

- Proper septic tank maintenance;
- Wash cars on lawns;
- Landscape without fertilizers and pesticides;
- Plant trees and perform other activities to help local streams;
- Keep pet and other animal wastes out of North Creek;
- Get involved in your local government's programs to clean up North Creek;
- Join the *North Creek Streamkeepers* to carry out this new pollution prevention plan and take other actions necessary to solve North Creek's problems.

What's happening at the North Creek Watershed Forum?

- **See** an aerial view of the North Creek Watershed;
- **Learn** what the experts know about pollution in North Creek;
- **Find out** more about solutions, and share your ideas (Experts don't know everything!)
- **Pick up** a copy of Ecology's draft water cleanup plan;
- **Comment** on the plan at the meeting, if you like;
- **Find out** what Ecology, Everett, Mill Creek, Bothell, and Snohomish County governments are doing to clean up North Creek and protect its fish habitat;
- **Become** a *North Creek Streamkeeper, Watershed Keeper, Salmon Watcher, or Native Plant Steward*;
- **Meet** a six-foot salmon; and
- **Receive** the "Come Back Salmon" poster! An artist's beautiful rendition of sockeye salmon.

Federal law requires clean up of polluted waters

Ecology's Water Cleanup Plan is part of the federal process for determining how much pollutant a waterbody can accept (also called the total maximum daily load, or TMDL, process). The Water Cleanup Plan identifies:

- The fecal coliform problems and their causes in the watershed.
- The level of fecal coliform bacteria allowed to ensure North Creek waters are healthy.
- Actions that are needed, or already underway to reduce pollution into North Creek.

You may comment on the draft plan in writing from April 25 until May 25, 2002.

How can you stay involved?

Citizen involvement in deciding what needs to be done is essential to making North Creek a better place for people and fish. After this first North Creek Watershed Forum, you can stay involved by participating in the following future watershed activities:

- Make recommendations on the current draft Water Cleanup Plan (see below);
- Come to future North Creek Watershed Forums (sign up at the meeting or contact Tom Murdoch by phone or e-mail, see below);
- Be a *North Creek Streamkeeper* or *Watershed Keeper*, or get involved in other individual or group activities to improve North Creek;
- Get involved in on-the-ground fish habitat restoration and water pollution prevention activities;
- Let Ecology know that you would like to be involved, and contribute, to the next phase of its efforts to clean up North Creek (sign up at the meeting or contact Ralph Svrjcek by phone or e-mail, see below)

Please comment on Ecology's Draft Water Cleanup Plan.

You can obtain a copy of the draft plan at the open house, the Mill Creek Library, Ecology's Bellevue Office, or on the Internet at:

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/tmdl/watershed/index.html#nwro>.

Please send written comments by May 25, 2002 to: Ralph Svrjcek, Department of Ecology, Water Quality Program, 3190 160th Avenue SE, Bellevue, WA 98008-5452, or e-mail rsvr461@ecy.wa.gov. Phone: 425-649-7165

- Your comments will be incorporated into the Plan
- The Plan will then be submitted to EPA for approval
- Ecology will start on developing the "Detailed Implementation Plan." This will list the specific tasks that need to be done to clean up North Creek and who will do them.
- Let Ecology know if you would like the opportunity to influence and contribute to the Detailed Implementation Plan.

For more information on the North Creek Watershed Forum, contact:

Tom Murdoch, Adopt-A-Stream 425-316-8592

e-mail tomm@streamkeeper.org

Ralph Svrjcek, Ecology, 425-649-7165

e-mail rsvr461@ecy.wa.gov

To obtain this brochure or the Draft Cleanup Plan in alternative formats or for other special accommodations, please call at (425) 649-7165 or (425) 649-4259 (TDD).