

Matanuska-Susitna Basin Salmon Habitat Partnership

Site Tour, August 28, 2019

Site Tour Theme: *Spotlight on Cottonwood Creek-an urban salmon stream*

Using Cottonwood Creek as a case study, we will be learning about some of the challenges, and solutions to meet the needs of both salmon and people in a rapidly urbanizing landscape.

8:30 am bus departs Anchorage, 9:30 am bus departs Wasilla Park and Ride on Trunk Rd.

9:45 am Cottonwood Creek at East Settlement Avenue

- *(Jessica Speed, Mat-Su Salmon Partnership Coordinator)* Overview of Partnership & tour focus
- *(Sarah Wilber/Samantha Oslund, Alaska Department of Fish and Game)* Freshwater habitat needs of salmon, and what the Mat-Su Valley and Cottonwood Creek watershed provide.

10:45 am Cottonwood Creek at Parks Highway

- *(Laura Eldred, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation)* Urbanization, and potential impacts to water quality.

11:30 am Newcomb Park, Wasilla Lake

- *(Jessica Johnson, Alaska Department of Fish and Game)* The importance of riparian areas to water quality and fish, example of shoreline restoration.

12:15 pm Cottonwood Creek Park, Palmer-Wasilla Hwy - LUNCH *(If inclement weather, lunch at Newcomb Park)*

1:00 pm Brienne Lane

- *(Mike Gracz, Kenai Watershed Forum)* *Mat-Su's wetlands and wetland loss – their value to people and fish, and what we know about them.*

1:45 pm Cottonwood Creek at Riverdell Drive

- *(Gillian O'Doherty, Alaska Department of Fish and Game/Jim Jenson & Alex Senta, Mat-Su Borough/Trent Liechich, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)* Providing free passage for fish.

2:30 pm Cottonwood Creek at Palmer Hay Flats

- *(Amanda Hults/Libby Kugel, Great Land Trust)* Tools to maintain healthy riparian and wetland areas and services they provide

3:15 pm Final conclusions and wrap-up for the day

- *(Ted Eischeid, Mat-Su Borough/Mat-Su Salmon Partnership Steering Committee)*

3:30 pm bus departs for Wasilla and Anchorage, arriving by 4pm and 5pm respectively.