



King County

News Release

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Reddington Levee project kicks off busy Flood Control District construction season

The Green River levee setback is biggest project since King County Flood Control District was formed; will boost flood protection for Auburn residents, businesses

Crews from Kent contractor Scarsella Bros., Inc., have begun moving earth on the \$8 million Reddington Levee Setback project in the city of Auburn – the largest in-river flood protection project since the creation of the King County Flood Control District in 2007.

A high priority for the Flood District and King County Water and Land Resources Division, the project will enhance flood protection for hundreds of Auburn residents and hundreds of millions of dollars of residential and commercial properties.

"The construction of the Reddington Levee is an important development for the residents and businesses of the City of Auburn and the greater Green River Valley region," said King County Flood District Chair Reagan Dunn. "The continuing goal of the Flood Control District is to make the safety improvements necessary to protect people, homes and commerce on our major river systems. This project is an example of that commitment."

"This project improves flood protection for hundreds of families and businesses," said Flood District Board member Pete von Reichbauer. "If we are to improve our regional job market, it is vital we address our aging infrastructure; the Reddington Levee Setback project is an important step forward in ensuring the safety of our residents."

"A project of this size and scope shows what we can accomplish when we work in partnership to make lasting investments in our infrastructure," said King County Executive Dow Constantine. "Hundreds of Auburn residents and hundreds of

millions of dollars of residential and commercial properties will be safer, and our region better prepared for winter flooding.”

“We have about 321 residential properties and 275 commercial buildings that will be directly protected from potential Green River flooding once this levee setback is completed,” said Auburn Mayor Pete Lewis. “But the project also benefits our community by providing native vegetation and protective habitat for wildlife and fish that call the Green River home.”

The 596 properties for which the Reddington Levee provides the primary flood protection have a combined value of \$680 million, not including the value of the building contents.

The scale of this critical infrastructure project is impressive. Roughly 160,000 cubic yards of soil will be excavated by the time construction is complete on a project that will also involve construction of a 4,800 foot long setback levee with trail, 48,000 tons of riprap (rock armoring), 340 logs, 4,270 feet of pipe and planting of more than 18,000 trees and shrubs.

The levee setback project will result in a wider corridor for moving flood flows, and a wider river bank vegetation corridor for enhanced ecological benefits. It will greatly reduce flood risk to residents, businesses and infrastructure within the city of Auburn and the Green River Valley. Once the new setback levee is constructed and the existing levee removed, the river channel will be free to migrate laterally and form new channel patterns in the area.

The project involves setting back and extending the levee along the west bank of the Green River through a portion of the city of Auburn from Brannan Park (26th Street Northeast) north to 40th Street Northeast (south of the new Monterey Park Development).

The Reddington Levee Setback Project is part of a larger overall flood management strategy for the entire Green River, on which the Flood District and King County Water and Land Resources Division will complete four additional projects this year (Hawley Road Levee, Boeing Levee, Black River Pump Station and Briscoe-Desimone Levee).

An active construction season also includes two projects on the Cedar River (Rainbow Bend Levee, Belmondo Revetment), and work in the Snoqualmie/Skykomish River Basin (Snoqualmie Valley Flood Mitigation, Miller River Home Demolition).

For those that live, work, play or commute near the Reddington Levee Setback Project, or who have an interest in floodplain management, the project team is hosting an open house to discuss the project, summer construction activities and impacts. The open house is set:

Wednesday, July 10, 2013
5:30 - 6:30 p.m.
Cascade Middle School Library
1015 24th Street NE, Auburn

Summer construction hours will typically be weekdays from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Construction vehicle access to and from the project site will be by 40th Street NE and 26th Street NE. Construction is expected to continue through October 2013.

To sign up for project updates by email or learn more about the Reddington Levee Setback Project go to www.kingcounty.gov/rivers.

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The King County Flood Control District is a special purpose government created to provide funding and policy oversight for flood protection projects and programs in King County. The Flood Control District's Board is composed of the members of the King County Council. The Water and Land Resources Division of the King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks develops and implements the approved flood protection projects and programs. Information is available at <http://www.kingcountyfloodcontrol.org/>.