INVERTEBRATE SUPPLEMENTATION:
A RESTORATION ACTION IN SELECT
STREAM BASINS
This project aims to jump start the ecological recovery of several historically degraded King County streams that may now be able to support a more diverse community of aquatic invertebrates.

What we’re doing
King County biologists will transplant a collection of pollution sensitive invertebrates from healthy streams to four streams where these species are no longer found. Despite habitat restoration efforts, few sensitive species have returned to these streams. Biologists suspect one reason for their absence is that they just can’t get there. By helping these sensitive native species return, King County hopes to accelerate recovery of the whole stream community.

Stonyfly nymph abundant in healthy streams but missing from others

WHAT YOU CAN DO
Everyone can help restore water quality and improve stream habitats. Activities include installing rain gardens at your home, as well as encouraging local planners to implement effective stormwater controls. Reducing the delivery of contaminants and fine sediments, protecting riparian areas, and restoring natural stream flows are all key factors needed to protect and restore freshwater quality. However, do not transplant invertebrates on your own. Moving species from one stream to another requires permits and careful planning to ensure no pathogens or non-native species are added unintentionally.

WHY IS THIS ISSUE IMPORTANT
Invertebrates are indicators of stream health and water quality and are also important prey for salmonids. By facilitating their recovery, King County will help improve the overall health of these streams.

Baskets used to collect invertebrates from a healthy stream

ABOUT KING COUNTY WATER AND LAND RESOURCES DIVISION
The Division protects, restores, and manages King County’s water and land using the best available science, data and innovations in collaboration with its partners and the community.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
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