



King County completing cleanup in University Slough

This week King County crews will complete cleanup of wastewater sediments deposited in University Slough during an accidental wastewater release discovered on May 23.

King County's Wastewater Treatment Division implemented aggressive cleanup measures after daily water quality monitoring continued to show elevated bacteria levels at two of the county's seven sampling sites south of Northeast 45th Street.

The waterway between Northeast 45th Street and Union Bay remains temporarily closed to the public. When water quality monitoring tests meet acceptable levels, Public Health – Seattle & King County will reopen recreational waterways for public use.

Last week, crews isolated the cleanup area with dams near Northeast 45th Street and Clark Road Bridge, diverted stormwater flow coming from upstream and pumped water out of the cleanup area. Accumulated sediments from the slough bed were vacuumed out and transported to the county's West Point Treatment Plant for disposal over the weekend of June 7 and 8.

Once cleanup work is complete, King County Roads Department will remove rock and mesh used to establish the temporary roadway along the eastern bank of the slough north of Clark Road. Restoration of this area is being coordinated with University of Washington staff.

Public Health has not received reports of sickness related to the wastewater release. No wildlife impacts have been reported from wildlife surveys conducted after the incident was reported and during cleanup. King County will continue to monitor the University Slough and nearby areas after cleanup efforts are completed.

Ravenna Creek was rerouted from the King County sanitary sewer system to the drainage canal on the University of Washington campus in 2006. The drainage canal flows through territory that served as a landfill for 40 years before being capped in 1966 and incorporated into the Urban Bay Natural Area.

What to expect

- Crews, trucks and cleanup equipment on UW athletic fields south of Northeast 45th Street on the east side of the waterway
- Removal of the temporary road and stream flow control structures installed between Northeast 45th Street and Clark Road bridge
- Increased noise and activity near work site

FOR UPDATES AND MORE INFORMATION

- Monica Van der Vieren: 206-255-9105 or monica.vandervieren@kingcounty.gov
- Visit: <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wtd/community/sewer-spill-response/0805-RavennaCreek>

FOR PUBLIC HEALTH QUESTIONS

- Call 206-296-4606
- For specific health questions consult your health care provider