



City Council

Special Recognition - Mission Creek Watershed Restoration Project

Agenda Date: 3/18/2014
Agenda Item Number: 2.B
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Title

Special Recognition - Mission Creek Watershed Restoration Project

Recommended Action

Committee Recommendation:

Not referred to a committee.

City Manager Recommendation:

Recognize community partners and City staff for their involvement in the 2013 Mission Creek Estuary Restoration Project

Report

Issue:

The Mission Creek project represents a noteworthy example of community partnering to accomplish a long-sought environmental enhancement.

Staff Contact:

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Presenter(s):

Michelle Stevie, Senior Program Specialist, Public Works/Water Resources,

Background and Analysis:

The Mission Creek project removed an old, abandoned roadway and extensive fill material from the mouth of Mission Creek at the south edge of Olympia's Priest Point Park (see attached aerial photo). The roadway has restricted the tidal exchange at the mouth of the creek for approximately 100 years. This restriction caused a reduction in species using the estuary. The South Puget Sound ecosystem is dependent upon small estuaries like Mission Creek because they provide unique habitats for marine animals. Many of these small estuaries need to be restored. Unlike in past years, spawning salmon were seen entering the Mission Creek estuary this fall.

The multi-year project was completed on time and within budget thanks to the leadership of the Port of Olympia and strong support from Olympia Water Resources, Olympia Parks, Arts and Recreation Department, Squaxin Island Tribe, and the South Sound Salmon Enhancement Group. The

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Washington Salmon Recovery Board provided \$80,000 for the \$200,000 project.