Four Creeks Agreement

# Stewardship MOU

In 2008, leveraged off SWAN’s stewardship efforts, a Memo of Understand (“The Four Creeks Agreement”) was signed by DNRP, CARE, SWAN, and FCUAC. The MOU focused on the stewardship of 1) Coalfield Park, 2) May Creek Tributary 0291A, with initial focus on Cemetery Pond, and 3) a 1-mile section of 164th Ave SE (Adopt-a-Road). The agreement was renewed in 2011, 2013, and 2017 (expiring Aug 2019).

# CARE

In addition to participating in community-related government processes (e.g. land use, permitting), the **Community Alliance to Reach Out and Engage (CARE)** also provides leadership for community stewardship efforts.

CARE stewards 164th Ave SE between SE 128th St and SR-900 as part of the King County Adopt-a-Road litter control program.

CARE stewards King County Coalfield Park on 164th Ave SE, and with help from the Parks and Trails Division (Parks) of the King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks, have created an informational kiosk in the park, that describes the tributary that runs through the park dividing those areas developed for recreational day-use with sports fields, picnic area, and parking, from the natural areas that neighbor private property.

CARE recognizes the unique relationship residents on neighboring properties have to parks, and works closely with the Coalfield Park neighbors to keep their voice in the stewardship efforts.

# SWAN

In 2007, CARE created the **Stewardship of Wetland Areas by Neighbors (SWAN)** project that took on stewardship of Cemetery Pond, a King County Regional Stormwater Facility, and its outflow, Tributary 0291A in the May Creek Basin.

In 2008, SWAN eliminated a seasonal flooding issue on Tributary 0291A by working with the Roads Division (Roads) of the King County Department of Transportation (DOT), who removed about 2-feet of debris and sediment in the culvert conveyance next to a gas station and shopping area.

That same year, SWAN organized the clean-up of Cemetery Pond and its wetland buffers. Under the supervision of a King County Ecologist from the Water and Land Resources Division (WLRD) of the King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP), local volunteers, with help from Friends of Trails, and the Washington Conservation Corps, removed a total of 19-tons of illegally dumped material from the pond and its buffers, including 2 cars, 3 refrigerators, a boat, a trailer and many pickup truck loads of garbage.

Again, in 2008, SWAN organized its largest volunteer event thus far, that, with help again from the Washington Conservation Corp, plus help from a local Cub Scout Troop, planted 775 trees and shrubs, as restoration for the areas where garbage and tangles of noxious blackberries had been removed.

# FCUAC

The **Four Creeks Unincorporated Area Council (FCUAC)**, providing services that enable resident participation, initially supported the CARE efforts by providing map and spatial analysis services. In 2016, with test kits funded by the FCUAC Surface Water Quality Program, water quality tests will start in Cemetery Pond and along Tributary 0291A.

The Stewardship Agreement, including maps, work plan, and status are available on the [FCUAC web site](http://fourcreeks.org/?page_id=863).