

Re-routing SQUALICUM CREEK

Squalicum Creek is the largest stream within city limits, providing habitat for salmon and steelhead, including chinook and coho. The Squalicum Creek Re-route project separated the creek from Sunset Pond to improve water quality and expand habitat for fish and wildlife.

History

In the 1960s, Bug Lake and Sunset Pond were created when the State of Washington excavated gravel to build embankments for Interstate 5, leaving two shallow holes behind.



When it flowed through Sunset Pond, the creek warmed and lost oxygen. This contributed to poor water quality conditions that were harmful to fish and wildlife.



Squalicum Creek is currently listed by the state as an impaired water body due to high temperatures, low dissolved oxygen, and high fecal coliform levels.

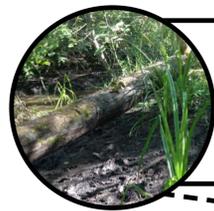
In 2015, the City moved Squalicum Creek out of Sunset Pond so that it could bypass the pond's warm, oxygen-low waters.



The next phase of the project addresses water quality and habitat issues associated with Bug Lake.

Visit cob.org/squalicum to learn more.

Habitat & open space expanded

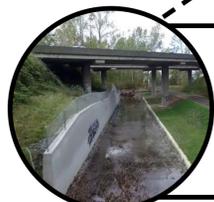
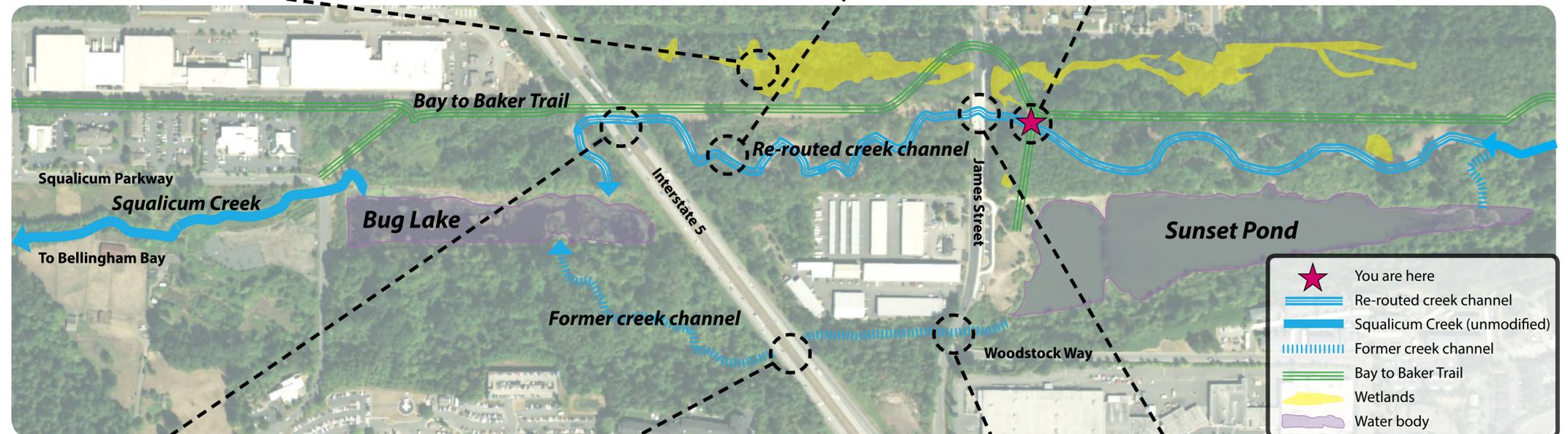


Protected wetlands provide habitat value, filter stormwater, and help prevent flooding during large rain events.

Squalicum Creek's re-routed channel includes enhanced streamside vegetation that helps filter out pollution and keep water cool and clear.



A new section of the Bay to Baker Trail was closely coordinated with the re-route project to connect the community with expanded open space.



The Washington State Department of Transportation built a **three-sided box culvert** in 2014 to provide fish accessibility in the re-routed channel.



Fish passage barriers in the former channel are no longer a problem because the stream was re-routed into a new channel. Fish can now migrate to **22 miles of previously inaccessible upstream habitat**.



The City rebuilt the **James St. Bridge** in 2014 to provide fish accessibility in the re-routed channel.

Fish passage enhanced

Re-route Funding Partners:



Trail Funding Partners:

