



CITY OF UNIVERSITY PLACE

3715 Bridgeport Way West
University Place, WA 98466

Phone: (253) 566-5656
Fax: (253) 566-5658
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CONTACT

Russell Kasselmann
Public Information Officer
253.460.5441
253.820.5772
rkasselmann@cityofup.com

Dates set for Bridgeport Way closure in July

Culvert replacement will make Leach Creek upper reaches more accessible for spawning salmon

Remember, it's for the good of the salmon.

This July, the City of University Place, in partnership with the City of Lakewood, will be replacing the existing 5-foot diameter culvert that carries Leach Creek under Bridgeport Way with a 30-foot wide open bottom box culvert. The construction will result in the closure of Bridgeport way at the city limits of University Place and Lakewood for approximately two weeks beginning July 23. To minimize the duration of the road closure, the contractor will work double shifts from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. during the closure period.

Both coho and chum salmon use Leach Creek for spawning in the fall and winter. In July of 1999 the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) notified the cities of University Place and Lakewood that the existing culvert constituted a barrier to fish passage in high flow conditions and that the cities were required under state law to remove and replace the culvert.

The new 30-foot wide culvert will create a more natural stream width and will provide a streambed through the culvert. In addition, approximately 1000-feet of stream restoration and habitat improvements will be constructed under this project. This project will open up new spawning and rearing habitat for salmon and other fish further upstream.

The estimated project cost is \$1.323 million. This includes administration and design costs, box culvert purchase, and construction. The cities of University Place and Lakewood jointly applied for and received grants from the State Salmon Recovery Funding Board in the amount of \$818,000 for this project. The balance of project costs will be made up equally from Lakewood and University Place.

Please contact Assistant City Engineer Jack Ecklund at 460-5411 if you have any questions about the project.

Russell Kasselmann
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