



# Evan Creek Relocation Project - Status Update

---

Presented by:  
Aaron Bert  
Director, Public Works



# Project Goals

- **Improves salmon habitat**

by relocating a section of the creek, creating better rearing areas for juvenile Chinook in the Bear Creek and Sammamish River watersheds

- **Restores natural wetlands**

by reconnecting the channel to the floodplain, removing invasive plants, and planting native vegetation.

- **Enhances community recreation**

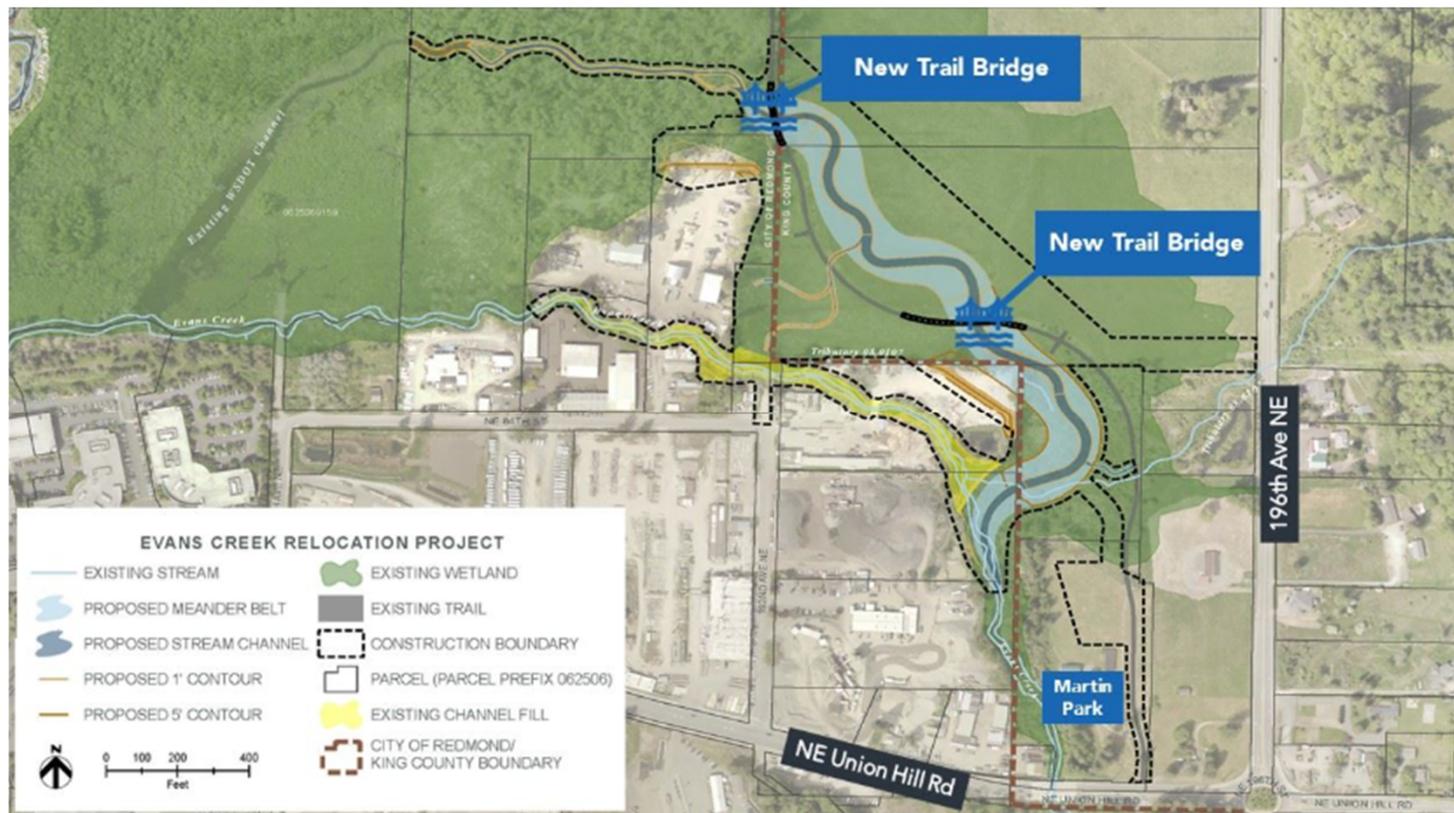
with two new pedestrian bridges that support future westward expansion of the Evans Creek regional trail.

- **Advances regional salmon recovery goals**

outlined in the WRIA 8 Chinook Conservation Plan, with strong support from King County.



# Project Overview



# Project Timeline

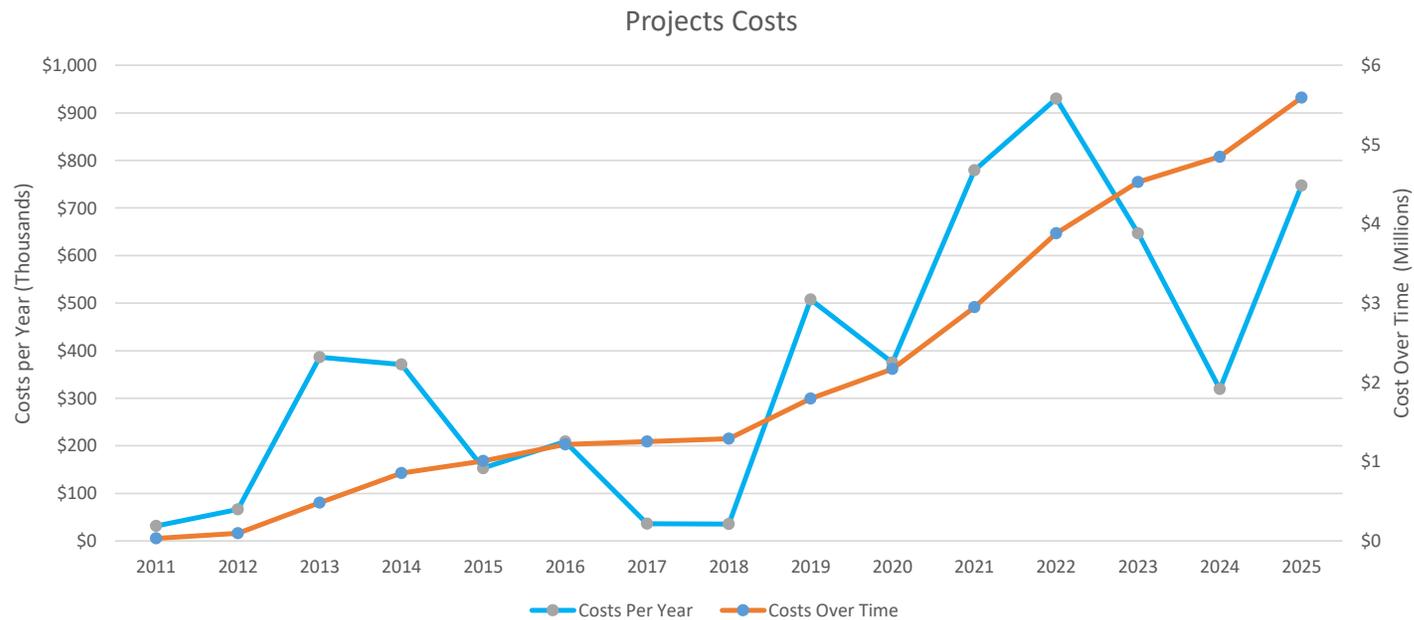
- **2009** - Project Start, Extensive Alternatives Analyses
- **2019** - Ongoing project design and outreach to adjacent property owners
- **2020** - Completed Stream and Wetland Delineation Report and Biological Assessment
- **2021** - Completed permitting actions, including federal and state joint application (JARPA) and State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Determination of Non-Significance. Began King County permitting process
- **2027** - Construction (relies on favorable negotiations and collaboration with King County)



# Project Costs Timeline

**Total Project Costs - \$5,593,574**

- Right of Way - \$1,361,933
- Design - \$4,231,641



# Permitting and County Discussions

- Applied for King County Clear and Grade Permit - Winter 2021
- Submitted King County Floodplain Permit - Spring 2023
- Submitted Conditional Letter of Map Revision (CLOMR) to FEMA - 2024
- Submitted Variance Request for Bridge Freeboard to County - Summer 2025
- Operations and Maintenance Agreement (discussed on next slide) is also under County review



# Operations & Maintenance Agreement - Context and Process

- **Why an Agreement Is Needed**

- Floodway transfer to County jurisdiction is unprecedented, prompting County to require a formal agreement.

- **Key Difference in Perspective**

- City views the project as a natural system that evolves over time; County treats it as a man-made system with higher long-term liability.

- **Status & Coordination**

- Two rounds of staff and legal review completed; County review ongoing.
- Regular coordination between County directors and City Public Works; last meeting Feb. 6.

- **Approval & Timing**

- County Council approval required (3 months); permits issued after approval.
- Mayor working with County Executive to identify potential schedule acceleration.



# Risk Management

## County Position

- Seeks perpetual indemnification for all current and future risks associated with project
- No specific risks identified

## City Position

- Supports agreement with clear guardrails to define responsibility and limit liability

## City-Requested Guardrails

- Timeframe: System transitions to natural; review after ~10 years
- Boundary: Liability limited to defined maintenance area
- Control: City accepts force majeure risk, not County-controlled actions (e.g., changes to permitting standards)

## Risk Mitigation

- Draft language provided to:
  - Align liability with jurisdictional control
  - Use risk-based maintenance triggers (only when impacts occur)

## Status

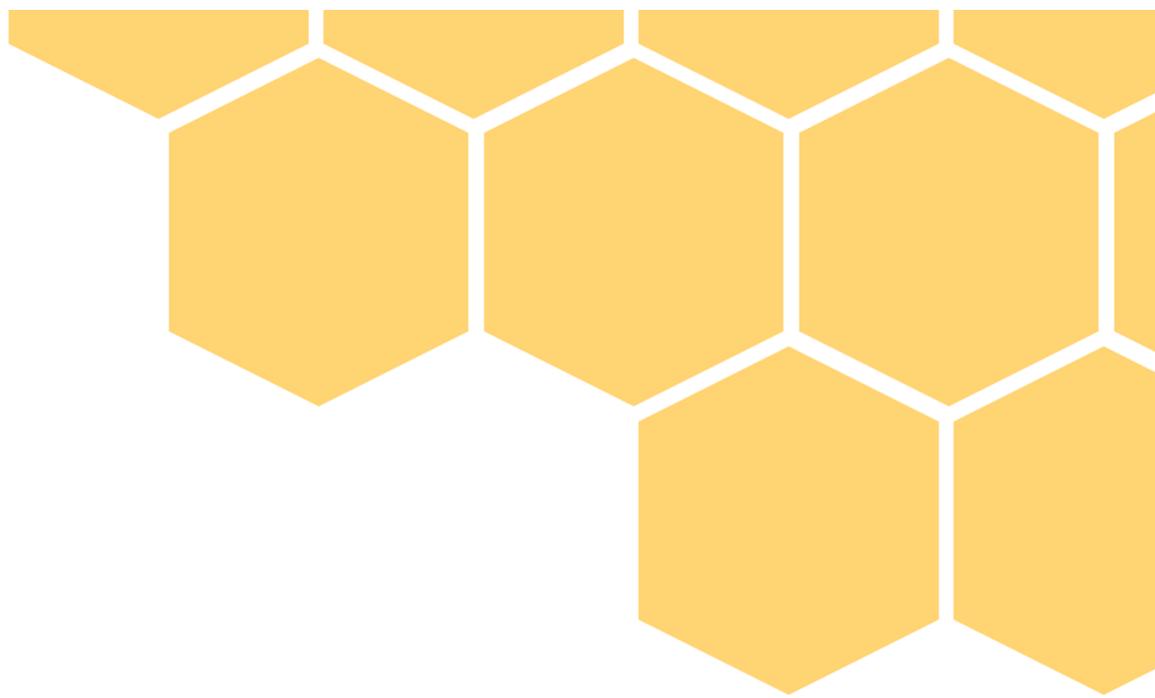
- City comments submitted; awaiting County response



# Anticipated Cost and Timeline Increase

- Cost increase
  - Anticipated current cost overrun of \$3M.
  - Escalatory costs are estimated at \$550,000 to \$1,000,000 per year of delay
    - Inflation; tariffs; additional design and permitting costs
- Potential Additional Funding Opportunities
  - King County Flood Control District - Sub-Regional Opportunity Funds (non-competitive)
    - Approximately \$1M available to apply to the project through reimbursement.
      - Funds reserved for the City, very likely, they can be included
  - King Conservation District - Member Jurisdiction Funds (non-competitive)
    - Approximately \$500,000 available to apply to project through reimbursement
      - Funds reserved for the City, very likely, they can be included
  - King County Flood Control District - CIP
    - Request funding to be added from the Flood Control District CIP
      - It is unlikely this funding source could be secured in time.
- Timeline
  - If the O&M agreement can be resolved, the earliest construction start would be in 2027
  - Critical Path
    - O&M Staff Agreement (1 month)
    - O&M Council Approval (3 months)
    - FEMA Processing (3-6 months)
    - Clear and Grade Permit + Flood Permit
    - Bid, Award and Begin Construction





# Thank You



Any Questions?

