



**Washington State
Department of Transportation**

Northwest Region/Mount Baker Area
Skagit, Island, San Juan, &
Whatcom Counties
1019 Andis Road
Burlington, WA 98233-3415
360-757-5999
TTY: 1-800-833-6388
www.wsdot.wa.gov

October 7, 2019

City of Bellingham, Public Works Department
Natural Resources Division
Scott Havill
104 W Magnolia Street
Bellingham, WA 98225

RE: WSDOT support for Padden Creek 24th to 30th Restoration Project, Phase 1

Dear Mr. Havill,

The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) is pleased to support the city of Bellingham's Padden Creek 24th to 30th Restoration Project, Phase 1 application.

This project builds on previous restoration work completed by WSDOT, daylighting a segment of the Padden Creek system by SR 11. It also supports future work by WSDOT correcting a barrier to fish passage under I-5 and Fairhaven Parkway. The city's project would complement our work, expanding and enhancing habitat connectivity in the area.

We hope that the Department of Ecology will also partner in this effort and financially support the city's important work to increase Padden Creek's ability to support the multiple salmon species that use this system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jay Drye Jr.'.

Jay Drye Jr., PE
Assistant Regional Administrator
WSDOT Northwest Region/ Mount Baker Area



Parks and Recreation Department City of Bellingham

October 7, 2019

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to express my support of the City's grant application for the Padden Creek Restoration project through the Department of Ecology for the 2021 Centennial Clean Water Program.

We support this important project to improve the health of Padden Creek. This project is located on a Park greenway within an urban environment. This property was purchased with 1990 Greenway Levy funds. This levy was the first of its kind for Bellingham and passed largely in response to citizen interest in protecting valuable wildlife habitat corridors and providing public access to those unique areas.

The Parks and Recreation Department supports a healthy community by providing high quality parks and recreation services. Our overall vision includes a strong recognition of the value of the natural environment as a core component of the park system in order to meet the City's environmental goals.

Enhancing and preserving existing habitats supports the City's adopted legacies regarding Clean, Safe Drinking Water and a Healthy Environment. Preventing further degradation and improving water quality of the City's creeks is important to ensure the resources they provide to the community are protected.

The design alternative chosen preserves the existing trails and bridge crossing while enhancing the habitat value of this important waterway. We understand that all design options will maintain this trail connection. This vital greenway trail corridor provides an opportunity for healthy recreation and is an alternative transportation corridor for walking and bicycling. This unique location also provides an excellent opportunity for an educational component along the existing trail and bridge that pass over this area.

We are hopeful that this important project is funded and look forward to partnering with other City Departments on this endeavor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Leslie Bryson".

Leslie Bryson

Director, Bellingham Parks and Recreation Department

Main Office

210 Lottie Street
Bellingham, WA 98225
Phone: (360) 778-7000
Fax: (360) 778-7001
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Operations

1400 Woburn Street
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Arne Hannah Aquatic Center

1114 Potter Street
Bellingham, WA 98229
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Bayview Cemetery

1420 Woburn Street
Bellingham, WA 98229
Phone: (360) 778-7150
Fax: (360) 778-7151
Email: bayview@cob.org
www.cob.org/bayview



October 5th, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express the Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association's support for the **City of Bellingham's Padden Creek stream restoration project application to the Department of Ecology for the 2021 Centennial Clean Water Program funding cycle**. The purpose of this project is to restore and realign a segment of Padden Creek through the Happy Valley Neighborhood of the City of Bellingham.

The Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association (NSEA) is an independent nonprofit organization located in Whatcom County that is one of fourteen regional fishery enhancement groups that was established in 1990 by the Washington State Legislature. NSEA strives to recover salmon by engaging our community through restoration, education and stewardship. We have worked to restore salmon habitat in the Padden Creek watershed since our inception. We applaud the City of Bellingham for taking significant initiative to restore habitat in the Padden Creek watershed to facilitate water quality and salmon habitat improvements.

NSEA supports this application and this project, in this phase and in entirety. We understand that restoration actions in Phase 1 include floodplain widening, adding large woody debris, restoring and enhancing off-channel wetlands, planting riparian vegetation, and forming pools along the existing channel. Together, these actions will increase Padden Creek's habitat complexity on three levels: 1) within the stream, 2) along the channel, and 3) in the riparian zone. Phase 1 builds on the City's past restoration projects in Padden Creek, most notably, Padden Daylighting. Phase 1 will enhance an upstream section from the Padden Daylighting project and further the City's efforts towards increasing Padden Creek's ability to support the multiple salmon species that use this system.

NSEA supports this important restoration project to improve the health of Padden Creek.

Thank you for your consideration,

Rachel Vasak
Executive Director

PADDEN CREEK ALLIANCE

October 11, 2019

TO: WA Dept of Ecology
City of Bellingham

FROM: Padden Creek Alliance
Wendy Scherrer email: bluegreen.northwest@gmail.com
John Hymas
email: jhymas1331@gmail.com

RE: Support for 2021 Centennial Clean Water Program funding cycle for
the "Relocate the Padden Creek Channel Project"

The Padden Creek Alliance supports the City of Bellingham's grant application submitted to the Department of Ecology for the 2021 Centennial Clean Water Program to fund the project to "Relocate the Padden Creek Channel."

Padden Creek Alliance (PCA) is collaboration of stakeholders, including property owners and renters that live along Padden Creek and/ the Padden Creek Watershed from three neighborhoods, from Lake Padden to Bellingham Bay. We also have fish biologists, hydrologists, WWU and Bellingham Tech College Fish Tech Students, educators, and others stakeholders that study and use this creek as a living laboratory. We pay attention to the health of the creek, and work to protect and restore the habitat, as well as support education about the salmonids and wildlife using Padden Creek, and its tributary, Connelly Creek. We collaborate with City of Bellingham Public Works and Parks Departments to monitor the health of the creek, work on restoration projects and promote positive action on behalf of the creek. The PCA worked with four different mayors for 25 years to daylight Padden Creek, just downstream of the proposed project site.

Phase 1, of the "Relocate the Padden Creek Channel Project" the next big project that we discussed 10 years ago. We looked at alternative plans with the City of Bellingham and Watershed Company consultants, and chose the proposed plan that is being submitted. It has been well-planned and will benefit the riparian corridor for fish and wildlife in a fast growing neighborhood.

PCA supports Phase 1 of the "Relocate the Padden Creek Channel Project" and we look forward to seeing implementation of the project in the near future.

Thank your for your work to protect and restore our environment!

October 10th, 2019

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to express the Happy Valley Neighborhood Association's (HVNA) support for the City of Bellingham's grant application submitted to the Department of Ecology for the 2021 Centennial Clean Water Program funding cycle.

The HVNA, representing roughly 7,000 residents directly abutting this project, has long been an active partner in the on-going restoration, daylighting, and re-routing of Padden Creek. We have a very engaged neighborhood that frequently volunteers with the City and local non-profit organizations in both stocking salmon fry to the creek as well as invasive species removal and tree planting projects. Our association has planted over 300 trees over recent years and, through our self-motivated efforts, we have recently established programming to have trees planted in the Connolly Creek Natural Area as mitigation offsets from local developer's projects. The Connolly Creek basin feeds into this more robust salmon habitat.

HVNA understands that the City hopes to find financial support to improve fish habitat and floodplain function on Padden Creek between 24th Street and 30th Street. This project builds on previous restoration at the Padden Creek Daylighting and supports future work by WSDOT in opening fish passage under I-5 and Fairhaven Parkway. This particular grant application to Ecology pertains to Phase 1, which is the middle segment of the restoration area and includes Padden Creek's confluence with Connelly Creek, very much an area of shared interest and concern for residents here in Happy Valley.

HVNA supports this important project and is eager to continue the 20-plus years of effort invested locally in restoring and re-routing Padden Creek. As in the past, our Association will be assisting to buttress the restoration effort and to provide long-term stewardship of this important local salmon stream. We hope to keep the momentum going, and Phase 1 of this project would be a great continuation of this community's efforts.

Thank you for your consideration,

Alex McLean

President,
Happy Valley Neighborhood Association

1009 32nd St.
Bellingham, WA.
98225

c: (360) 303-6640

Esta Anderson, President,
Board of Directors
Bellingham Cohousing Condo Assn.
2694 Donovan Ave
Bellingham, WA 98225

October 8, 2019

Scott Havill
City of Bellingham
Public Works Department
Natural Resources Division
2221 Pacific ST
Bellingham, WA 98229

Dear Scott:

I am writing to express our support for the Padden Creek 24th to 30th Restoration project. We are excited to hear that your agency plans to lead this project that will improve water quality and salmon habitat. We have been very pleased with the other stream restoration projects that have been completed nearby, and trust that the City will make this new project a valuable asset to our neighborhood's natural environment.

The Bellingham Cohousing Community consists of 33 condominium units, situated on 5 acres of property. The south 2 1/2 acres are a wetlands and riparian area, and this area abuts City property and Padden Creek. There is a confluence of Padden Creek and Connelly Creek at our property line. Padden Creek parallels our property for several hundred feet. Our community has worked with NSEA and the City in planting native trees and shrubs, and in controlling invasive species. We work on control issues at our monthly work parties, led by the our landscape committee.

Since our cohousing condominium community strives to do its own landscaping and maintenance, we often find it a challenge to meet our own needs for volunteer work. So we cannot offer volunteers for the project, but we can assure you that we will support the project. We welcome the improvements that this project will bring to Padden Creek, and we have noticed salmon in nearby areas of Connelly Creek since WDOT and the City completed their daylighting of Padden Creek downstream.

Feel free to contact me if you have any other questions for us, or have updates on the status and progress of the project if it is approved. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Esta Anderson, estaanderson@bellcoho.com, cell: 360-440-5540
President, BCCA Board of Directors