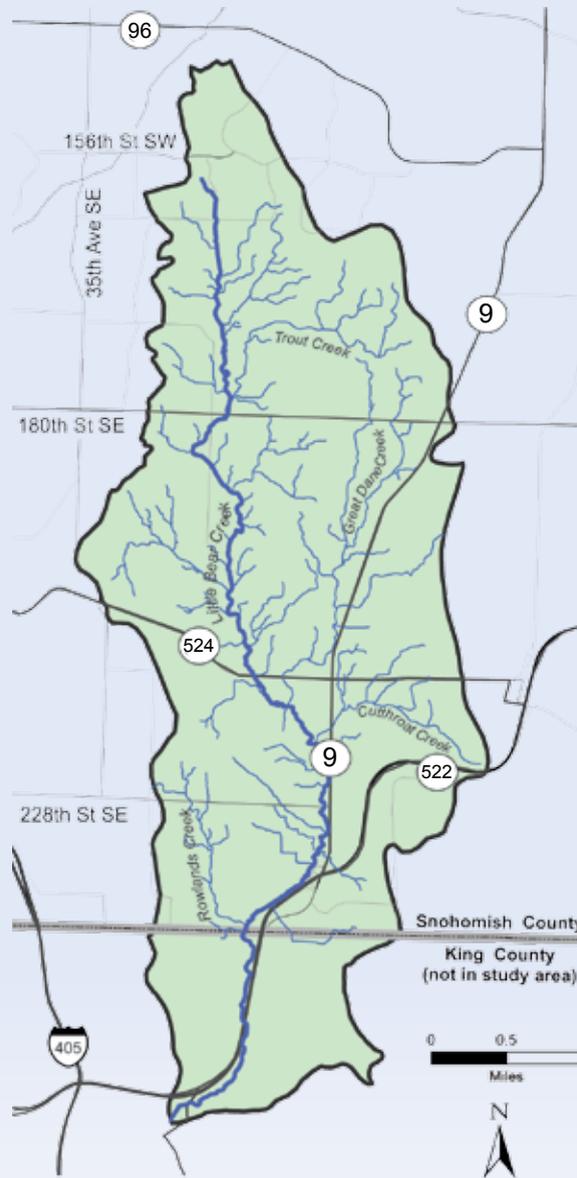




Healthy Streams & Good Water Quality...

- Protect people and pets from diseases caused by fecal coliform in the water. (Fecal coliform is bacteria from feces of warm blooded animals such as humans and other mammals.)
- Provide juvenile salmon and trout with:
 - Places to hide and side channels – refuge from predators and during winter high flows. This includes overhanging vegetation, tree roots, and fallen trees along the banks.
 - Cold and clean water – our native fish depend on it. Warm stream temperatures, particularly where shade is absent, and even low levels of dissolved copper and dissolved zinc are lethal to juvenile fish. Warm water can also delay the upstream migration of returning adult salmon and compromise spawning success.
 - Aquatic and streamside insects – essential fish food source from the stream bottom and overhanging vegetation.

Little Bear Creek Watershed*



*A watershed is the area of land where all of the water drains to the same place. The Little Bear Creek watershed drains into the Sammamish River.



To Learn More

- Visit www.littlebearcreek.surfacewater.info for project details including a detailed map of the watershed.
- Visit www.NPDES.surfacewater.info for information on the actions the county must perform under its permit.

Contact Us

If you have questions, please contact:

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How Healthy is Little Bear Creek?



A Water Quality Study

Assessing Water Quality and Habitat...

...Now and For the Future



The Little Bear Creek watershed* in south Snohomish County supports several species of salmon and trout with good water quality and stream habitat. The watershed starts in Snohomish County and extends into King County. Snohomish County's portion covers 13 square miles and is home to over 5,000 households**.

Why Study Little Bear Creek

To protect the stream's valuable water quality and habitat resources for the future, Snohomish County is assessing its portion of Little Bear Creek to better understand how to manage stormwater.

This three-year project is required by the county's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit and is intended to reduce stormwater pollution.

What We Will Do

Snohomish County Surface Water Management (SWM) will study existing stream conditions within the basin and evaluate the impacts of stormwater on its stream flows, habitat, and water quality.

During 2015 – 2016, SWM will gather data on:

- Habitat conditions along Little Bear Creek and its tributaries including stream bank stability, sediment sources, vegetation, and channel dimensions.
- Stream temperatures and pollutants such as dissolved copper, dissolved zinc, and fecal coliform bacteria.
- Biological health of the stream including the aquatic insects that fish depend upon.

- Stream flows during small and large storms.
- Existing stormwater infrastructure such as detention ponds.

The data will be used in a watershed computer model to help determine whether water quality standards will continue to be met in the future as the area continues to develop and grow.

During 2016 – 2017, SWM will use the model findings to create a Little Bear Creek Basin Plan with recommendations to protect future water quality and habitat. The plan will be available for public review and comment in 2017. A finalized plan is to be submitted to the Washington Department of Ecology by September 2017.

What You Will See

Throughout 2015-2016, county staff or consultants will be collecting data throughout the stream system. They will be wearing orange vests and, when walking the stream, chest waders. Staff or consultants will only access the stream and stormwater facilities on private property with prior permission from the landowners.

**A watershed is the area of land where all of the water drains to the same place. The Little Bear Creek watershed drains into the Sammamish River.*

***Updated June 2107.*