



Spring 2011

The Puget Gulch and Public Works

Fun Events

***Puget Creek
Restoration Work***
**2nd Saturday of
each month**
 9:00 a.m. to Noon

Meet at

3505 North Alder Way.

Parking available along Ruston Way and west side of Alder.

Walk half of a block on N. Alder Way to the entrance to Puget Park. Look for PCRS banner.

We will provide refreshments, rubber boots, and gloves. Dress for weather conditions and wear clothes you can get dirty.

The first sewer and storm drainage system in Tacoma was put into place back in 1922. In 1962, the drainage system was separated into a sewer system and a storm water drainage system. After so many years in use, it is time to replace the leaky and harmful sewer pipes that run through Puget Gulch and the rest of Tacoma.

During last summer, a Public Works sewer and storm water main had been under construction for fixing the seepage of waste water in Garfield Gulch. During that time, the Public Works and the City Council had encouraged citizens to voice their comments and concerns to be addressed in regards to the construction being done at the Garfield Gulch. As an organization, we were appalled to learn

that the Public Works applied for exemption to avoid following environmental policies in regards to construction. We find this morally and ethically wrong that a Tacoma public organization has tried to move around environmental standards for a major public construction project. Why was the public notified and encouraged to express their concerns with the Garfield Gulch but not for this project? What we are now wondering is why aren't the citizens of Tacoma being invited to express our concerns regarding the future sewer construction in the Puget Gulch?

To state our position, the Puget Creek Restoration Society is not opposed to the Puget Gulch construction project. The waste leaking from old sewer pipes

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Board with News

Boise Creek

By Barry R. Miller, Board Vice President

Boise Creek, located near Buckley, is one of the most productive fish rearing creeks in the Puyallup River Basin. It is the focus of a Salmon Recovery Funding Board Project grant awarded to the Puyallup Tribe of Indians. More than 2,000 feet of the Boise Creek Channel runs through the Enumclaw Municipal Golf Course and is an area of extreme concern in the otherwise healthy creek.

The original course of the Puyallup River (and subsequently Boise Creek) was changed and ultimately rerouted in the 1940's.

The Creek's changed path has caused negative impacts on salmon spawning beds in the area of the golf course.

Higher densities of healthy spawning salmon swim both upstream and downstream of the golf course. Puyallup Tribal biologists speculate that the decreased numbers may be due to environmental factors, including the manufactured landscaping of the golf course that leads right to the edge of the stream. Chemical

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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President

Barry R. Miller
Vice President

Mike Webb
Acting as Secretary

Scott M. Hansen
Treasurer

Jim Beaudoin
Executive Director

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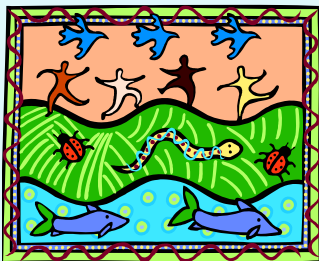
Edward S. Winskill

Michael A. Corsini

Dr. Sherry Graham

Susan Penhale

The Puget Creek Restoration Society protects, enhances, and restores the Puget Creek Watershed and similar streams, wetlands, and green spaces. We serve the South Puget Sound



communities and invite their participation through hands-on restoration, research, education, advocacy, and by promoting a sense of stewardship.

*A tax-exempt 501(c)(3)
nonprofit organization*

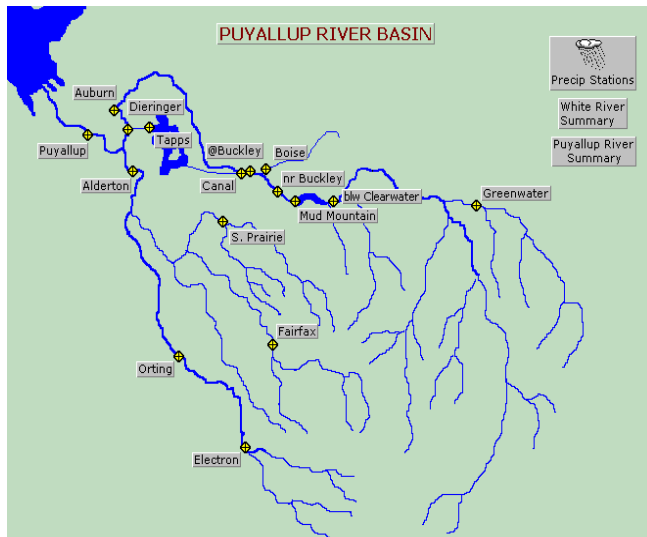
Garter Snakes

With the coming of spring flowers, you often get garden snakes. They sleep all winter and when spring comes they often creep into our yards, gardens, streets, grass, and paths. The garden snake can actually be beneficial to us as a pest killer because they will eat rodents that delve into your vegetation. The most common gardener snake is the Garter Snake. They usually live in ponds, wetlands, forests, fields, and in our yards. Garter Snakes are usually identified by their long horizontal body length and stripes (most commonly the yellow stripe). Being smaller snakes they eat small animals such as earthworms, frogs, and fish. They often become food for animals such as owls or raccoons. Often when they are afraid they hide to protect themselves. They have a few births in the summer. Although they are mild natured, they will bite the gardener if the gardener tries to pick it up to show their kids. Snakes are quite good at hiding. Most of the time you won't even see the snake at all, but instead only spot their skins left behind. A majority of the snakes common in your garden have skin the same color has the environment. *(Continued on page 3)*

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fertilizers and weed inhibitors are two of the factors that may lead to decreased spawning in the area.

The Puyallup Tribal Fisheries Department is using a



\$120,000 grant to work with the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe and the city of Enumclaw to mitigate the impact of several negative factors caused by the golf course's location. The

grant will allow the Puyallup Tribe to plant more vegetation along the Boise Creek bank, increasing cover which will positively reduce the water temperature. Workers will also align the Creek's path as much as possible to its original historic course, to mitigate floods that

impact both the salmon spawning salmon beds and the golf course playing area. Boise Creek boasts abundant numbers of returning salmon. The Puyallup tribe hopes to

increase the returning numbers of Chinook and Steelhead salmon, as both are listed as "threatened" species.

New Members

*Thank you, and
welcome to PCRS!*

*~More names to be
Included in the next
Newsletter~*

Pamela McMillen
Dimas Bazan
Delicia Loper
Mark Portman
Fofa Filisi
Patrick Nomura
Wanda Creamer
Jessica Hanity
Shawn Decew
Latoshia Danials
Josh LaFreniere
Sarah Petrovich
Amy McCoy
Jennifer McFadden
Dao Chanthabouly
Susam Olszweski
Julie Sullivan
Brad Crawford
Timothy Ryan
Jin Lau
Lynda Lease
David Corny
Ruth Keller
David Potts
Betsey Potts
Chris Webster
Josh Hilderbrand
Phillip Drexler
Shelby Jones
Gardenshpere

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are extremely hazardous to the delicate ecosystem of the Puget Gulch that we have worked very hard to restore. Our main concern is that the construction practices that are very likely to be used in repairing the sewer main will have negative and lasting effects on the native habitat. For the most part, the restoration following the construction at the Garfield Gulch has been successful and the native wildlife has been almost completely restored. But what has not been restored is the trail that was used by trucks and equipment during the construction. The trail had previously been accessible to hikers, people in wheelchairs and strollers, but is considered to be an almost unusable trail while it is lacking the proper restoration and placement of gravel over it.

Our hope for the outcome of the Puget Gulch construction is that the natural habitat is protected during the repairs so as little damage can take place as possible, and that the proper restoration work is done immediately following the completion of the project. Some of our suggestions for environmentally responsible construction practices are that instead of using semi trucks for moving equipment, use a Caterpillar (CAT) tractor that can better maneuver around the landscape and does not necessitate as wide of a road. A semi truck requires around a 15 foot wide trail, while a CAT and smaller trucks would

only need a 7-8 foot wide trail. Also, tying back vegetation so it is out of the way instead of cutting it down and laying down mat coverings instead of building a road can greatly reduce damage done by construction. Filling in tire ruts and replanting native vegetation can help restore the landscape and reduce the spread of damaging invasive species. By implementing these and other responsible construction practices, less damage will occur during the repairs and the Puget Gulch can be restored to a healthy stream area.

However, what is not happening is that these alternatives to traditional construction practices are not being heard by the Public Works and the Tacoma City Council. During the construction of the Garfield Gulch, the public was invited to express their concerns. While this same kind of encouragement has not been implemented for the construction in the Puget Gulch, it is more important that concerns are expressed because Puget Creek is a salmon-bearing stream that must be protected. Our suggestions and concerns for the construction at Puget Gulch have not been acknowledged even though they are much more significant in this project than the last. It is imperative that the construction done at the Puget Gulch is done responsibly and done right.

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Garter snakes normally grow to be about 48 inches long. They have three light-colored stripes on a black, dark brown, tan, or greenish body. The belly is tinted a yellowish, greenish, or bluish color. Females give birth to 9-57 live young. If you don't want snakes in your garden then you should construct a snake-proof fence around it. The way you do that is by using a heavy galvanized screen, about three feet wide with a quarter inch mesh. The fence should slant from the garden at a thirty-degree angle and be buried three-

-inches below the surface.

There are a total of fifteen different species of garden snakes in Washington. Depending upon their species they can live anywhere from 3-10 years. Gardner snakes are now considered to be an endangered species.

Calling Future Board Members!

If you are interested in filling a board position, please contact us for an application. Board meetings are the third Monday of each month, at 6:30

Join the Puget Creek Restoration Society

Note: The PCRS is a 501c(3) organization and your dues are tax deductible.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Membership Dues - Please choose one:

____ Business - \$50/year

____ Family - \$30/year

____ Individual - \$20/year

____ Work nine or more volunteer hours

____ Other

Which of the following types of activities are you interested in? *Please check all that apply.*

____ Office work

____ Research

____ Restoration activities

____ Education/Outreach

____ Legislative issues

____ Salmon enhancement projects



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