



CITY OF KIRKLAND

123 Fifth Avenue, Kirkland, WA 98033 425.587.3000
www.ci.kirkland.wa.us

MEMORANDUM

To: Dave Ramsay, City Manager

From: Betsy Adams, Environmental Education & Outreach Specialist

Date: December 20, 2007

Subject: Response to email from Jeff Schumacher, Kirkland resident, re. Juanita Creek

On December 4, 2007, Jeff Schumacher, a Kirkland resident, sent an email (Attachment A) to City Council members. In this email, he expressed concern regarding the health of Juanita Creek, referring specifically to the litter that he saw in the creek and along its banks.

Attached is the response (Attachment B) that was sent to Mr. Schumacher. In summary, the response recognizes Mr. Schumacher's concern and discusses the City's ongoing efforts to improve and restore Juanita Creek. Efforts include monitoring for and tracing of pollutant sources, construction of projects to address flooding and improve fish habitat, and education and outreach programs such as Natural Yard Care Neighbors and Salmon Watchers that seek to involve residents in caring for their watershed. Additionally, in response to Mr. Schumacher's concern, the Surfacewater division plans to document littering and other pollution issues along the Kirkland stretch of Juanita Creek this winter.

For more information, please contact Betsy Adams at x3858.

Attachments:

- A Email from Jeff Schumacher, Subject: Juanita Creek Kirkland WA
- B Response letter from Mayor Lauinger

From: JEFF SCHUMACHER [mailto:schumacher2000@gmail.com]

Sent: Tuesday, December 04, 2007 6:01 PM

To: James Lauinger; Joan McBride; Dave Asher; Mary-Alyce Burleigh; Jessica Greenway; Tom Hodgson; Bob Sternoff

Subject: Juanita Creek Kirkland WA

To the fellow Council members of Kirkland WA

Just a thought....

My name is Jeff Schumacher, a fellow Kirkland resident. I have recently moved from the Redmond area to a townhouse next to Juanita Creek. I found the creek to be a special place that contains vital environmental habitat. I see raccoons, salmon, crans, birds of all types, possoms, and etc. Amazing how a small habitat can intertwine within a big city.

I have walked closely along public sections of the creek down to the finish line of Lake Washington. My concern is that you would be amazed to see all the unenvironmental friendly pieces in the creek such as bicycles, couches, park benches, TV, platics, cans, glass, toys, drug needles, road construction signs, and much more. If you want just a sample then please visit the Juanita park and there you will find a sample of a bicycle, road construction signs, and park bench actually in the creek. In comparison, I simply don't see this at the Sammamish river in Redmond WA.

Fully I understand the city has limitations when it comes to private property. My responds is to encourage the city to come up with a cooperative environmental cleanup plan for the city itself. The city has many options, but here are just a couple ideas :

- 1) Issues laws of financial penalty for property owners to have unenvironmental friendly items in the creek for salmon habitat.
- 2) Establish a small team of volunteers to go door-to-door of the Juanita creek residents to educate them about the importance of environmental friendly property for salmon habitat and other animals. The reaction is financially important because property value will increase.

I myself am a busy individual and can't further partake on this case. Simply just wanted to bring the concept of juanita creek pollution to your attention.

Jeff Schumacher
(425) 968-8290

January 15, 2008

Mr. Jeff Schumacher
PO Box 3547
Redmond WA 98073

D R A F T

RE: Email – Subject: Juanita Creek Kirkland WA

Dear Mr. Schumacher,

Thank you so much for your email regarding the health of Juanita Creek. Your concerns about the creek are well-recognized and shared by our division. We have begun to address this issue through monitoring for and tracing of pollutant sources, construction of projects to address flooding and improve fish habitat, and education and outreach programs such as Natural Yard Care Neighbors and Salmon Watchers that seek to involve residents in caring for their watershed.

To augment and focus efforts on Juanita Creek, staff from the Surfacewater division of Kirkland Public Works will walk the length of Juanita Creek that is within City limits this winter. They will record its current physical state through photo documentation and a summary of litter and other pollutants found both in the creek and along the banks.

Using this documentation, staff will develop a cleanup plan for the creek. The successful cleanup of Juanita Creek will require a partnership of City staff, streamside property owners, and Kirkland residents. Possible ways to proceed may include: the development of a Friends of Juanita Creek group, small stream improvement grants for residents, a series of volunteer clean-ups along the creek organized by residents and supported by the City. Based on the results of our creek walk, discussion with residents, and direction from the City Council, we will make further progress toward a clean and healthy Juanita Creek.

Also, please note the progress that has been made in cleaning and restoring Juanita Creek in Juanita Beach Park. A project was constructed this summer that will improve fish habitat and water quality in the creek. Construction included removal of garbage and concrete debris and extensive regrading of the banks of the creek. Numerous other projects to clean and improve Juanita Creek have been constructed since the surface water utility was created in 1998. A summary of these projects, and of the current priorities and goals of the Surface Water Utility, is available in the 2005 Surface Water Master Plan, which is available on the city website (www.ci.kirkland.wa.us) and then search for “surface water master plan”).

We recognize that there is a long way to go to recreate a clean and healthy creek, and we are, with the help of concerned citizens such as yourself, making progress toward that goal. If you would like to participate in the creek walk, or volunteer for cleanups or other activities, please contact Betsy Adams, Community Education and Outreach Coordinator, at (425) 587-3858.

Sincerely,

James Lauinger
Mayor, City of Kirkland

cc: Jenny Gaus, Senior Stormwater Utility Engineer
Daryl Grigsby, Director of Public Works
Bobbi Wallace, Surface & Wastewater Manager
Betsy Adams, Environmental Education & Outreach Specialist