



## **Ravenna Creek Transfer Pipe Extension Project**

### Summary of Communications

#### **What We're Hearing from the Community**

People concerned about Ravenna Park and Creek have brought their questions, comments, and concerns to King County staff at a community meeting on September 10, in emails, and in phone calls. Below you will learn what people are saying and asking, and find the county's responses, where appropriate.

1. Are you going to have to take out the daylighted part of Ravenna Creek and the restoration area for this project?

King County will need to work in the park area, mostly focused around the outfield portion of the playfield. The planned approach avoids work around the creek and creek restoration areas. The area around the ballfield and creek may have limited access during construction in order to protect public safety. King County will have more information about construction as we proceed in project planning. We will provide updates to the community as we know more.

2. I noticed that the creek doesn't run through the viewing area on 25<sup>th</sup> street during storms. Isn't it supposed to be running through this structure?

The underground portion of Ravenna Creek would normally run through this area and would be visible at the viewing area on 25<sup>th</sup>. During the past rainy season, and in the upcoming winter season, King County has installed an inflatable plug to prevent sewer overflows into the University Slough while the county works on a permanent solution. As a consequence, Ravenna Creek flows are diverted to West Point Treatment Plant during this time. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife has issued a temporary Hydraulic Project Approval (HPA) for this activity. During the winter of 2008-2009, King County conducted regular water quality monitoring to assess the effect, if any, of the creek diversion on University Slough. Creek flows were restored to University Slough on June 18, 2009 and will be maintained during the dry season of 2009. To avoid overflows during summer storms, King County staff are closely monitoring weather, and an operations staff member is on call 24/7 to enact emergency prevention measures if heavy rains threaten.

3. Why don't you just close up the connection between the storm and sewer systems?

This question relates to the potential for the sewer to overflow into the storm pipe over a weir. The weir was intended to allow very high stormwater flows into the sewer system during large storms to prevent downstream impacts. This connection between the sewer and storm systems was left in place as part of the Ravenna Creek Daylighting project due to concerns about flooding at University Village, and excess storm volumes that could impact the landfill cap under University Slough. After discovering the potential for sewer overflows into the storm system, King County worked for several months with Seattle Public Utilities to look at a series of alternatives. The "pipe in pipe" approach, was decided on for the following reasons:



- It protects stream and stormwater flows from potential sewer overflows, the primary goal of this project
- Creek flow targets are maintained at current levels.
- Sewer system flexibility and capacity is maintained. Some connection must be maintained between Laurelhurst Trunk and Lake City tunnel to allow repair and maintenance operations, and emergency diversions between the two conveyance lines.
- It's the most cost-efficient and least impactful of the alternatives. The new section of pipe can be fed into the box culvert from an opening in the park, rather than excavating trenches in streets and between buildings, as installation of new sewer or storm pipes may require.

4. The RUG Little League season has tournament rounds in early June, with a large number of teams that would be hard to relocate to other fields. If you're going to close the ballfield, can you schedule construction until after tournaments are over?

King County is scheduling this project during the summer "low flow" season for both the sewers and the creek. The system in this area can't be entered safely when it is raining, so a summer schedule helps the contractor work more consistently and efficiently to reduce community impacts.

King County has worked with the Seattle Parks Department to identify when the spring tournament season finishes. The project team has determined that this request can be accommodated, avoiding the need to transfer a large number of teams to other playfields during the tournament. We appreciate the input of representatives from the Little League and everyone's patience as we design and carry out this project.

5. There were a lot of public art, educational, and historical concepts that were proposed during the Ravenna Creek Daylighting project but never got incorporated in the project. You should consider these ideas.

Public art elements were incorporated in the daylighting project. King County's project is not of a size that would include public art.

6. We would like to see as much fresh water as possible travel from Ravenna Creek to Union Bay and Lake Washington to benefit water quality and habitat.

After creek flows were diverted to the sewer system in 1949, subsequent development in the area limited a return to historic surface flows under all weather conditions. Targets for Ravenna Creek flows to University Slough were identified and agreed on as part of the daylighting project. The project design must maintain a maximum of 5 cubic feet per second creek flow. This target allows flows under most conditions to travel unimpeded to University Slough. Flows in excess of 5 cfs would still be diverted to the sewer system to prevent downstream impacts.

For more information, view the project Web site at  
<http://www.kingcounty.gov/environment/wtd/Construction/Seattle/RavennaCkPipeExtension.aspx>