

Reference Page to Answer Your Questions About Definitions And Concepts

(You may find this background information useful for some questions in the survey. This page is separate so you can refer to it as needed.)

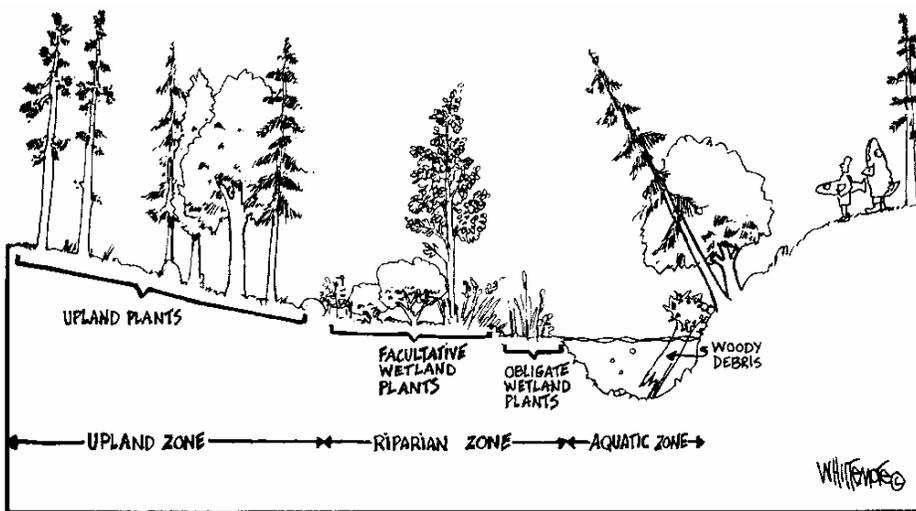
Several types of management actions are employed to help restore rivers like the Cedar. These brief descriptions and illustrations are included for your reference. Bear in mind that actual restoration programs for the lower Cedar would likely include a mix of these four kinds of activities, and possibly others.

Types of Restoration and Enhancement Activities

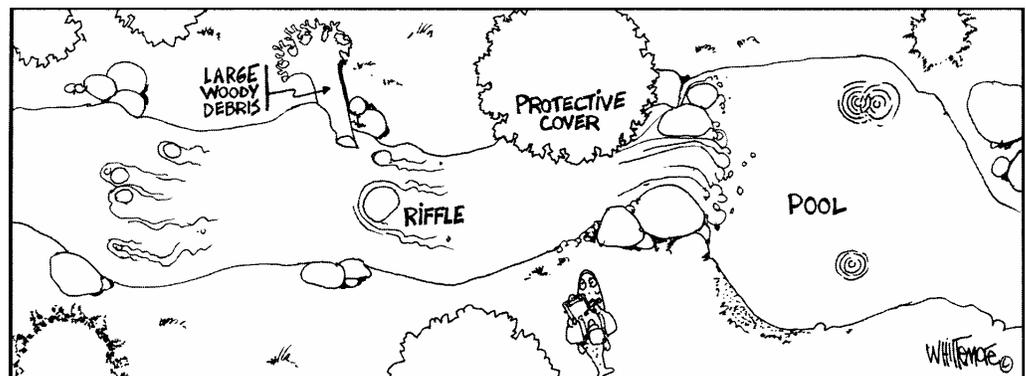
1. Land purchase and protection. Land purchase and protection is intended to protect existing high-quality riparian habitat (stream bank areas) and to protect river hydrology (the pattern of water flow in the watershed, including the river's ability to absorb flood flows). If land with existing structures is purchased, those structures may be removed. Replanting with native vegetation is often done at the same time.



Current status: Some riparian lands along the Lower Cedar River are already under public ownership and managed for habitat. Currently, properties are prioritized for purchase by quality of habitat and then the owners are contacted to determine their willingness to sell. All property sales are strictly voluntary.



Two illustrations of stream conditions considered to be healthy for fish and other wildlife



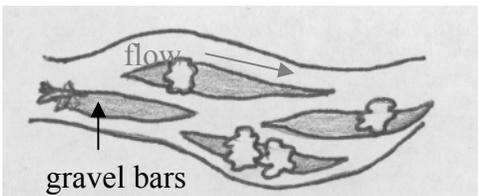
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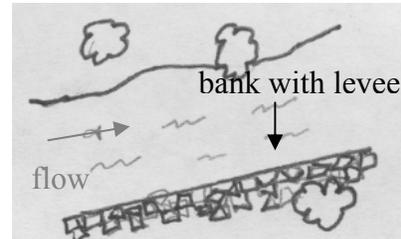
2. Passive restoration. "Passive" restoration aids habitat by removing or modifying levees and bank armoring or other built structures that constrain natural river processes (for example river meandering and the spreading of the river in response to seasonal high flows). Flood flows in channels constrained by levees can result in scouring of salmon spawning areas and the destruction of redds (egg nests). Waters that spill out into wetlands or former river channels after levee removal can create additional fish spawning and rearing habitat. "Setback" levees are typically constructed to prevent flooding of structures that may become more vulnerable after the original levees are removed.



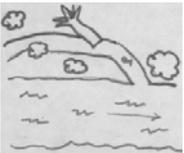
Current status: About two thirds of the lower Cedar River has levees or other bank-stabilizing structures on at least one bank, leading to substantial loss of channel width and reduced flood-absorption capacity.



Examples of an unconstrained braided channel (left) and a semi-constrained channel (right)

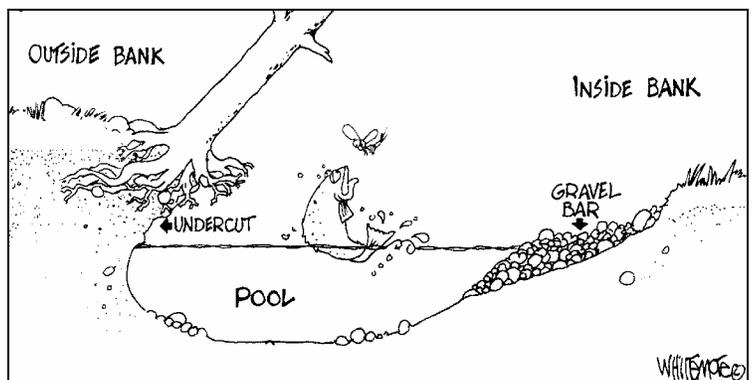


3. Active restoration. "Active" restoration is done to restore and re-create lost or damaged habitat features. Typical restoration projects include side-channel construction and large woody debris placement, usually in the aquatic zone or the riparian zone (see cartoon on reverse).



Current status: A number of small-scale active restoration projects have been undertaken to date in the Cedar; many are outlined in the Cedar Basin Plan (adopted by Metropolitan King County Council in 1997).

Illustration of a constructed side channel (above) and an illustration of conditions an active restoration project might try to re-create (right).



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4. Financial incentive programs. Financial incentive programs include economic incentives to property owners for the protection of riparian buffer zones or other valued habitat features on privately owned land in the floodplain. These can include property tax-reductions and cost sharing for implementation of "best management practices" (i.e., land management practices designed to prevent runoff and pollution).



Current status: Incentives for landowners to protect valued habitat on private lands exist through King County's Public Benefits Rating System (PBRs) and Forest Land Tax Abatement programs. PBRs is the main incentive program for riparian owners: 50-90% tax forgiveness is granted for lands placed in the program.