

Bridge Removal

SE Fish Hatchery Road Bridge



King County
Local Services
Road Services Division

Overview

King County removed the 71-year-old SE Fish Hatchery Road bridge in July. The abutments and bridge support piles remain in place for possible future use.

Turnaround signs are in place. Next steps include seeding and mulching to prevent erosion.

King County Road Services put in temporary fencing. A permanent locked gate should be in place before the end of the year.



Fish Hatchery Bridge timeline

November 2018: Significant flood damage to the bridge and roadway forced the County to temporarily close the bridge to vehicles and pedestrians.

Spring 2019: We made temporary adjustments to reopen the bridge to pedestrians and had a plan to repair or rebuild it for cars and trucks.

October 2020: We participated in a community meeting and determined it was too expensive to rebuild a bridge in this environmentally sensitive area prone to heavy and repeated flooding.

July 2021: We removed the bridge. In the near future, we will put up a permanent locked gate and signs to indicate the area is closed to 'through traffic' and drivers must turn around.

Future: Use remaining abutments and bridge support piles for possible habitat restoration studies.

Why we removed the bridge

Safety

The bridge was not built to handle the severe flooding that happens every year. Yearly floods have damaged the bridge. We removed this bridge to prevent it from collapsing into the creek.

Better for the environment

This bridge is located in an environmentally sensitive area.

A replacement vehicle/pedestrian bridge would need to be taller and have a longer span to withstand floods and avoid sensitive areas. It also would require extensive environmental impact studies to obtain the necessary permits for construction.

Contact us

- twitter: @kcroads
- bbender@kingcounty.gov or (206) 263-1189

Project website

kingcounty.gov/FishHatcheryBridge

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Why did King County leave part of the bridge in the water?

The abutments and bridge support piles may be used in a future possible habitat restoration studies.

Why wasn't the existing bridge restored to a pedestrian-only bridge?

The current bridge was too damaged to repair and was removed.

Can Road Services build a new pedestrian-only bridge?

No. Road Services only builds and maintains roads that are used by vehicles and pedestrians. Pedestrian-only paths and bridges are built and maintained by King County Parks.

What did it cost to remove the bridge?

Project cost: Approximately \$80,000.



Who did King County talk to before deciding to remove the bridge?

We had many conversations leading up to this decision.

- Community meetings were held in October 2020 and June 2021.
- We met with community members who shared how they felt.
- We talked to emergency services. There is another route they can use to access homes in the area.
- We received feedback from Tribal representatives and local conservation groups who classify this area is environmentally sensitive and important for fish habitat.

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Para solicitar esta información en Español, sírvase llamar al 206-477-8100 (Relevo 711) o envíe un mensaje de correo electrónico aAskLocalServices@kingcounty.gov.