

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Waterway 18 Restoration Celebration

GRAND OPENING CELEBRATES IMPROVED GREEN SPACE ON LAKE UNION

SEATTLE – Seattle Parks Foundation, Friends of Waterway 18, city and state officials, and community neighbors will celebrate the re-opening of Waterway 18 with a dedication and ribbon-cutting event Monday, June 21, 2010 at 12:30pm. This newly restored green space enhances the waterway's natural and recreational assets, and protects the beach for native plants, public lake access, and salmon.

Waterway 18, located in the Wallingford neighborhood just east of Gasworks Park, is a small stretch of shoreline that has survived the development of Lake Union, and was improved by Friends of Waterway 18 and Seattle Parks Foundation for increased public use. Known officially as Waterway 18, this 10,000 square-foot property is owned by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) and is one of the last remaining natural beaches on Lake Union. Although the public has always had access to this site, it is easy to miss from land or water.

To improve this valuable public asset, Friends of Waterway 18 and Seattle Parks Foundation worked for three years with state and local agencies, community groups and local businesses to develop a design plan, secure permits and funding, and complete the restoration of Waterway 18. Over a dozen organizations partnered on this project.

"It is impressive how many organizations and individuals worked collaboratively to improve this public space," said Jessica Shawver, Seattle Parks Foundation Program Manager. "We are so grateful to all those who stepped up to contribute time and resources to make this happen."

Repopulating Waterway 18 with native plant species and removing invasive plants was vital to the restoration of the waterway. The shoreline armoring and concrete debris were removed from the Lake Union waterfront and restored with a combination of large logs, boulders, cobble/gravel mix, and native vegetation. The restored shoreline area was re-contoured using a well-graded mix of supplemental cobble/gravel material to help decrease wave energy, while a top layer of spawning gravel will enhance nearshore habitat complexity and maximize nearshore shallow-water habitat for juvenile salmonids.

"It was important to us that Waterway 18 be restored to work better for both people and aquatic life," said Lisa Carroll from Friends of Waterway 18. "We hope this will serve as a positive example to other waterfront landowners of how we can all take responsibility for stewarding our city's shorelines."

Waterway 18 is part of the 6.2 mile Cheshiahud Lake Union Loop, a key project of the City and its partners to provide a safe, enjoyable route for pedestrians and bicyclists around the lake. By improving the various street ends and waterways, people from both land and water can enjoy the many public access points along Lake Union.

The total cost of the Waterway 18 improvement project was \$250,000 raised from City, State, and Federal organizations including a Neighborhood Matching Fund award from the City of Seattle, Department of Neighborhoods as well as from numerous individual donors.

Waterway 18 is located at 2300 N. Northlake Way, Seattle, WA 98103, west of Dunato's Marine Services and east of Gasworks Park. More images and information about Waterway 18 can be found on Seattle Parks Foundation's website: www.seattleparksfoundation.org

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