

Holistic Urban River Conservation Efforts

A Case Study of the Duwamish River



Urban Waters Federal Training

July 27, 2016

Hannah Kett

Duwamish River



In 2001, the EPA listed the Duwamish River as one of America's most toxic waste sites.



WARNING

Bottom-feeding fish, crab and shellfish may be unsafe to eat due to pollution.

El consumo de pescado del mar, cangrejos y mariscos puede ser peligroso debido a la contaminación.

Có thể không an toàn để ăn cá dưới đáy biển, cua và hải sản vỏ cứng vì bị ô nhiễm.

ត្រូវដែលស្តីពីទេសសំណល់នៅបាតសមុទ្ររួមទាំងក្តាម និងសត្វសមុទ្រសន្តានខ្លា, ឡូង, ល្បែស, ត្រី។ ល។... បរិភោគអាចមានគ្រោះថ្នាក់ ដោយសារតែទេសសំណល់ទាំងអស់នោះក្រឡក់ ។

ປາຢູ່ພື້ນນ້ຳ, ກະປູ ແລະ ຫອຍອາດຈະບໍ່ປອດພົບທີ່ຈະກິນຍ້ອນນ້ຳປ່ອມ

由於污染，底棲魚、螃蟹和有殼水生物可能食用不安全。

오염으로 인해, 바닥 어류, 게 및 조개를 섭취하는 것이 해가 될 수 있습니다.

В связи с загрязнением среды рыбы, которые обитают на дне, а также крабы, моллюски и ракообразные могут быть небезопасны для употребления в пищу.



It is not safe to eat even a single meal of resident seafood from the Duwamish River

Impacted Communities



Cultivating Leadership and Building Community Capacity

Ensuring the Community has a Voice in the Cleanup of the Duwamish River



Proposed plan
outreach and
engagement

resulted in over
2300 comments

in 10 different
languages!



AWESOME...

**but what about other
environmental injustice
issues and inequities?!**

Community Health program



1. Duwamish Community Action for Clean Air project
2. Healthy River / Healthy Communities

The Healthy River /Healthy Communities Program



1. Take Action on Community Revitalization Priorities that result in improved urban waters.
2. Collaborate with communities and decision-makers to accomplish goals

Examples of priorities: Open Space | Public Access to the River | Job Training and Local Hire for Cleanup | Expand Tree Canopy Coverage | General Neighborhood Beautification

Project Partners



Diverse set of official project partners representing federal, state, and local decision makers – including organizations, government, and academic.

- Provide connections, ideas, and, at times, resources to address priorities.

Community Action Team!

- Drives the Project
- Who is on this team?
 - Reflects the neighborhood
 - Represents a diversity of interests
- Formed in 2014 with the launch of the project
 - The catalyst was the release of the Duwamish River Opportunity Fund



How does the CAT work?

- 1) How will Prioritization Work?
- 2) Review past priorities
- 3) Brainstorm!
- 4) Develop Action Plans!
 - 1) Who could fund?
 - 2) Where is the current momentum?
 - 3) Who else might be interested in the project?
- 5) Prioritize!
- 6) Write the proposals and submit for funding



The 2015 Community Action Team

Idea into Actual Project

Now we need to create projects out of these ideas. Example: Community Stewardship

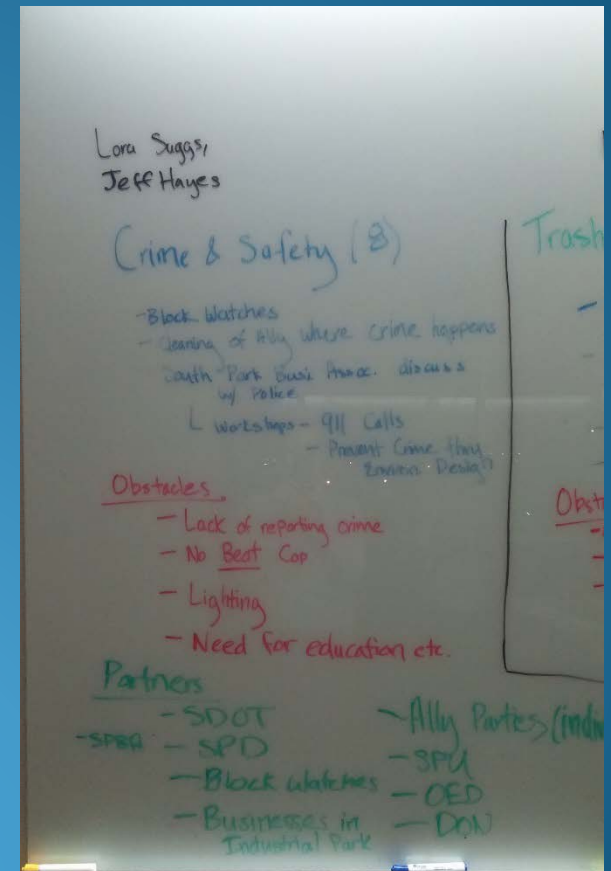
What the 2015 CAT came up with:

- Community capacity building by supporting the community in creating their own projects
- Regular park cleanups (specifically, Marra Farms and Desimone Park)
- Neighbors caring for roundabouts in South Park
- Addressing trash and graffiti
- *Potential partners:*
 - Duwamish Valley Youth Corps
 - SPNA
 - Organize neighbors into teams for cleaning
 - 14th Ave Businesses/industries could participate
- *Built into project:*
 - Mini-grants for neighbors to hold block cleaning/block party to launch cleanup effort

The 2015 Community Action Team

Step 4: What's Next?

- We continue to work with community members to support their project implementation
- What about the proposals that were not funded or chosen to be submitted to DROF?
 - They are not forgotten!
 - What are ways we can incorporate these into our other funding proposals?
 - Ex: Community Stewardship
- Staying in touch with the CAT and Project Partners



Success!



Leveraged \$1.1 million
through this process –
resulting in an empowered
and healthier community!

Success!



Duwamish Tree Canopy Enhancement



From Scary Trail to Happy Trail!



Georgetown Urban Farm and Food Forest

A Few Others:

- Supporting local businesses in South Park
- Graffiti Removal in Georgetown
- Native Foods Program with the Duwamish Tribe
- Duwamish Valley Youth Corps!

Duwamish Valley Youth Corps

High priority need in 2014: Youth Program, employment, and engagement.

WHY?

Promote the health and safety of neighborhood youth and support and train new generation of family and community leaders



What?

12-week PAID program – Focused on scientific and experiential learning
Ages: 13 to 19 (includes mentorship program)

- ✓ Train and engage youth in environmental and community health improvements;
- ✓ Address the Duwamish community's selected health priorities, including urban forestry, urban trail enhancement, green infrastructure, and stormwater controls;
- ✓ Provide meaningful, paid training, work and career pathways for local teens.



The Impact!



Highlighting health disparities to
the Washington State Governor and
the Mayor of Seattle



Working towards the health of
their community!

Other impacts and implications



Goal:



Thank you!

DUWAMISH
RIVER
CLEANUP
COALITION

Technical Advisory Group

Hannah Kett
hannah@duwamishcleanup.org