



# MEMORANDUM

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**DATE:** July 10, 2012

**SUBJECT:** Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed (WRIA 8)  
2005-2010 Implementation Report

**TO:** Bellevue Parks and Community Services Board

**FROM:** Kit Paulsen, Watershed Planning Supervisor, Bellevue Utilities, (425) 452-4861  
*(Information only; no action requested)*

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## Background

In 1999, the federal government listed Puget Sound Chinook Salmon for protection as “threatened” under the Endangered Species Act. In 2000, 27 local governments, environmental groups, state and federal agencies joined together to form the Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed (WRIA 8) Salmon Recovery Council. WRIA 8 includes all of the waters that drain through the Ballard Locks and the marine shoreline to Edmonds (attachment 1). This group supplanted and built upon efforts of the Sammamish and Lake Washington Forums that had been actively working since 1996 on water quality, flooding, and fish concerns identified in a Regional Needs Assessment process. In 2005, local jurisdictions, including Bellevue City Council, ratified the Chinook Salmon Conservation Plan that included technical information on the status of chinook and habitat in the watershed, a science-based strategy for recovery, and a prioritized list of projects and programs to restore chinook habitat in the watershed.

The WRIA 8 planning, implementation, and coordination efforts are funded primarily through an interlocal agreement between the 27 local jurisdictions. Bellevue portion of the costs are incorporated into the Utilities Department budget. Until 2012, WRIA-based project funding was provided through King Conservation District per parcel assessments. The per parcel assessments by Conservation Districts were challenged in court and new processes to comply with the legal ruling are being considered. Funding for 2012 WRIA project allocations are being supported through the King County Flood Control Zone District while discussions for on-going funding for WRIA projects are considered. Funding from state and federal sources contribute approximately a quarter of the total funding in WRIA 8.

## Implementation Progress Report 2005-2010

The enclosed report provides a summary of the current status of chinook populations, changes in habitat condition indicators, habitat protection and restoration projects, programmatic actions across the watershed, funding sources, and future challenges and opportunities.

Staff will briefly discuss highlights of the report and future opportunities for Parks projects.

Attachment 1: Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed (WRIA 8)

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