

June 1, 2010

Daily Journal of Commerce

Seahurst Park named one of best restored beaches in U.S.

By JOURNAL STAFF



Photo courtesy of Anchor QEA

Work involved removing a 1,400-foot seawall, restoring the beach to its natural state and restoring marine habitat.

The American Shore and Beach Preservation Association has given Burien's Seahurst Park the 2010 award for the best restored beach. The association gives four awards each year to two beaches on each coast.

Burien won the award for the area south of the parking lot. The city and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers teamed up to begin the initial construction phase in 2004 at a cost of \$1.5 million.

Work involved removing a 1,400-foot seawall, restoring the beach to its natural state and restoring marine habitat for threatened species such as Puget Sound chinook salmon.

In 2008, the city completed another \$1 million in habitat and recreation improvements including trails, picnic areas, replacing the restroom and revegetating the shoreline with native plants. Restoration of the gravel beach provides space for forage fish to spawn, which is a primary food source for salmon.

Mayor Joan McGilton said Burien is proud of the park and its recognition. "Seahurst is the crown jewel of our parks system, and one of the finest waterfront parks in the region. It's a park people can love and it's a park that is vital to the ecosystem of Puget Sound."

Anchor QEA was the lead design consultant. Other team members included Coastal Geologic Services, coastal geologist; Shannon & Wilson, hillside geologist; Patano+Hafermann Architects, architect; and Will Stewart, irrigation design.

The city and corps are planning to restore the northern section of Seahurst, a project twice the size of the southern beach project. The city is seeking grants and has received support from the Washington State Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program, the Salmon Recovery Funding Board and the King Conservation District.

It will remove rock and concrete seawalls along 2,900 feet of shoreline and replace them with sand, gravel, vegetation and other natural features. Work is expected to get underway in the fall of 2011.

Seahurst Park was the first project funded by the Corps' Puget Sound and Adjacent Water's Program and has served as a prototype for addressing many Puget Sound ecosystem restoration issues. Federal funding accounted for a large portion of the \$2.5 million total cost of the south shoreline project, including \$272,000 from the state Salmon Recovery Funding Board.

The project also won the 2009 Local Government Conservation Award by the King Conservation District.