

Manchester Elementary Students Participating in the Fifth Beach Seine Along Manchester Beach

(Sponsored by the Duncan Creek Restoration Group)



The Importance of Community Engagement and Local Environmental Education

When considering our own ecosystem in Manchester we must consider and realize that we are a part of it and that we have profound effects on his health and sustainability. The health of Duncan Creek and it ecosystem are in essence an indicator of the natural environmental health within our community. Manchester still has some of the best water quality in Kitsap County and the reason for this is that the watershed where two of our public water systems wells are located. We are also lucky that a type III fish bearing stream (Duncan Creek) runs right through the

middle of that watershed and past one of the primary wells we drink from in our community. The location of the creek at the bottom of a very deep ravine plus the critical areas that have a 150' setbacks from building has also saved this part of our fractured watershed from being completely cleared.

It is the protection of this watershed which in turn protects our drinking water as one primary reason why Duncan Creek water quality and overall environmental health must be protected. As the water quality of this creek is improved, so does the quality of the water we drink everyday. It is imperative we that we continue to learn as much about our environment as we can so we can practice good stewardship to protect it. Stopping contaminated storm water from discharging into the stream and reducing the amount of road and hillside runoff from entering the stream will benefit us all.

The Duncan Creek Restoration group was formed to hopefully facilitate and achieve the following:

- Engage our community in environmental education and outreach.
- Continue current volunteer efforts to protect and restore Duncan Creek streamside habitat and it's associated watershed.
- Model and help to instill respect for our natural environmental systems in Manchester as they are at the heart of our own community health and wellbeing.
- Support the continuing efforts by Kitsap County Storm Water Division in their efforts to replace the current fish blocking culvert and replace it with an approved fish passage culvert.
- Monitor and encourage the County to perform necessary streamside habitat and watershed restoration as part of the overall Duncan Creek Culvert correction project.