

LOWER MAPES CREEK

RESTORATION PROJECT

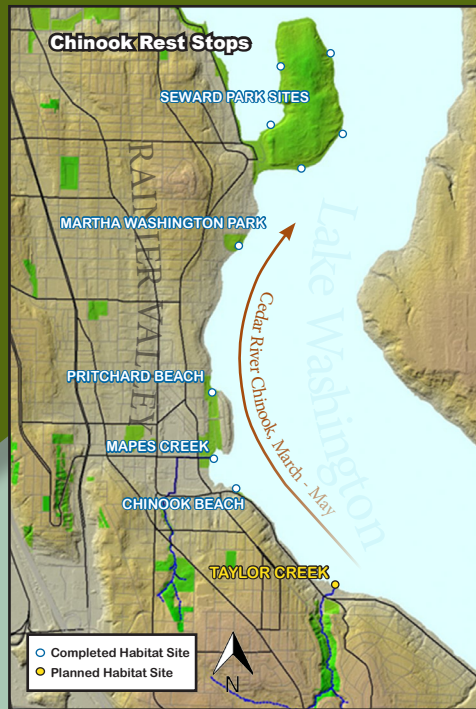


Lower Mapes Creek has been brought to the surface from a drainage pipe where it had been buried for decades. The creek now occupies 440 feet of an open, natural channel through Beer Sheva Park and into Lake Washington, providing much-needed lakeshore and small stream habitat for young endangered Chinook and other juvenile salmon migrating from the Cedar River along Lake Washington to Puget Sound.

A new trail and pedestrian bridge allow easy access through the park and to Lake Washington. Art pieces and plants provide a relaxing and enjoyable experience for park visitors. This restoration project was completed in 2015 as a partnership between Seattle Public Utilities and Seattle Parks and Recreation Department.



CHINOOK SALMON RESTORATION IN LAKE WASHINGTON



Why are the plants, logs, and rocks here?

Streamside plants, logs, and rocks are important habitat components. Plants provide shade, cover from predators, and insects for food for fish (insects drop off the plants into the water). Logs and rocks provide resistance to the force of the stream flow, which produces slow water pockets and hiding spots for fish.

Why is the restored creek so important for young Chinook salmon?

Juvenile salmon spend several months each spring in southern Lake Washington as they migrate from the Cedar River to Puget Sound. These small salmon rely on small creek mouths and shallow shorelines to provide food, rest, and refuge from predators. However, much of this habitat has disappeared during Seattle's development and many historic creeks have been directed to drainage pipes.

Restoration of small creek mouths and natural shorelines along south Lake Washington is a top priority in the Cedar River-Lake Washington Salmon Restoration plan. Restored Mapes Creek is now one of a series of "rest stops" the City is restoring along the southern Lake Washington shoreline.

Funding & Support by



WASHINGTON STATE
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE
Salmon Recovery
Funding Board



SEATTLE PARKS
AND RECREATION

Seattle
Public
Utilities

Protecting Seattle's Waterways