

AWC Municipal Excellence Award Program 2014 Entry Form

Go to AWC's website, awcnet.org, for application details.

Please check the category you are entering:

Include this form with each entry you submit.

- Empowering citizens
- Innovative open government
- Making a difference in your environment
- Process streamlining
- Small city successes (pop. of 7,500 and under)



Title of project Issaquah Hatchery Integrated Fish Passage Project

City/Town City of Issaquah

Form completed by:

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Please email your entry and this form by April 29, 2014 to:
munixawards@awcnet.org

You can also mail your entry to:
Association of Washington Cities
1076 Franklin St. SE
Olympia, WA 98501-1346

Questions?

Contact Michelle Harvey at michelleh@awcnet.org or 360-753-4137.



Issaquah Hatchery Integrated Fish Passage Project

2014 AWC Municipal Excellence Awards

Project Statement

In 2013, a dam on Issaquah Creek that supplies water to the Issaquah Salmon Hatchery was removed thanks to a joint partnership. The old dam blocked fish passage to more than 11 miles of salmon habitat. It's one of the largest – and most significant – habitat restoration projects in our region.

Project Summary

In 2013, a dam on Issaquah Creek that supplies water to the Issaquah Salmon Hatchery was removed thanks to a joint project by the City of Issaquah and the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), which owns the hatchery. The 12-foot high dam, constructed in the 1930s and in desperate need of replacement, blocked fish passage to more than 11 miles of valuable salmon habitat. Once the dam was removed, it was replaced with a series of rock weirs to stabilize the channel. To provide a continued supply of water to the hatchery for years to come, a new gravity water intake structure was also constructed. This structure features an innovative design that allows unobstructed, free-flow of water to pass by, completely eliminating the fish passage problem.

The hatchery is an important salmon production facility for tribal and sports fisheries, and the replacement of the dam was widely endorsed by local, state and federal officials; agencies; and tribes. The hatchery is also the most visited of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's hatcheries, with thousands of visitors every year, particularly during fall salmon runs and our community's annual Issaquah Salmon Days celebration.

Implementation

This dam was recognized as a significant problem in the 2005 Chinook Salmon Conservation Plan for the Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed (WRIA 8). As a result, it was ranked high as a salmon recovery project by elected officials of the WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council. This project began in 2007 with a feasibility and design process initiated by the City of Issaquah. Following \$4 million in funding by the state legislature, construction was completed in 2013 under the direction of WDFW managers.

Benefits

The City of Issaquah heavily invests in preserving and restoring natural areas along streams to enhance our livable community within our natural environment. To meet our region's sustainability objectives, this innovative project also found a way to replace the dam, which was impacting salmon runs, with a solution that still supported a necessary economic and environmental cause – fisheries enhancement.

This project is likely the most significant achievement of the WRIA 8 Chinook Salmon Conservation Plan.

What can other cities/towns learn?

Even when the project is large scale – such as removing a massive dam in your community – partnerships pay off.

By facilitating the project with local and state stakeholders, state funding was secured, and project was implemented for Issaquah and the region's benefit. Never underestimate the power of partnerships!