



Stillwaters Environmental Center

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Stillwaters Fish Passage Events in June

DATES: June 1, June 18 & Thursday, June 23, 2011

NAME OF EVENTS: Stillwaters Fish Passage Groundbreaking Party, & Information Events

SPECIFIC EVENTS & TIMES & LOCATIONS:

Public Information Meeting – Kingston Citizens' Advisory Council meeting, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, June 1 at Kingston Fire Station on Miller Bay Road

Public Information Booth – Kingston Farmers Market, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, June 18 at Mike Wallace Park at the Port of Kingston

Community Groundbreaking Party, 4:30-6:30 p.m. Thursday, June 23 at Arness Park on South Kingston Road in Kingston

DESCRIPTION:

Get the latest information on the construction of the new South Kingston Road bridge and the estuary restoration project, including the timeline and impacts on local traffic and the park.

You can attend the next public meeting of the Kingston Citizens' Advisory Council at 7 p.m.

June 1 in the North Kitsap Fire & Rescue headquarters station on Miller Bay Road.

Representatives from Kitsap County Public Works and Stillwaters Environmental Center will present details and answer questions.

You can also check out the bridge information booth at the Kingston Farmers' Market on June 18 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Mike Wallace Park at the Port of Kingston.

Then come celebrate with the whole community as we get ready to break ground for construction! The Groundbreaking Party will be at Arness Park on Thursday, June 23 from 4:30-6:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served and lots of folks will share their excitement and jubilation for a project 11 years in the making that will soon come to fruition.

The actual start of construction will be Monday, June 27. It is projected to be complete in early 2012. There will be a two-lane bypass temporary bridge constructed, so there will be minimal disruption to traffic on this critical roadway link to the southern areas of Kingston and to Indianola.

Why is this project important? As the last significant functioning estuary before leaving Puget Sound, Carpenter Creek Estuary plays an important role in the life history of resident and migrating salmonids and other fish. The undersized, 10' culvert at South Kingston Road prevents adequate flow between the salt marsh and estuary and is a partial fish barrier. The

S. Kingston culvert has also created large, deep scour holes at both ends of the culvert, trapping juvenile salmonids at low tide, where they become easy prey.

The current project will replace the S. Kingston Rd. culvert with a single span, 90' bridge. The project will re-establish natural tidal flow to approximately 30 acres of estuary & salt marsh habitat.

Restoration of the estuary was first noted as a significant and promising restoration project in 2000, by many environmental government agencies and the Suquamish Tribe Fisheries, when brought to their attention by Stillwaters Environmental Center and the Cutthroats of Carpenter Creek. In 2002, the Army Corps of Engineers started work on the preliminary engineering and environmental studies, while Kitsap County and Stillwaters worked on getting matching funding.

Due to many delays too numerous to mention, it has taken about 10 years to get to the point of construction. Many people have been instrumental in keeping this great project going, both with support and finding funding:

- Our federal legislators, Jay Inslee, Patty Murray & Maria Cantwell, and their aides – Mendy Droke, Chris Endresen, Mike English, Mary McBride, Kristine Reeves
- Our state legislators, Christine Rolfes, Phil Rockefeller, Sherry Appleton, and Snohomish Representative Hans Dunshee
- Puget Sound Partnership, especially John Meyer, who got the construction of the bridge into the governor's budget in 2010
- Former County Commissioners Chris Endresen and Steve Bauer
- County Staff persons – Monica Daniels, Kathy Peters, Patty Charnas, Jon Brand, Rebecca Pirtle, Steve Heacock and many others in Natural Resources, Community Development, and Public Works Departments
- The Kingston & Kitsap Community, who wrote many support letters & emails all through the process. Especially the dozen or so people who went to Olympia in 2010 for a budget hearing and greatly impressed the Capital Budget Committee.

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