

## Snohomish County's Puget Sound Initiative

# Nearshore Restoration



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2016 saw the completion of a significant Puget Sound restoration project with the Nearshore Habitat Project. The project goal was to improve nearshore habitat [at four locations along a 4.5 mile stretch](#) of the railroad impounded shoreline between Mukilteo and Everett. Beach restoration and nourishment was completed at Howarth Park, Powdermill Gulch, Narbeck, and Glenwood Creeks.

At all four sites, sediment was placed to nourish the nearshore beach with finer sediment. Clean dredge material from the Snohomish River was placed at these key nourishment sites allowing for a more natural distribution of sediment along the shoreline. A total of 18,000 cubic yards of sand was placed in the nearshore to improve beaches cut off from the natural feeder bluffs by the railroad. The Howarth Park Beach Restoration included planting of native vegetation and removing 422 linear feet (3,085 cubic yards) of hard shoreline armoring on the beach; a total footprint of 0.4 acres. In total, the project resulted in the restoration of more than 65% of the Snohomish Basin recovery target for nearshore habitat and improved beach access at Howarth Park.

The Nearshore Restoration Project benefits juvenile salmon and forage fish by supplementing the nearshore habitat with finer sediment and enhancing the riparian habitat along the beach. Forage fish have already been documented spawning on the newly created beaches. Community members also benefit from the project through a more usable and accessible beach. This project is an example of Snohomish County's leadership, technical expertise, and capacity to secure grant funds in partnership with the City of Everett, Port of Everett, and the Snohomish County Marine Resources Committee to implement a project that no one party could have achieved alone.

