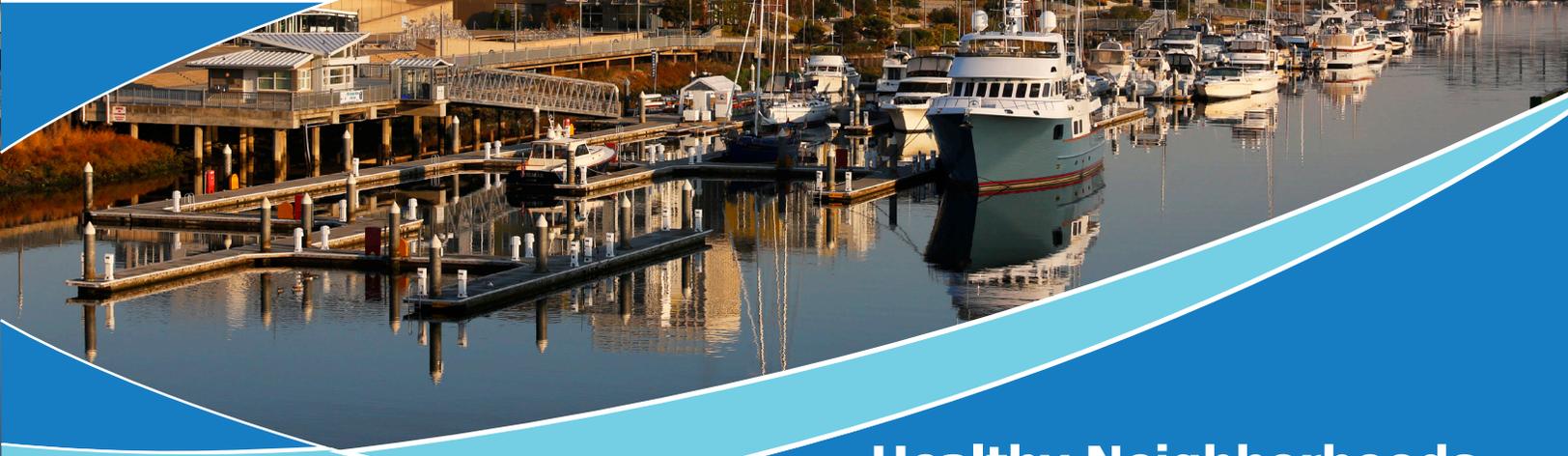


# So What's Happening to All that Rubber Wearing Off of Our Tires?

## Tire Rubber Wear Particles



**It lives on our roads and in our storm drains, and when it rains, it moves.  
Thousands of coho salmon are telling us that it's important**



# Healthy Neighborhoods Watershed Management Plan

## What is the challenge of stormwater?

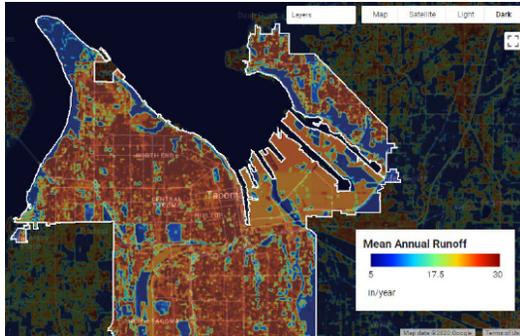
Rain falling on hard surfaces like roofs, streets and parking lots picks up oil, trash and other pollutants. This “stormwater” is a leading cause of water pollution, threatening wildlife and damaging critical habitat. Each action we take individually and on a city-wide scale to reduce the impacts of stormwater pollution improves the health of our watersheds and protects the ecosystem services we need.

## Changing Directions of Stormwater Management

For decades, Tacoma’s Environmental Services Department has been a regional leader in developing stormwater management programs including pollution source control inspections, green stormwater infrastructure projects, and stormwater quality testing. However, we recognize the need to partner with our community members to develop a watershed-based approach to meet the diverse needs of our neighborhoods. A Watershed Management Plan will help us prioritize the most effective stormwater actions and projects, at the most important locations, to build a more healthy and resilient Tacoma and a thriving Puget Sound.



A watershed data mapping tool will create heatmaps to target key location in the watershed for stormwater actions and projects. The tool will help track the benefits of these stormwater investments.



**We believe everything we do supports healthy neighborhoods and a thriving Puget Sound, leaving a better Tacoma for all.**

Tacoma SURFACE WATER SOLID WASTE WASTEWATER  
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT



'L' Street Rain Garden Installation



## Developing Watershed Priorities

The City of Tacoma was awarded grant funding from the Department of Ecology to develop a watershed data mapping tool to provide a street-by-street assessment of watershed needs. The tool will also provide reports and graphics designed to clearly reveal the intersections between watershed and community needs and help engage a diverse group of key partners in decision-making including the most impacted community members.

## Future Actions

The watershed assessment and prioritization will produce a list of actions designed to reduce stormwater pollution of Tacoma's lakes, streams, and marine waters. These actions will be selected to respond to community priorities, future development and housing needs, and anticipated climate change impacts. The locations of these activities will be selected to provide more equitable service throughout Tacoma.

## Watershed Project Planning Timeline

**Sept. 2019 - Nov. 2020**

### Research & Watershed Characterization

Review City plans and regulations, existing environmental conditions, and community needs and priorities in each watershed.

**Nov. 2020 - July 2022**

### Watershed Prioritization

Build a prioritization tool using a GIS spatial model to rank key watershed locations and potential actions.

**July 2022 - Jan. 2023**

### Action Plan

Identify priority actions, target outcomes, and timeframes. Collaborate with partners and stakeholders.

**Jan. 2024**

### Evaluation

Measure progress, review with partners and stakeholders, and adjust priorities.



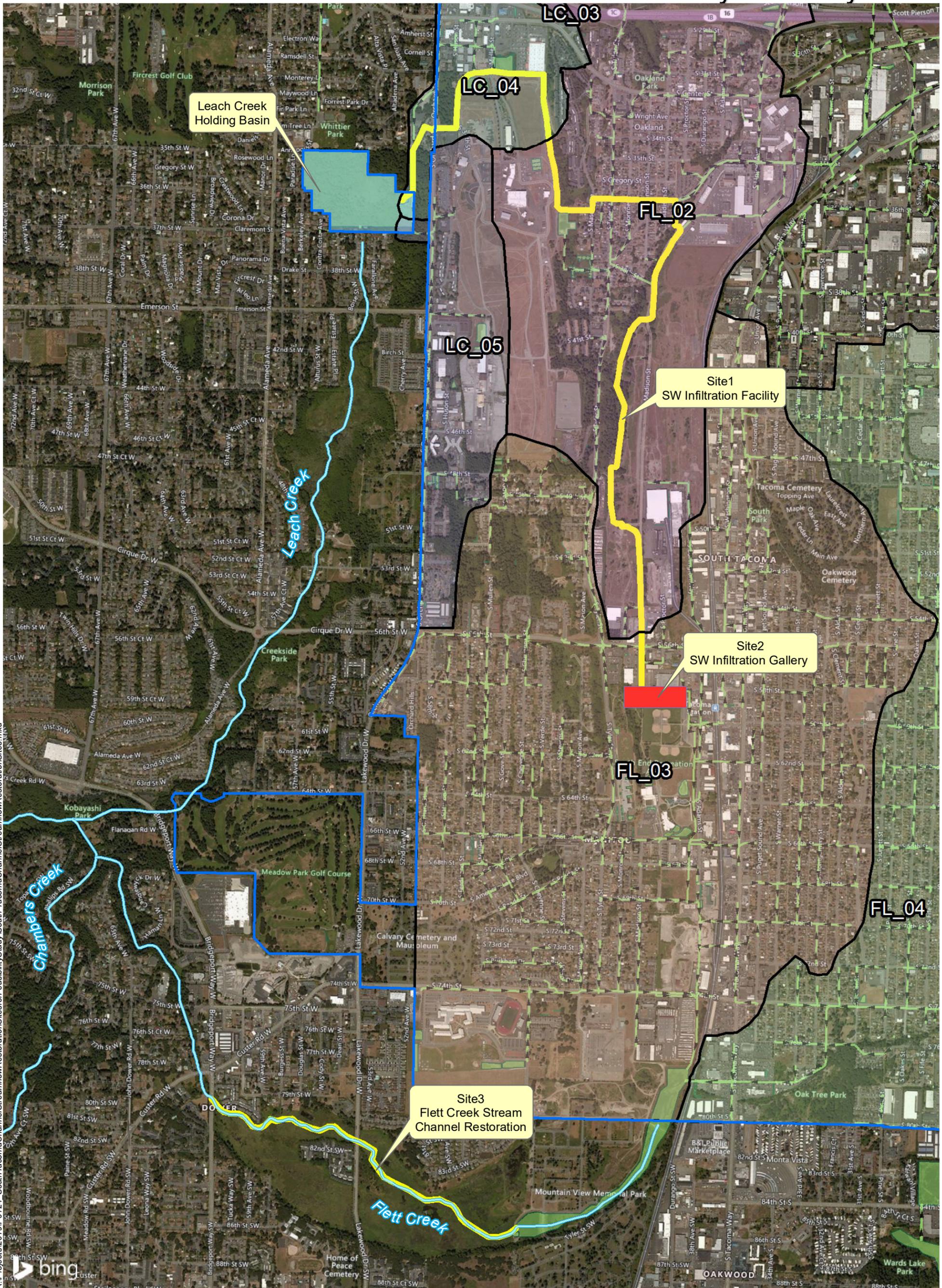
**For More Information Contact:**

**Laura Nokes** | (253) 502-2274

[lnokes@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:lnokes@cityoftacoma.org)

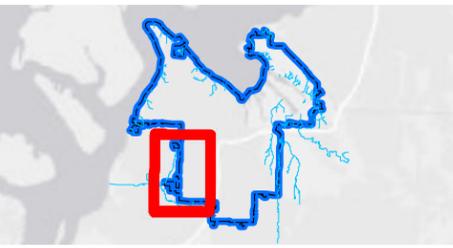
[cityoftacoma.org/healthywatersheds](http://cityoftacoma.org/healthywatersheds)

# South Tacoma Channel Streamflow Restoration Sites for Feasibility Study



**Legend**

- Surfacewater Basins
- Possible site location 2
- Possible site locations 1 & 3
- Holding Basin Property
- Streams
- Tacoma City Limits



Map Date: 11/12/2019  
 Source: Science and Engineering Division  
 Environmental Services Department  
 City of Tacoma  
 326 East D Street, Tacoma WA 98421  
 (253) 591-5588

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# Project Actions

reclaim Titlow Lagoon to better reflect its historic extent

re-establish salt marsh and remediate effects of stormwater to improve water quality

remove shoreline armor to restore the beach

restore fish passage and tidal hydrology through installation of 96-foot span rail bridge

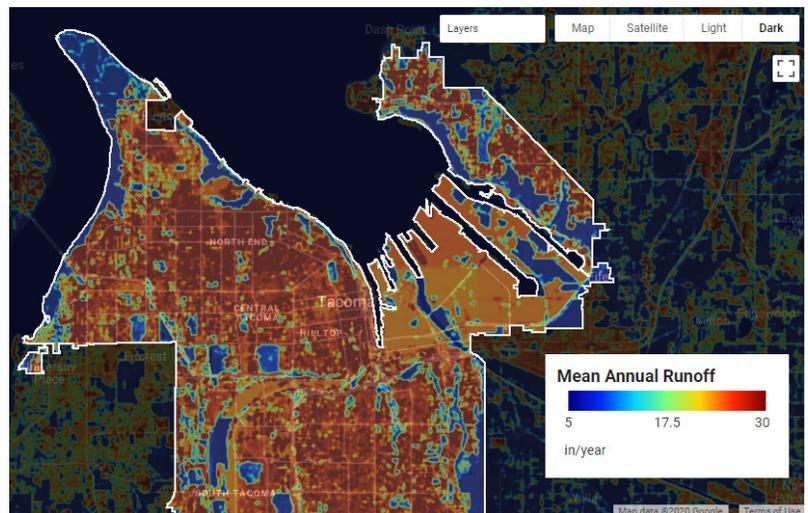
Artist's rendering of a restored Titlow Lagoon (S. Bower)

# CITY OF TACOMA

## WATERSHED PRIORITIZATION PLANNING PROJECT

### Prioritizing Stormwater Investments for the Highest Impact

The City of Tacoma Environmental Services Department shares a vision: *Everything we do supports healthy neighborhoods and a thriving Puget Sound, leaving a better Tacoma for all.* The Watershed Prioritization Planning Project is a Department of Ecology grant-funded project that will help achieve this vision by identifying and prioritizing stormwater management actions to help support clean and safe neighborhoods and protect clean water. By creating a GIS map-based ranking tool to compare watersheds across the City based on conditions such as land use intensity, green space, aquatic habitat, and community access to opportunity, this tool will help decision-makers focus limited City resources on the most effective stormwater actions and prioritize the neighborhoods where they can provide the most benefits.



### Science-Based Recommendations To Address Community Needs

- The watershed planning tool will use spatial modeling to track the water quality benefits of existing and proposed stormwater treatment and flow control facilities, assess impacts of future development and climate conditions, and identify potential cost-effective strategies to reduce stormwater pollutant loading to our local lakes, streams and Puget Sound.
- Open source tools, user-friendly reports and graphics, and a transparent decision support framework will help engage with a diverse group of partners and community members to develop more creative, economic, equitable and resilient stormwater management solutions.





# WATERSHED PRIORITIZATION PLANNING PROJECT



## Cost Effective, Open Source Tools for Decision Making

This project will develop new software and modeling capabilities to provide actionable, science-based recommendations for stormwater capital improvement budget planning, optimal retrofit and enhanced maintenance locations, and productive public and private partnership opportunities in Tacoma. These same low-cost tools can also be used by other municipalities in Western Washington to target stormwater management actions for the highest benefits.



## Tailored for Tacoma

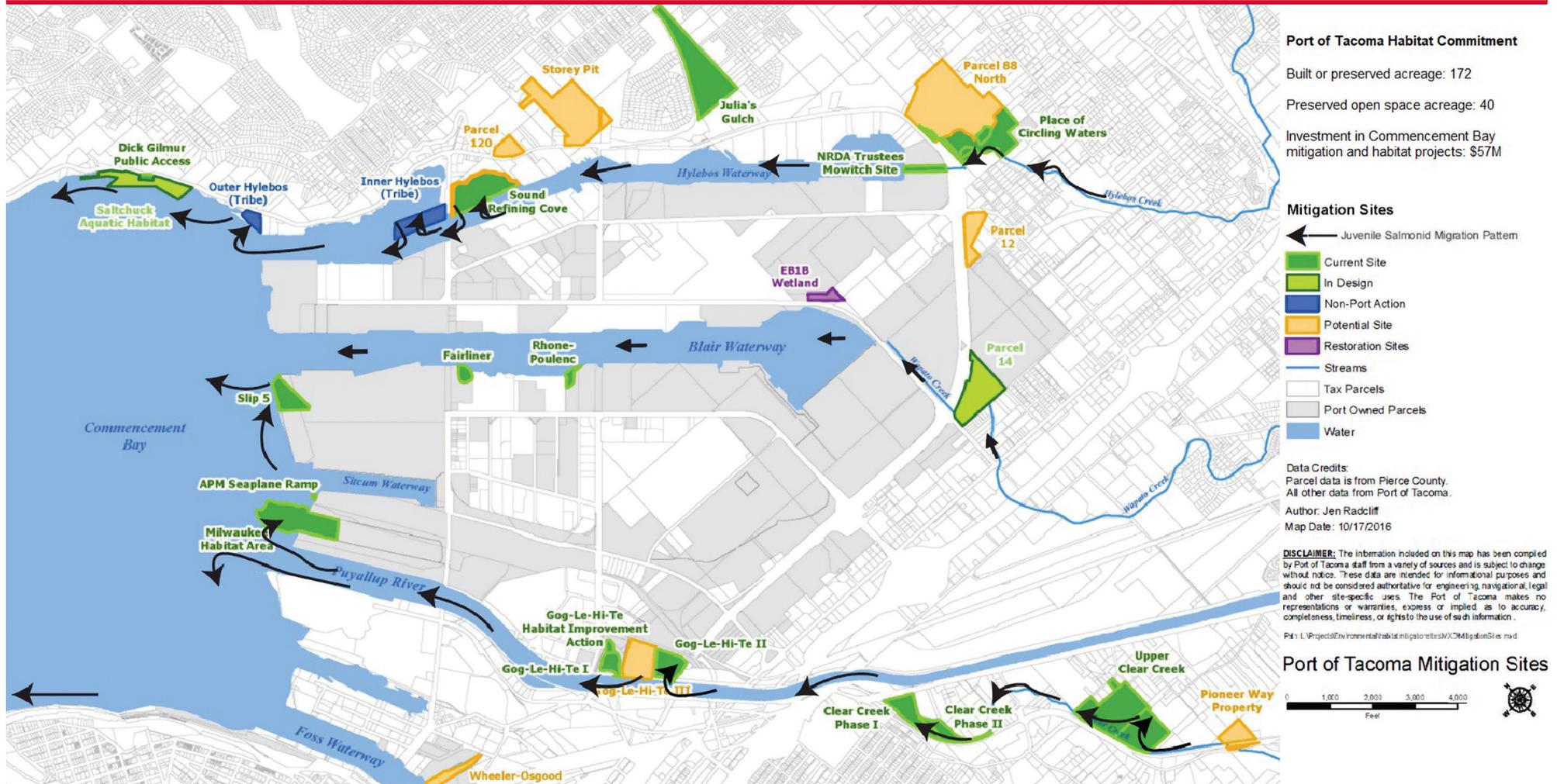
The watershed planning tool uses Puget-Sound specific stormwater pollution monitoring data, remote-sensed imperviousness (hard surfaces), climate change predictions for the Tacoma area, and other Tacoma-specific data to provide an up-to-date and accurate assessment of stormwater impacts.



## User Friendly Design for Community Input

This project will help provide a framework and process for integrating community-based input to identify and rank priority watershed actions. Site specific information like flooding complaints, spills and dumping locations, and community needs and concerns related to water quality and habitat protection will be incorporated from the beginning of the project. The model will also track progress on watershed goals and objectives and incorporate new community feedback as it becomes available.

# Port of Tacoma Habitat Strategy



## How It All Started

The bedrock principles of the Port of Tacoma's fish and wetland mitigation strategy are to place sites where they do the most good for salmon enhancement and to build the sites prior to development projects that trigger the need for mitigation. Those principles stem directly from the Lands Claim Settlement Agreement signed with the Puyallup Tribe of Indians in 1988.