Sweetgrass Living Shorelines

Can you spot the floating wetlands in the landscape?

University of Washington Green Futures Lab has built and deployed constructed floating wetlands as habitat for out-migrating juvenile salmon. The wetlands are being researched for salmon use, plant health, and water quality. The hope is that the floating wetlands can provide juvenile salmon with refuge and food resources as they are heading out to Elliot Bay.

Click here to share your experience of the space! We are doing a survey to understand how you are perceived the landscape. A winner will be chosen randomly to receive a \$25 gift card to Starbucks!

Floating Wetland Designs: What is a floating wetland?

Constructed floating wetlands (CFW) are manmade structures that include all the elements of a natural floating wetland: plants, substrate, and flotation. All plants are native species and known to do well in emergent waters. The substrate is primarily woodstraw that allows the roots to migrate through and reach the water. The flotation material is pumice or biofoam, a biodegradable material made in the Netherlands. The structures have tensar and jute or geotextile that holds everything together. The CFW design has been adapted over the years to improve the condition for the salmon through a design evolution.

Support provided by:



Salmon Gills

by Tamela Laclair

(skokomish)













An Outing for Migration by Owen L. Oliver (Quinault / Isleta Pueblo)

A salmon's homecoming is a reunion, g^wáxap is the exit for migration g^wáxap is the entrance for spawning g^wáxap is the place called the outlet connecting the two,

connected like fungus routing in unison underground another

the humans to come.

Where has the salmon habitat gone? Owen's poem shows the importance of landscape for salmon and recounts its importance before the development that is known today. In the 1910's, the Lake Washington Ship Canal was created to allow cargo boats, barges, and other transportation and building vessels to reach Lake Union and ultimately Lake Washington. As a result, the shoreline and salmon habitat were lost. Since the canal was built, there have been many changes to this ecosystem and landscape. Can you find where you are standing today in the photo on the left?

- to unite the kin, prepare for the future, and create relationships with fed humans
- between lake union and salmon bay there used to be nothing but a leak of water

salmon have been swimming these waters since time immemorial

- they've noticed the erosion of landscape being bottled now into conservation
- they've seen their usual and accustomed route through g^wáxap open to the masses, to
- recreation, and to trade, yet now they're getting the help they need
- g^wáxap needs to have input from all members; the salmon and humans in relation with
- like the fungus that grows together, salmon and humans are intertwined in their own life cycles, and g^wáxap is one of those places that remembers

g^wáxap is steeped in the land, never to be forgotten by the caretakers, the salmon, and