



# NOAA Community-Based Restoration Program



## Campbell Creek Restoration Anchorage, Alaska

Campbell Creek is an anadromous fish stream that flows out of the Chugach Mountains, through the heart of the City of Anchorage and empties into Cook Inlet. Relatively unique among urban waterways, Campbell Creek still supports natural runs of four species of salmon: chinook, coho, pink, and sockeye. These fisheries are popular with local anglers.

In past years, vehicles were driven illegally through a section of the creek near Old Seward Highway. This vehicle traffic caused significant damage to the creek bed and banks, degraded salmon spawning and rearing habitats, and increased sediment loads in the stream. In an earlier remediation attempt, vehicle access was eliminated and hundreds of sandbags were placed along the stream bank to stop erosion. However, the banks continued to erode and additional restoration efforts were needed.



*Volunteers removing sandbags*

Encouraged by local public schools and fisheries managers, in 1999, the Anchorage Waterways Council decided to restore this section of Campbell Creek through a collaborative community effort. In partnership with the NOAA Restoration Center, EPA Five Star Program, Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the Municipality of Anchorage, the Anchorage Waterways Council stabilized approximately 50 feet of bank length along both sides of the stream channel, removed old erosion control devices and revegetated 500 square feet of riparian area. Other organizations that were involved included the Taku Elementary School PTA, Moore's Landscaping, and the Sourdough Mining Co. Restaurant.

Over the course of five days, Anchorage Waterways staff, volunteers and students from the nearby elementary school completed on-the-ground restoration work. Volunteers removed the sandbags, then the banks were regraded and stabilized using anchored coir logs backed with planted willow shoots and willow bundles. Topsoil was added and volunteers seeded the banks with native grasses, forbes and shrubs. To help the plants establish, they also erected temporary fencing around the site.



*Completed project site*

Anchorage Waterways Council worked with the local news media to document the Campbell Creek project and educate the Anchorage community about the development and completion of this restoration. In order to ensure continued success of the restored habitat, Taku Elementary School adopted the site upon completion of the project.

For more information, please contact:

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