Challenges

• Padden Creek, between 17th and 22nd streets, flows in a tunnel constructed in the 1890’s
  – The tunnel is the major blockage to fish passage (67% blockage by WDFW rating)
  – The tunnel is undersized and results in approximately 15 city blocks of residential housing that are in the flood plain
FEMA Floodway and Floodplain
Stakeholders

- Padden Creek Alliance
  - Adjacent property owners
  - Concerned citizens
  - Fish advocates
  - Happy Valley Neighborhood Association
- WA Department of Fish and Wildlife
- WA Department of Transportation
- Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association
- City of Bellingham
Downstream end of tunnel
Padden Creek Lagoon
What is the project?

- Construction of a creek channel between 17th and 22nd streets along Old Fairhaven Parkway
- Project removes the major fish blockage for the creek
- Project eliminates reliance on a 1890’s tunnel to convey Padden Creek
What more is the project?

- Construction of the channel should alleviate the flood hazard for approximately 80 residences. This would result in savings on insurance for the property owners.
Work to date

- 1997- Present: Work sessions with Padden Creek Alliance, interested parties and the City of Bellingham
- 2001: Feasibility study by City (RW Beck) which removes tunnel
- 2002: Feasibility study by Jones Engineering for Padden Creek Alliance which retains tunnel
- 2011: DOE Revolving loan of $1,426,000 and Centennial Grant of $500,000 received
Work to date

- Property acquisition
- 2012: SAIC (formerly RW Beck) teamed with Jones Engineers begin work on design
- 2013: Currently at 60% design stage for the creek
- 2013: WSDOT begins bridge construction on Old Fairhaven Parkway for future creek channel
GENERAL NOTES

1. EROSION AND SEDIMENT TO BE PLACED AS SHOWN AND AS DIRECTED BY THE ENGINEER.

2. POOLS ARE TO BE LOCATED APPROXIMATELY AS SHOWN ON PLAN AND AS DIRECTED BY ENGINEER. TRENCH TO BE ADDED BEFORE THE LOW TIDE FROM HIGH. ALL SHORES DIRECTED FROM THE RECEIVING POINT OF THE POOLS.

3. THE APPEARANCE OF PROFILE IS ALONG THE NEW CHANNELS, CONTINUOUS.

4. TOOLS TO BE REMOVED SHALL BE TAKEN PRIOR TO CLEANING AND GRADING.

RECEIVED NOTES

1. LOCATION OF WATER MAINS AND SIE OR SEWER LAYERS IS TAKEN AS SHOWN, P.O.R. AND AS DIRECTED FROM THE ENGINEER.

2. POINT OF EROSION DETAIL (ON SHEET). DIRECTIONS TO BE ADDED.

3. POOL TYPE 1, SEE SHEET C-10.

4. THAMES STATIC TYPE SEE SHEET C-7.

5. POOL TYPE 2, SEE SHEET C-4.

6. THE BEACH WILL BE CLEANED AND GRADED AT THE PROJECT END.

7. POOL BE SET UP TO DISCHARGE.

8. REMOVE EXISTING BRIDGE CROSSING.

9. REMOVE POOL AT TI."
Typical Sections
20th Street Footbridge Detail
Stabilization/Habitat
Stabilization/Habitat
Next steps

• Necessary property purchases and easements
• Funding opportunities
• Utility relocations
• Consensus of regulatory agencies regarding a final plan
• Permanent vehicle closure of 20th Street
Additional challenges

- Appropriate buffer
- Maintenance
- Public access
- Education component
- Fish habitat design/WDFW
- Check final design for consistency with Happy Valley Neighborhood Plan
Schedule

• WSDOT bridge construction (Start 2013)
• Finalize the creek design (Late 2013)
• All easements in place
• Regulatory permitting
• Secure final funding
• Continue communicating with stakeholders
• Construction in 2015
Stream Walk
What will it look like?
Confluence of Padden and Connelly Creeks
Questions?
Padden Creek Daylighting

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