



# Carkeek Watershed Community Action Project

386 NW 112TH · Seattle · Wa · 98177 · 363-4116

0316

December 16, 2004

Kenneth Koch, Water Quality Assessment Coordinator  
Washington Department of Ecology  
PO Box 47600  
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

Department of Ecology  
Water Quality Program

DEC 28 2004

Subject: Draft Water Quality Assessment for Piper's Creek

Dear Ken:

Thank you for sending the 'hard copy' for WRIA 8 and WRIA 9 to me. It is a burden in this electronic age to communicate to non-electronic folks, but with my eyesight problems computers are impossible for me. Your timely accomodation of my disability is very appreciated.

Have a question and a request for you. First the question! **Would it be possible to have assistance from Ecology in doing the Turbidity testing for Piper's Creek?** Currently it appears Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) is not doing any turbidity testing at Piper's Creek. King County tests the creek for various water quality measures due to the existance of the Carkeek Park Pump Station and CSO Treatment Plant. CWCAP volunteers are well aware of the problems in salmon survival in our imprint pond. (See: CWCAP Action Alert!) We appreciate the 2 rating of Piper's Creek as a 'water of concern', but the turbidity problems should have a 5 rating to initiate a TMDL to solve those problems which have given us so much grief during imprinting.

42842

Second the request! **Could Ecology please correct the spelling of Piper's Creek?** Unfortunately during the formulating of the early action watershed plan for Piper's Creek a decision was made in error to eliminate the apostrophe. The creek is named after the Piper Family who purchased the land in 1889. Hence the apostrophe is needed to show that relationship. This is the 75th year of Carkeek Park in its current location. It has been a CWCAP goal to honor those families and individuals 'key' to Carkeek Park and Piper's Creek Watershed History by correcting some oversights. Thank you for your help on this.

Very sincerely,

Nancy R. Malmgren, Director CWCAP

Enclosure

cc: Nancy Ahern, SPU, Janet Macri, Carkeek Park, Mark Gunlogson, Piper Family

# Action Notes!

Carkeek Watershed Community Action Project

Volume 1, Issue 1

Summer- Fall 2004

Editor: Sonja O'Claire

## Reflections on the Past & the Dream of the Future!

The Carkeek Watershed Community Action Project (CWCAP) is celebrating our 25th year as an environmental action group working in the Piper's Creek (Carkeek) Watershed. Our mission 25 years ago was to return salmon to healthy waters in Carkeek Park, and it is the same to this day. Waters which nourish and sustain the salmon and are healthy enough so that kids, if they wish, can go from fresh water to the saltwater, via the culverts under the railroad tracks. Certainly, we had many other goals which have been met, in cooperation with city, county, state and federal agencies and community groups, but our prime mission of clean water has not yet been realized.



Sunday, April 13, 2003

CWCAP's Salmon Committee became painfully aware of the problem when, during the heaviest rainfall of that month, between 10,000-15,000 fed Chum fry died. Most likely due to the heavy silted storm water mixed with lawn and garden pesticides entering the

Mohlendorph Imprint Pond. CWCAP for the past 24 years has had a stock supplementation program for salmon as part of a Cooperative agreement with WA State Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW) and the Salmon is the Schools Program. Part of the Agreement with WDFW is to imprint the salmon. You can learn more about this process by going on the self-guided *Salmon to Sound Trail* in front of the Metro/King County Wastewater Pump Station.

Is CWCAP discouraged by this? We know that we can return salmon to Carkeek Park and with the right weather conditions the redds laid by our returning salmon can be successful. The Seattle Public Utilities are doing a great job in their natural drainage systems, but they cannot do it all! That is why we are appealing to Piper's Creek Watershed residents to become active *Salmon Friendly Neighbors*. **This is the time to save both the salmon slide in the park and save returning salmon in Piper's Creek. Both need your help!**

—Nancy Malmgren, CWCAP Founder & Director

### Legacy

J.W. Gladstone, © 1988 [Reprinted by permission]

A Child sits beside a stream that flows to the sound  
Awaiting arrival of the fish that swam down ...  
The waters in an earlier year.  
When cedars brushed the sky and the land was in line with God.

Alone there he sits and then thinks to himself  
Where is that heaven and what is hell?  
Is hell the state which we have made?  
By polluting our waters, miracles fade  
And behold! The choices are made through the actions displayed  
I pray they will be a Legacy...  
That our children can hold and pass to their own when they die.

# CWCAP Events for Fall 2004

**Clean Water Act- Monitoring Day at Carkeek**  
**Saturday- October 16<sup>th</sup> from 10am-12pm**  
Meets in front of the King County Pump Station

Join the Carkeek Park Citizen Water Quality Monitoring Team for this annual event honoring the Clean Water Act. For more information call Diana Hampden-Smith at (206)367-8936.

**Clean Water Act forum- Topic: Salmon Friendly Neighbor!**

**Thursday- October 21<sup>st</sup> from 7-9pm**  
Meets in the Carkeek's ELC

The forum will focus on current perils to our water resources and ways individuals, by being a Salmon Friendly Neighbor, can help counteract those perils.

**David Brock**— Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife, Region 4

**Carol Dahl**— Lake Forest Park Stewardship Foundation

**Darla Inglis**— Seattle public utilities

**Danelle Purnnell**— Seattle Public Utilities

**Kathy Fletcher (Moderator)**— People for Puget Sound

Sponsored by People for Puget Sound, Piper's Creek Interpretive Project and CWCAP. For more information contact Nancy Malmgren at (206) 363-4116

**Salmon Friendly Neighbor Workshop**  
**Thursday- October 28<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-9pm**  
Meets at Viewlands Elementary School

Learn how to shrink your lawn & help salmon!  
Register call Bob Spencer (206) 684-4163

**Carkeek Park History- The Carkeek & McAbee Families**

**Thursday- November 4<sup>th</sup> from 7-9pm**  
Meets in Carkeek's ELC

This will be the fourth in the series of history programs celebrating Carkeek Park's 75<sup>th</sup> year as a park. We are honored to have Dr. James Warren, noted area historian, as a guest speaker. We are also honored to have members of the F.R. McAbee Family speak on their family, and business, history of stewardship.

**Work Party to Get Ready for Salmon!**  
**Saturday- November 6<sup>th</sup> from 9:30-12:30pm**  
Information call (206)684-4256 or (206)363-4116.

**Gala Event: Woman Artists of the Piper's Creek Watershed**

**Saturday & Sunday- November 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> from 12-4pm**

Reception to meet the Artists- Sunday from 2-4pm  
Meets in Carkeek's ELC

This Art show will be the first public exhibit of paintings of Carkeek Park done by Miss Tillie Piper, first Art teacher in Seattle Schools. The show will also feature work done by Peggy Isaacson Jacobs (oil paintings), Dorothy Gowdey (water color paintings), and Mindie McDonnell (mixed media). Their works will be on sale at the show and commissions will benefit Carkeek's Education Program.

**Visit the CWCAP Table at the Salmon Celebration**

**Friday- November 26<sup>th</sup> from 11-2pm**

Located in Carkeek's lower meadow by the creek

**Free Concert Featuring Jack Gladstone**

**Friday- November 26<sup>th</sup> from 7-9pm**

Meets at Carkeek's ELC

Born and educated in Seattle, Washington, Jack Gladstone is a member of the Blackfeet Indian Tribe of Montana. Best known for his original songs dealing with the history, culture, and mythology of American Indians. His concerts feature an interweaving of story and song which is unique, educational and entertaining for all ages.

**Christmas Ship & Community Sing at Carkeek Park**

**Wednesday- December 15<sup>th</sup> from 7:30-8:25pm**

Meets at Carkeek's Fire Circle

Bring your family and neighbors for this 55<sup>th</sup> annual festival of lights and music provided by Argos Cruise and Salvation Army Brass Band.



# Salmon Friendly Neighbors - Piper's Creek Watershed

**Why do we need Salmon Friendly Neighbors?** Because Piper's Creek is a "Flashy Creek" with lots of storm water problems and water quality problems! That is why every resident in the Watershed is needed to help salmon return to Carkeek Park and successfully spawn.

**Is it "hard" work to be a Salmon Friendly Neighbor?** No, it is a simple three step program that in the end will save you time, money and leave you feeling satisfied.

## Step 1:

Call and report any problems you observe in the following categories. All calls are kept confidential.

Graffiti, Litter, Illegal Dumping Hotline:...	684-7587
Illegal dumping in park:.....	684-7088
Flooding, spills, pot holes on city streets:...	386-1218
KC Wastewater Treatment Plant:.....	263-3840
Water quality concerns:.....	684-7506
SPD N. Precinct:.....	625-5011
Air smells or illegal burning:.....	343-8800
Animal Control:.....	386-7387 (#2)
Hazardous chemical spills:.....	(425)649-7000
Aurora Household Haz-Site appointments:..	296-4692
	684-7899
Runoff from construction projects:.....	
Report damage to creek or wildlife:	464-6610
Wildlife fisheries patrol:.....	(360)775-1311
WA Fish & wildlife, Region 4:.....	684-0877

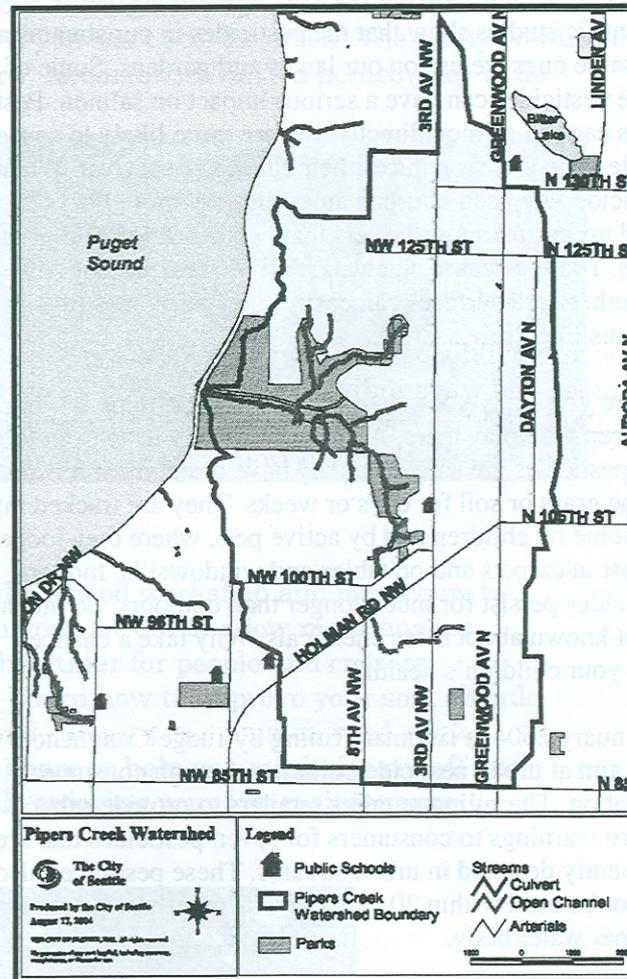
## Step 2:

If you are a gardener give up harmful pesticide and fertilizers. Make an appointment with the Aurora Household Haz-site to dispose of your hazardous materials. Read what Phillip Dickey has to say. **Our goal is to have Piper's Creek Watershed a Pesticide Free Zone for the health of humans and salmon alike.**

## Step 3:

Shrink your lawn to help to reduce the volume of storm water going into Piper's Creek and its tributaries. Read over what Bob Spencer has to say, or arrange a workshop for you and your neighbors with Nancy Malmgren at (206)363-4116.

See Where you live in the Piper's Creek Watershed.



**So you see it's as easy as 1,2,3 and it will make your watershed a healthier place to live for you, the salmon and future generations!**

# Be a Salmon Friendly Neighbor by Reducing or Eliminating Pesticide Use

Philip Dickey

Scientific studies show that the pesticides in our streams are the same ones we use on our lawns and gardens. Some of these pesticides can have a serious impact on salmon. Pesticides can kill salmon directly, but are more likely to cause subtle damage that reduces their chance of survival. When pesticides are used in urban areas they are more likely to wind up in streams and rivers than when used in non-urban areas. That's because sidewalks, driveways, parking lots, and other hard surfaces can easily carry pesticides to streams like Piper's Creek.

Before you spray your lawn with pesticides, think of your children who play there. Although you may have been told that pesticides are safe once they have dried, most remain on the grass or soil for days or weeks. They are tracked into the home by children and by active pets, where they lodge in dust in carpets and on tables and windowsills. Indoors, pesticides persist for much longer than outdoors. So much is not known about these chemicals. Why take a chance with your children's health?

In January 2004, a landmark ruling by Judge Coughenour took aim at urban pesticide pollution through consumer education. The ruling requires retailers to provide salmon-hazard warnings to consumers for seven pesticides that are frequently detected in urban streams. These pesticides also cannot be used within 20 yards of a salmon-bearing stream or other water body.

## Pesticides Requiring Salmon Warnings

**2,4-D, carbaryl, diazinon, diuron, triclopyr BEE, malathion, and trifluralin.**

The biggest effect on homeowners will be the restrictions on 2,4-D, which is one of the top-selling pesticides on the market. It is found in most "weed and feed" products.

Rather than just switching to a different pesticide that isn't on the "bad" list, consider a non-chemical approach to your landscape:

Choose plants that are resistant to pests and diseases.

Build healthy soil with compost or other organic amendments.

Tolerate some pest damage and some weeds.

Encourage and protect birds and beneficial insects.

Use physical and mechanical methods such as traps, barriers, and hand removal.

Dispose of unwanted pesticides and other hazardous products safely. Pesticides can be taken to the north household hazardous waste site. Call Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (except holidays) to schedule a free appointment: (206) 296-4692.

If you don't use pesticides, spread the word by posting a Pesticide Free Zone sign, available from Washington Toxics Coalition. Visit our website at [www.watoxics.org](http://www.watoxics.org) to see photos of beautiful landscapes maintained without pesticides. For more information or to order a sign for your yard, printout an order form from the website or phone our office at 206-632-1545. The signs cost \$7.50 each including tax and postage.



*Philip Dickey is staff scientist for the Washington Toxics Coalition, a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting public health and preventing pollution in industry, agriculture, and the home. WTC's work is supported in part by dues from members. If you are not already a member, please consider joining! Dues are \$30 per year. Members receive our quarterly newsletter "Alternatives" as well as periodic action alerts*

# Free Salmon Friendly Neighbor Workshops Coming This Fall

Rainfall falling where we live in the Piper's Creek Watershed eventually makes it way to Piper's Creek and Puget Sound. Because of the way rain and runoff move through the watershed, actions we take in our own yards can translate to effects in the creek, even if you can't see the creek! The spray you use on your roses in your yard today could be in a "salmon's yard" tomorrow. What's a homeowner to do?

**Learn how to go from  
this...**



Come to your neighborhood workshop and learn how to create or refurbish your yard into a low maintenance landscape that is healthier for people and critters, including salmon. Learn how to improve your soil, shrink your lawn, and reduce the amount of time and energy you spend on yard work. You'll leave with resources you can use and share to help you minimize runoff and maximize water quality from your yard while enjoying your low maintenance landscape.

**To This!**



—Bob Spencer,  
SPU Creek Steward Program

**Interested? Call Nancy at 206-363-4116 to talk about attending or organizing a group of neighbors to become Salmon Friendly Neighbors.**

Sponsored by: Salmon Friendly Neighbors is a partnership between Carkeek Watershed Community Action Project, Seattle Public Utilities Creek Steward Program, Seattle Parks, Piper's Creek Watershed Interpretive Project and Broadview Community Council.

# Water Quality Update

In 1918 when Walt Venema and his family moved onto their property above what is now known as Venema Creek, the water was still clean and fresh, so they used the creek as their source of water. After a few years, more and more people moved into the area with the result that the creek water became contaminated by all the septic systems being built. After getting sick from the water, The Venema family realized they could no longer use the creek as a water supply. In the last eighty odd years the health of the creek system in Piper's Creek Watershed has gone from bad to worse as increased population created more problems.

Today development in the watershed has resulted in more than 57% of the area becoming impermeable surface. An impermeable surface is one which does not absorb water, but causes it to "run off" instead. Types of impermeable surfaces include: roofs, paved or concrete driveways, parking lots, and roads where rainfall "runs off" rather than being absorbed by the ground. A major storm event occurred on the afternoon of Friday, August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2004, and sent an incredible volume of water roiling down into the creek system. The force of the water eroded quantities of sand and silt from the banks, washing it down stream to cover up the gravelly areas, which are essential spawning grounds for returning salmon. Many large rocks in the creek-bed were moved, and no doubt most of the aquatic bugs, and creatures fish feed on were washed out too, not to mention the fish themselves. The destructiveness of runoff is twofold. The **volume** of water destroys the stream banks and aquatic life, but the **water itself contains** all the heavy metals, petrochemical residues, garden fertilizers, pesticides and wastes of all kind that get washed off roads, parking lots, roofs, yards and driveways during a rainstorm. This "toxic soup" kills fish, and other aquatic creatures.

Good water quality – living, clean water for all watershed residents is what CWCAP's Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program is all about. Volunteers, Kathleen Ryan, John Crose, Jamie Prantil, and Carrie Salters, under team leader Diana Hampden-Smith regularly test

the water in the Piper's Creek Watershed, and in the Venema, and Molendorph sub-basins. Tests are simple, but monitor three factors critical to life for fish and other water creatures: water temperature, amount of oxygen in the water, and water at the correct pH levels. At present monitoring of the entire creek system is done on a monthly basis. Volunteer David Walsh is conducting a special bi-weekly study in Venema Creek, Mohlendorph Creek, and 113<sup>th</sup> Creek (aka North Creek).

This past year we upgraded some of our equipment to ensure that the data collected is of scientific quality, and acceptable by other agencies. King County Metro very kindly donated a dissolved oxygen meter, a pH meter, and a kit to detect types of phosphates in water. CWCAP purchased some new Celsius thermometers that are so much easier to read than our old Fahrenheit ones. We would like very much to be able to test for pesticides, but these tests are conducted in commercial laboratories, and are very expensive. In time we are hoping to make the entire watershed a **Pesticide Free Zone** through the educational efforts of our "**Salmon Friendly Neighbors**" program.

While it is unlikely our creek waters will ever be drinkable as they were for Walt Venema's family back in 1918, we can all pitch in, get involved and be active. Report "dumpers", have a pesticide free yard, take a "Salmon Friendly Neighbors" workshop, and, better yet, be in the park to watch the salmon return around the middle of November. See you there!

—Diana Hampden-Smith, CWCAP Team Leader  
Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program



# Congratulations to Seattle Public Utilities!

On July 28, 2004 Seattle Public Utilities' Natural Drainage System received the prestigious and coveted Innovations in American Government Award from Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government. Referred to as the Oscars of good government, the award includes a grant of \$100,000 to help expand the program. SPU has developed five natural drainage projects in the past four years. The most recent project, the Broadview Green Grid in northwest Seattle's Piper's Creek Watershed, covers 15 city blocks and will be completed in early September.

"By the time the kids head back to class they'll be able to use their new sidewalks to get to school. The natural drainage approach significantly benefits Piper's Creek and Puget Sound while helping to build community, creating a more inviting streetscape and encouraging neighbors to interact." Stated Mayor Nickels when honoring Seattle Public Utilities.

Seattle City Council Proclamation honoring Seattle Public Utilities:

**Whereas;** Natural drainage projects provide multiple environmental and community benefits including reduced flooding, improved water quality, calmer traffic, increased safety for pedestrians and enhanced landscaping.

**Now therefore, be it proclaimed by the Seattle City Council,** that we hereby recognize and honor the creative and resourceful employees of Seattle Public Utilities who helped develop the Natural Drainage Systems program, and the pioneering members of the community who were willing to accept the experimental program into their neighborhoods, and express our gratitude to everyone who contributed to the success of this amazing program.



"The natural drainage approach significantly benefits Piper's Creek and Puget Sound while helping to build community, creating a more inviting streetscape and encouraging neighbors to interact."

—Mayor Nickels



## CWCAP Honors Seattle Public Utilities: Our Salmon are Benefiting...Thank you!

The fifteen block area directly above Carkeek Park got a new look and more from Seattle Public Utilities this year. This area is called the Broadview Green Grid Project and Seattle Public Utilities has added value to the neighborhood by upgrading the streets and sidewalks, and by putting in water retention areas and plantings. Carkeek Park has basically been enlarged by this fifteen block area. The neighborhood has benefited but so have the salmon returning to Carkeek Park.

The project provides cleaner water that flows down to the park from the neighborhood to Carkeek Park creeks. Another benefit is more water will be available for salmon as new springs are developing in the park because of the aqua retention system. The first developed street by Seattle Public Utilities now has 98% water retention and the aqua retention system on the Broadview Green Grid should be effective.

The Salmon Friendly Neighbors have rallied around the project. Seattle Public Utilities have planted drought tolerant plants along the edges of the streets. The streets are looking like a park; the salmon are benefiting. Keep up the good work.

—Walt North

CWCAP President & resident of the Broadview Green Grid

## Special Thanks:

**The Suquamish Tribe** for providing our eyed chum eggs and fed chum fry for the salmon restoration project in Piper's Creek. We had children from 25 schools raising salmon for release in Carkeek Park. All had a great field trip to Carkeek where they released their salmon. A terrific program provided by our Carkeek Naturalists thanks to funding from Seattle Public Utilities!

**To the members of Piper's Creek Watershed Council** for their dedication to seeing the watershed plan is implemented and Beth Miller, Watershed Interpretive Specialist. Council members are from WA Ecology, Seattle Department of Parks, Public Utilities, Planning & Development and Neighborhoods, King County, Seattle/K.C. Health Department, Broadview & Greenwood Community Councils, Carkeek Park Advisory Council, Blue Ridge, Carkeek Park Advisory Council, and CWCAP. Lisa Olson from Ecology took a position with EPA. Lisa, much success in your new position. We will miss you!

**Carkeek Plaza Merchants** for all your support and hosting the 75th Birthday Celebration for Carkeek Park. (Especially F.R. McAbee Inc.)

**Congratulations to Jeri Nordstom** designer of Carkeek Park's *Spirit of the Salmon Robe*. Jeri is being honored as one of the last traditional Tlingit sewers by the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian in Washington D.C.

**Notice Youth Group Leaders:** Carkeek Park's Earth Day 2005 Saturday, April 23rd Register Early!  
Call: Nancy (206) 363-4116

**CWCAP is a non-profit organization.**

**Board members:**

Pres.- Walt North, Vice Pres.- Pat Kemp, Sec/Treas.- Nancy Malmgren, Shirley Anderson, Dale Calkin, Diana Hampden-Smith, Gwen Jensen, Les Malmgren, John Peterson, Jamie Prantil.

We are currently seeking new members and volunteers for our salmon committee.

Please call (206) 363-4116 for more information.

**Funding through a grant from 3M Foundation.**



### **Carkeek Watershed Community Action Project**

**386 NW 112TH · Seattle · Wa · 98177 · 363-4116**

Working & Caring for the Piper's Creek Watershed Since 1979

To donate to the *Save the Salmon Slide Fundraiser*, send checks to:

Carkeek Park Advisory Council (CPAC)

950 NW Carkeek Park Rd.

Seattle, WA 98177