



ISSAQUAH ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL

PO Box 921 • ISSAQUAH, WA 98027

THE MEANING OF SALMON DAYS...

Salmon Days is Issaquah's Official Holiday celebrating the return of the King, Kokanee, Chinook and Coho salmon to their spawning grounds. It is a once-a-year opportunity to reflect on one of the great marvels of Mother Nature. The magnificent life, journey, and death of our beloved fish make our everyday trials and tribulations seem insignificant.

In the 21st Century, our salmon and their habitat are fragile resources endangered by our everyday choices. Government and development decisions are shaping the future of our hills, forests and wetlands. We can inform their decisions. We can make personal choices which enrich our lives, our community and our children's future. What choices are you making to keep the salmon coming home??

Kees Creek Enhancement: Helping to Bring the Salmon Home

A year ago at Salmon Days we announced that Issaquah Environmental Council had been awarded a grant of \$49,820 from National Fish & Wildlife Foundation to conduct the Kees Creek Salmon Habitat Enhancement Project on a 200-foot reach of Kees Creek. (Kees Creek is located partially in King County's rural area and connects to the mainstem of Issaquah Creek in Issaquah's Squak Valley Park.)

We are in the midst of that work now and you can help!

Already, with matching funds from this grant, the City of Issaquah replaced the culvert under Issaquah-Hobart Road with a more fish friendly facility. King County, in a separate project, replaced the culvert under 238th Way SE that abuts our project.

Now the Issaquah Environmental Council is partnering with King County, the City of Issaquah, Save Lake Sammamish, Mountains to Sound Greenway and others to restore the native habitat of this salmon bearing tributary between the two new culverts. Volunteers are still needed to continue to remove invasive species and replant with native vegetation.

Work parties are scheduled for:

- **Wednesday, Oct. 6, 2-4pm**
- **Thursday, Oct. 7, 1-3pm**
- **Monday, Oct. 11, 4-6pm**
- **Thursday/Friday, Oct. 21/ 22, time to be determined**
- **Saturday, Oct. 23, 9-3pm**

Please call or email Barbara if you can come so we'll know how much equipment to have on hand. (425-557-5502 or bshelton@seanet.com)

The Army Corps of Engineers was scheduled to restore salmon habitat on Issaquah Creek in Squak Valley North and from the mouth of Kees Creek to Issaquah-Hobart Road, downstream of the project, in Summer 2004. However, their funding fell through and their restoration is now scheduled for future years. When it is completed, these projects taken together will multiply the value of the restoration efforts, offering healthy salmon rearing reaches on the main stem of Issaquah Creek.

EDUCATION AND ACTION HELP SALMON

EDUCATION

Slide Shows Available--The Issaquah Resource Conservation Office (RCO) has new slideshows and displays available. The slideshows, which run about 25 minutes, are ideal for group meetings. The display includes color photos, narrative, and brochure holders with take-home materials useful at a meeting or in an information kiosk.

- Water-wise Gardening
- Gardening with Safe Control of Pests and Weeds
- Beauty and the Best: Gardening for healthier soils and plants, bird and butterfly habitat, use of recycled structural materials.

Contact: Pat Duke, City of Issaquah, RCO, 425-837-3408, patd@ci.issaquah.wa.us

Salmonpeople Presentation--is a show about the interdependence of salmon and people in the Pacific Northwest. The story is told through the eyes of one Cyrus Jackson, an everyman character who finds himself employed up at the local dam. Cyrus unfolds a charming lesson on the impacts of people on salmon and our watershed. This inspiring theatrical experience is both funny and fascinating.

- October 5, Auburn Library, 7 pm
- October 7, Mercer Island High School Auditorium, Mercer Island 7:00 pm
- October 8, Cotterill Auditorium, Old Redmond School House, 7:00 pm
- October 9, Kingsgate Library, Kirkland, 1:00 pm
- October 12, North Bend Library, 7 pm

All performances are FREE and open to the public. Sponsors include the Bear Creek Water Tenders, City of Redmond, King County Department of Natural Resources and King County Libraries.

ACTION

Fall Recycling Event--October 16, Issaquah High School, 700 Second Ave SE, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Recycle large appliances, wood waste, TVs, computer equipment, tires, toilets, and more. Questions? Contact 425-837-3400 or rco@ci.issaquah.wa.us

Critical Areas Ordinance Hearing—Monday, October 18, 9:30am, King County Council Chambers, Room 1001 King County Courthouse, 516 Third Ave, Seattle. As provided under the state Growth Management Act in 1995, King County faces a deadline of December 1, 2004 for review and updating of its regulations to protect critical areas. You can testify online at the following location:

<http://apps01.metrokc.gov/www6/mkcc/cao2004testimony.cfm>

Volunteers NEEDED!

- **October 6**, Restoration Team Leader Training*
- **October 6**, 2-4pm Kees Creek Restoration ***
- **October 7**, 1-3pm Kees Creek Restoration ***
- **October 9**, Rocks as Resources! ** Start with a class on creative uses of rocks from 9 – 9:30, and then help border the Pickering Farm's planting beds. Bring in your rocks (under a foot in diameter - no concrete or rubble).**
- **October 11**, 4-6pm Kees Creek Restoration ***
- **October 16**, Issaquah Stream Team Water Quality training*
- **October 21 or 22**, time to be determined Kees Creek Restoration ***
- **October 23, 9am-3pm** Sammamish Stewardship Saturday Kees Creek and Issaquah Creek Tree Planting*
- **October 30**, Tibbetts Creek Tree Planting*
- **October 31**, Tibbetts Creek Tree Planting*
- **November 6**, Community Teaching Garden Planting! ** Learn about plant selection from 9 – 10 AM and then plant and spread mulch like crazy until 2:30 PM.
- **November 7**, Issaquah Creek Tree Planting*
- **November 13**, Issaquah Creek Tree Planting*
- **November 20**, Tibbetts Valley Park Tree Planting*
- **December 4**, Putting the Garden to Sleep** Learn how to prepare your garden for spring from 9 – 9:30am. Then use those skills in a work party at the Pickering Farm Teaching Garden until 2:30 pm.
- **December 11**, Issaquah Creek Tree Planting*

For information, contact

*Kelly Kirkland, Volunteer Program Coordinator, Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust, 206-812-0122 or kelly.kirkland@mtsgreenway.org

**Chrys Bertolotto, City of Issaquah Resource Conservation Office, 425-837-3442 or chrysb@ci.issaquah.wa.us

***Barbara Shelton, Issaquah Environmental Council, 425-557-5502 or bshelton@seanet.com

SE BYPASS CITIZEN INPUT IGNORED, ALIGNMENT TO BE CHOSEN OCTOBER 18

It was apparent at the Council Utilities Committee (CUC) meeting (especially held to discuss choosing a bypass alternative for Final Environmental Impact Statement study) that the overwhelming volume of citizen input was not a factor in our elected officials' decision. Citizens clearly stated that the NO BUILD alternative, with mitigations for existing roads, was their choice.

The Committee swallowed the staff statement that a "Build" option must be chosen, with no question. Then they accepted the administration recommendation of Alignment 6, which avoids large wetland impacts and does not cut the Sportsmen's Club in half.

Joe Forkner expressed dismay about being backed into a corner. Fred Butler went with the status quo—no surprise. Bill Conley still hangs onto his 2-lane road impossibility.

The entire Council will make its decision on Monday, October 18, 7:30pm, in Council Chambers. We expect that the CUC/administration recommendation will be discussed with much angst.

Be part of the excitement! Give councilors your input ahead of time using the addresses on our back page. Call your council members with your opinion. Write a letter to the Issaquah Press, Seattle Times or Eastside Journal. Contact us for a yard sign.

Join us at the October 18 Council meeting. At the beginning of each Council meeting, audience members are invited to speak to the Council for up to 3 minutes. Sign up for audience comments just prior to the meeting or indicate your willingness to speak after those who have signed in have spoken.

SMAC (TRAFFIC SIGNAL MODERNIZATION & COORDINATION)

How many times do you sit at a light & say, "Why don't they coordinate the *!?!&* lights?"

Well! After years of saying that an overall light coordination system is a **#1 priority**, the Issaquah City Council has placed a \$3.63 Million Bond Issue on the November 9 ballot for coordinating the lights!

Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) = System wide signal light management, changes with traffic.

Traffic Light Synchronization/Coordination = Signal light coordinated timing for a particular corridor. Not easily changed.

Traffic Signal Modernization, Coordination and Travel Enhancement = **ITS**

Signal Modernization and Coordination (SMAC) = **ITS** but more entertaining

SMAC is comparatively cheap, has few environmental impacts and can show immediate results even as it is being put into place! SMAC can reduce the amount of time you are sitting at a traffic light by 25%! This in turn saves total trip time, reduces your own dollars spent on wasted gas and helps air quality!!! What's not to like?

In addition the SMAC bond issue amount requested will cover the entire project, finally a project to be fully funded and produced!

Fine, you say, but \$3.63M for coordinating the lights?! Is everything made of gold?

This is how it works. First, the City creates a master plan that would insure that all segments of the City, County and

State can talk to each other. Then the City defines what the timing of the lights should be in a variety of scenarios, including the flexibility for emergency, on-the-spot changes.

In 2005 SMAC will be installed in the SR 900 / SE 56th & East Lake Sammamish Parkway corridors; in 2006 Maple/ Newport & Front Street corridors; and in 2007 Highlands Drive & Gilman Blvd will be completed. The project altogether will include 21 signal controllers, 6 signal cabinets, 30 modems, 50,000' fiber optic cable, 46 junction boxes, 13 closed circuit tv cameras & 4 programmable message signs.

SMAC is the backbone for transportation management for Issaquah. This is a **#1 priority** and should come before any other capacity improvements.

On the other hand we are still looking the SE Bypass in the face. The Council has made no decision there, so why would we want to vote for a bond issue, raising our taxes, when we could end up obligated to pay for a \$40M road shortly.

In addition, we have little faith that our Public Works Engineer staff, actually understands the policy direction of our City Council. Citizen input has consistently been ignored by our traffic engineer, forcing signature gathering and years of efforts to gain the smallest of amenities for the people who live work and shop here, as compared to adding capacity for the ease of regional auto traffic. Should we give these people more of our money to mis-spend?

So, tell the Council to make the Bypass go away, and we will take a chance on building Issaquah's transportation system as it should be done, beginning with the basics.

Issaquah Environmental Council

The Issaquah Environmental Council (IEC) asks you to Join US!

Yes, I want to learn about and participate in the work being done to preserve the unique treasures of Issaquah. I can help with: (circle interests)

Telephones, Fundraising, Research, Community Relations, Letters, Attending City Council and other meetings.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

E-MAIL: _____

MEMBERSHIP CONTRIBUTION: \$ _____

(Tax deductible checks may be made out to IEC.)

IEC respects your right to privacy and will not sell or distribute your personal information. The IEC's sole purpose in requesting your information is to keep you informed about environmental issues and events in our area. By providing us with your email information you are consenting to have IEC send you unsolicited emails that the IEC feels is of interest to it's members. If you wish to be removed from the email list, simply respond to the email and asked to be removed from the mailing list.

IEC
P.O. Box 921
Issaquah, WA 98027

Your Elected Representatives

If you want to ask questions or give your opinion; call or E-mail them.

Ava Frisinger Mayor, Issaquah	837-3020	mayor@ci.issaquah.wa.us
Nancy Davidson President, Major Development & Regional Affairs Committee (MDRAC), Tech, Eastside Fire	392-7412	Nancyd@ci.issaquah.wa.us
Fred Butler Vice-president, MDRAC, Utilities, Operations	392-5775	Fredb@ci.issaquah.wa.us
Bill Conley Land Use, Utilities, Chair of Services, Cascade Water	391-8168	Billc@ci.issaquah.wa.us
Joe Forkner Chair of Utilities, Cascade Water, Tech	392-3598	Joef@ci.issaquah.wa.us
Russell Joe Operations, Services, Chair of MDRAC	313-8957	Russellj@ci.issaquah.wa.us
David Kappler Services, Chair of Land Use, Cascade Water, Eastside Fire	392-3571	Davidk@ci.issaquah.wa.us
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