

# What is the Springbrook Creek Wetland and Habitat Mitigation Bank Project?

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WSDOT and the City of Renton launched an innovative partnership to re-establish and enhance over 130 acres of wetlands in the Renton area addressing the effects of development within the city and from WSDOT transportation projects. Additionally, WSDOT and the City of Renton are building an interpretive trail throughout the site to educate the public on the benefits of wetlands and the habitat they support.

## Why is WSDOT creating this wetland mitigation bank now?

Springbrook Creek Wetland and Habitat Mitigation Bank is an early environmental investment (EEI) project. The Springbrook Creek Wetland and Habitat Mitigation Bank will provide mitigation for highway construction and city development projects prior to the impacts on wetlands and other aquatic resources. When the project is complete, WSDOT will have enhanced 110 acres of wetlands and buffer, restored and created a larger connected 20 acres of wetland; totaling 130 acres of wetlands. Thousands of native plants will be planted over the entire project site; including black cottonwood, pacific willow, sitka spruce, western red cedar, snowberry, douglas-fir, and big-leaf maple. These trees, shrubs and plants will attract and create habitat for many different species of wildlife.



## Project Timeline

Construction of Springbrook Bank is underway. Reaching this goal has been a two-year process of planning and designing the project; coordinating with regulatory agencies, including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Washington Department of Ecology, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; and negotiating numerous agreements required to formalize this project. The final agreements have been signed, the project permits have been obtained, and the construction contract has been awarded to Scarsella Brothers.

- Scarsella Brothers was selected as the primary contractor to build this project in 2006.
- Construction kick-off event held Dec. 7, 2006.
- Site work begins Spring 2007.
- Project completion expected May 2008.

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## What is Wetland Mitigation Banking?

*Mitigation banking has been defined as wetland restoration, creation, enhancement, and in exceptional circumstances, preservation undertaken expressly for the purpose of compensating for unavoidable wetland losses in advance of development actions, when such compensation cannot be achieved at the development site or would not be as environmentally beneficial. 1995 Federal Guidance on Wetland Mitigation Banking (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 1995).*

