**Why is Surface Water Management restoring this part of Rody Creek?**

*To reduce flooding*

During storms, urban stormwater runoff moves quickly and has high peak flow volumes which cause soil erosion. This runoff enters Rody Creek and erodes the channel north of 72nd Street East. When the creek reaches the nearly-flat valley floor, stormwater energy is reduced and the eroded materials deposit in the valley, first the large stones, then the sediment. Gravel movement and deposition is normal and healthy for streams. However, Rody Creek has been narrowed, straightened, forced to follow property lines,and the floodplain removed. The eroded rocks, gravel, and sediment filling the creek channel causes flooding during storms.

*To comply with the Clean Water Act and the County's Stormwater NPDES Permit*

Surface Water Management is responsible for compliance with the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (Stormwater NPDES) Permit issued to Pierce County. Stormwater runoff is regulated under the federal Clean Water Act because it can contain pollutants such as oil, gasoline, sediment, and fertilizers. Removal of streamside vegetation, common in urban and rural development, allows the sun to increase water temperatures. Water temperature is a critical measure of water quality.

*To comply with the Endangered Species Act (ESA)*

Pierce County is responsible for compliance with the federal Endangered Species Act. The County is required to manage stormwater, surface water, and land use in order to not harm protected species or the habitat of protected species. In Pierce County, protected fish species include cutthroat trout, Chinook salmon, coho salmon, steelhead, and bull trout. The Rody Creek Restoration Project seeks to reduce the adverse effects on protected species from past, current, and future land use decisions, citizens, businesses, and government.