

# Clark County Clean Water Program Upper Whipple Creek Habitat Protection & Runoff Control Project

September 2009

**Location:** Whipple Creek upstream of Northeast Union Road to approximately Northeast 166th Street

**Current Phase:** Final design and permitting

**Project Type:** Habitat protection, wetland enhancement and retention

**Budget:** \$850,000

**Funding:** This project is being funded by a stimulus grant from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, and a long-term loan repaid by the Clark County Clean Water Fund.

## Why is Clark County doing this project?

Whipple Creek needs our help. Nearly a century of land development has degraded habitat in Whipple Creek and is continuing to cause severe channel instability and erosion. This construction project is the result of collaborative planning by numerous local stakeholders, including a citizen's advisory committee, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Legacy Lands Program, the Clark County Clean Water Program, and Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation. Purchased by the county in 2006, this 40-acre parcel lies in the Whipple Creek habitat corridor and is identified as a high priority for protection through a proposed Conservation Areas Acquisition Plan. The project will stop further degradation of the Whipple Creek channel in the highly valued natural area, and protect both wetland and floodplain function in managing storm flows.

The county's Stormwater Capital Improvement Plan ranks this project as a high priority, recognizing the unique habitat values of the project area, which is home to two threatened and endangered species. Construction is scheduled to start in July 2010, and take about three months to complete.

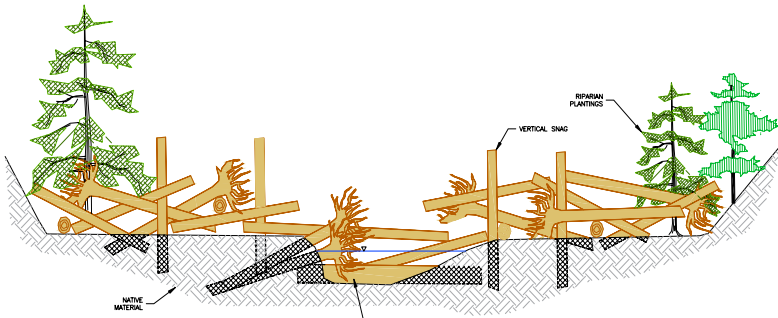


Project location



## What is the scope of the project?

The Upper Whipple Creek Habitat Protection and Runoff Control project will enhance 40 acres of critical habitat and wetland and protect it from future upstream development. The project will stabilize the stream bed with rocks and large wood to stop erosion from threatening wetland areas; install valley-spanning log jams that slow the storm flows and swamp the wetland and floodplain habitat; and restore native vegetation in the adjacent riparian areas.



Typical valley-spanning log jam



Channel erosion in project area.

## What are the benefits?

The project will help protect aquatic habitat and wetlands and stabilize the stream channel to prevent further damage from future upstream development. In addition, it will restore and enhance three to five acres of degraded wetland and reconnect the floodplain. A conservation covenant covering the entire parcel will also protect riparian habitats.

## What's next?

- Final designs and bid documents - September 2009
- Bid award - January 2010
- Sign construction contract - no later than February 16, 2010
- Construction - July to September 2010



Example of woody debris installed to enhance habitat.

For more information on this Clean Water project contact Scott Fakler, Project Manager, (360) 397-6118 Ext. 4394



For other formats, contact the Clark County ADA Office: **Voice** (360) 397-2000; **Relay** 711 or (800) 833-6388; **Fax** (360) 397-6165; **E-mail** ADA@clark.wa.gov.