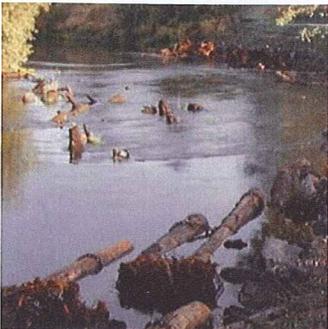




# WHAT KENT IS DOING

The City of Kent is committed to protecting residents and businesses from flooding, preserving open spaces, restoring natural habitat, and promoting a healthy, vibrant economy along the Green River. The projects described in this booklet include many of the following features:



## Adding Woody Debris for Wildlife Habitat and Flood Protection

Woody debris consists of anchored tree trunks, roots, rootwads, and logs that increase the complexity of the stream channel. Water flowing through and around wood creates pools and provides habitat for salmon and their prey. The pools created by the woody debris offer deeper water habitat, which can be especially important during low flows in the summer months. Large woody debris also provides a layer of protection for riverbanks during high river flows.



## Adding Shelves or Benches for Wildlife Habitat and Flood Protection

Shallow areas on riverbank side slopes are known as benches, shelves, or terraces. They provide habitat for fish, birds, and other wildlife. A healthier plant community also exists along terraced riverbanks as varying water levels in a river are able to support diverse plant species. Benches or shelves parallel to the riverbank also help stabilize the side slopes and provide a wider channel for flood water storage, reducing the risk of flooding.



## Planting Native Trees and Removing Invasive Plants

Along urban riverbanks, native plants are often dominated by invasive and aggressive plants such as Himalayan blackberries, reed canary grass, and Japanese knotweed. These invasive plants provide little to no habitat benefit for fish and wildlife. Native plants and trees improve bank stability and help shade the river to reduce river temperatures.



## Levee Projects for Flood Protection

Our short term objective is to gain Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) accreditation for our levees. We are in the process of constructing, modifying, and maintaining both primary and secondary levees to reach this goal. Levees are embankments designed to prevent overflow and flooding from the river. Primary levees consist of existing riverbanks and are the first line of protection against flooding. Secondary levees are walls and berms placed behind the existing riverbanks, which provide an additional layer of safety. These improvements reduce flood risk with the overall goal of providing flood protection to a 500-year flood level.