Project to improve fish health begins early July

Culvert installation process requires 23-day closure in July and August.

WHAT: A Kirkland contractor begins progress in early July on the first in a series of ambitious improvements planned for the 100th Avenue Northeast corridor. Interwest Construction will be replacing the three-decade-old culvert that allows 100th Avenue Northeast to cross Cedar Creek. In its place, the contractor will install a new 10-foot-wide by eight-foot-tall concrete box culvert. The new fish-passable culvert will provide nearly a mile of upstream habitat for trout, coho and other salmon.

To install the new culvert, Interwest Construction plans to close 100th Avenue Northeast between its intersections with Simonds Road and Northeast 139th Street for 23 consecutive days, starting July 22 and ending Aug. 12. Interwest will return in October to replant vegetation.

In late fall, Kirkland will hire a contractor to implement the remaining Phase I elements planned for 100th Avenue Northeast, between Northeast 139th and 145th streets. Those include intersection improvements at Northeast 145th Street and Simonds Road, sidewalk-level bicycle lanes and widening 100th Avenue Northeast from two lanes to five.

WHEN: Interwest’s crews will work from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday through Friday, starting July 6.

WHAT TO EXPECT: The contractor will establish a detour around the closure.

The contractor will ensure access for emergency responders, mail delivery and local residents.

VISIT: www.kirklandwa.gov/100thavedesign

CONTACT: Projects Supervisor Aparna Khanal, (425) 587-3827, akhanal@kirklandwa.gov; or Senior Outreach Coordinator Christian Knight, cknight@kirklandwa.gov, (425) 587-3831.
**Box culverts provide habitat for native fish**

The City of Kirkland and its partners are working to connect salmon and native fish with their historic habitat by replacing culverts and other fish barriers with fish-friendly structures, such as bridges or box culverts.

In the past, engineers designed culverts to maximize their water-carrying capacity with the smallest possible pipe size. But many of these culverts prevent fish from accessing their upstream habitat—the water flow is too fast, too shallow, or too steep. This design also led to downstream erosion.

In recent years, Kirkland has replaced aging, sediment-clogged culverts on Cochran Springs (*see pictures at right*) and Juanita Creek with box culverts.