

Vasa Creek Basin Study

Bellevue Utilities is conducting a Vasa Creek Basin Study. The study is intended to update the City's floodplain map for the basin and to collect habitat data for kokanee salmon in Vasa Creek between I-90 and Lake Sammamish.

The existing regulatory floodplain map of Vasa Creek (between I-90 and Lake Sammamish) was established in 1978 when the area was part of unincorporated King County. The floodplain map does not reflect numerous flood protection measures built in the area since that time, nor does it accurately map where the floodplain is relative to the creek. The updated map will correct these issues. The floodplain map will also be updated between I-90 and approximately 152nd Avenue Southeast. To see the existing floodplain map of lower Vasa Creek that shows this problem, click on the lower Vasa Creek floodplain map.

Floodplains have an impact on your insurance, development potential, loans, and resale of your property. Updating this map will:

- Identify your risk of flooding,
- Avoid unfairly encumbering properties with a requirement for flood insurance when none is required,
- Provide a public benefit to property owners, lending institutions, and insurance agencies, and
- Facilitate permitting for future development on properties in the Vasa Creek basin.

As part of this study physical habitat data will be collected from I-90 down to Lake Sammamish to help identify future potential restoration and improvements for kokanee salmon. Biologists will be looking at features like spawning gravel, resting pools, and hiding places such as large logs. Vasa Creek upstream of I-90 is not being evaluated for habitat conditions because the stream dries up in the summer. Landslides will be mapped in the stream above I-90 for gravel deposition and additional landslide risks.

We need your help by providing:

- Access to your property so the City of Bellevue can identify flood elevations and habitat conditions.
- Input to Bellevue staff on issues including but not limited to:
 - flooding on properties,
 - photographs with dates picture taken of rainfall events,
 - erosion or gravel deposition issues,
 - photographs of the condition of the stream,
 - information on fish observed in Vasa Creek, and
 - Other concerns you may have.

To provide input to the basin study team send an email to Rick Watson at rwatson@bellevuewa.gov or call 425-452-4896.

For more information on Vasa Creek¹:

¹ The Basin Fact sheet and the Critical Area city boundaries do not show the recently annexed areas to the city.

- Basin Fact sheet for Vasa Creek Basin http://www.bellevuewa.gov/pdf/Utilities/26-VASA_CREEK.pdf
- Questions and Answers about the Vasa Creek Basin Study <http://> link
- Fish Use of Vasa Creek http://www.bellevuewa.gov/pdf/Utilities/FishUse_Vasa.pdf
- Critical Areas of Vasa Creek http://www.bellevuewa.gov/pdf/Utilities/26-VASA_CREEK_CA.pdf