

# Cemetery Pond

Cemetery Pond is a King County Regional Stormwater Facility, and headwater to Tributary 0291A in the May Creek Basin. Its history includes a period as a commercial peat bog, which is why some local residents refer to it as “The Bog”. This is a Category 1 wetland with high habitat scores.

Cemetery Pond, its wetland system, and associated buffers that encumber the adjacent sites, are of intense and long-term concern for the community. In 2008, a stewardship agreement was signed between local non-profits and King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks for the entire area.

Local residents and community groups have taken responsibility for, and been formally recognized as, stewards of these resources. The potential for harm is perhaps most disturbing when viewed in light of the considerable investment to date and the commitment to future collaboration between King County and our community in regard to this watershed and recreational

system embodied in the Memorandum of Understanding signed by King County DNRP, FCUAC, CARE, SWAN, and FCUAC<sup>1</sup>.

To date, there has been an outstanding investment of time, labor, and love at the Cemetery Pond by many organizations. Under the MOU, community volunteers (along with community partners) have so far removed over 19 tons of garbage and illegal dumping (2 cars, 3 refrigerators, a boat, a

trailer and many pickup truck loads of household and construction garbage) from the Bog. They’ve planted hundreds of native plants in three separate areas of the Bog under their first Small Habitat Restoration Grant. By working with KC DNRP and the Water & Land Resources Division, neighbors secured funding, gained approval from the state, and implemented a Beaver Deceiver Pilot/Demonstration project at the outlet of the pond into Tributary 0291A.

Along with stewarding the wetlands, local residents are using the area as an opportunity to share how they approached wetland stewardship. Interpretive signs have been installed in the Bog.

Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 19-tons of garbage, illegal dumping, and noxious plants</li> <li>• 1,000+ trees and shrubs planted</li> <li>• Eliminated seasonal flooding (2-feet of debris &amp; sediment removed from roadside ditch)</li> <li>• Beaver Deceiver Pilot and Demonstration</li> <li>• Water testing (pending 2016)</li> </ul>

Organizations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• King County Roads</li> <li>• King County Water &amp; Land Resources</li> <li>• King County DNRP Rural Initiative</li> <li>• Four Creeks Unincorporated Area Council (FCUAC)</li> <li>• Community Alliance to Reach Out &amp; Engage (CARE)</li> <li>• Stewardship of Wetland Areas by Neighbors (SWAN)</li> <li>• Cub Scout Den 637</li> <li>• Friends of the Trail</li> <li>• Washington Conservation Corps</li> <li>• Northwest Center</li> <li>• King Conservation District</li> <li>• King County Summer Youth Employment Program</li> </ul>

Approximate Funding	
2008 KC Small Habitat Restoration Grant	\$18,000
2008 KC Stormwater Services (clean-up)	\$4,000
2009 KC Small Habitat Restoration Grant	\$6,500
2009 KC Stormwater Services Beaver Deceiver Pilot	\$6,000
2010 KC Parks (interpretive signs)	\$10,000
2013 KC Parks (interpretive signs, fencing, etc.)	\$10,000
2016 KC Community Service Area Grant (test kit)	\$750
	\$54,500

<sup>1</sup> Department of Natural Resources and Parks, Four Creeks Unincorporated Area Council (501c3), Citizens Alliance to Reach Out and Engage (501c4), Stewardship of Wetland Areas by Neighbors (a CARE program)

## Coalfield Park

Approximate Funding	
2010 KC Parks (interpretive signs)	\$10,000
2013 KC Parks (interpretive signs, fencing, etc.)	<u>\$10,000</u>
	\$20,000