**THREE RIVERS WALK**

Three Rivers, the Green, the Black, and the Duwamish meet in Tukwila, and offer us a lot of Washington history along with the views. We'll meet at Forster Golf Links, an 18 hole public course named for Joseph Foster, an early settler who claimed land along the Duwamish in 1853.

We'll head south along the Green River trail to the confluence , where the Green and the remnants of the Black River join to form the Duwamish. Here, we'll talk a bit about the history of the area.

Is it the Green River? The Duwamish? The Black River? Or even, the White River?







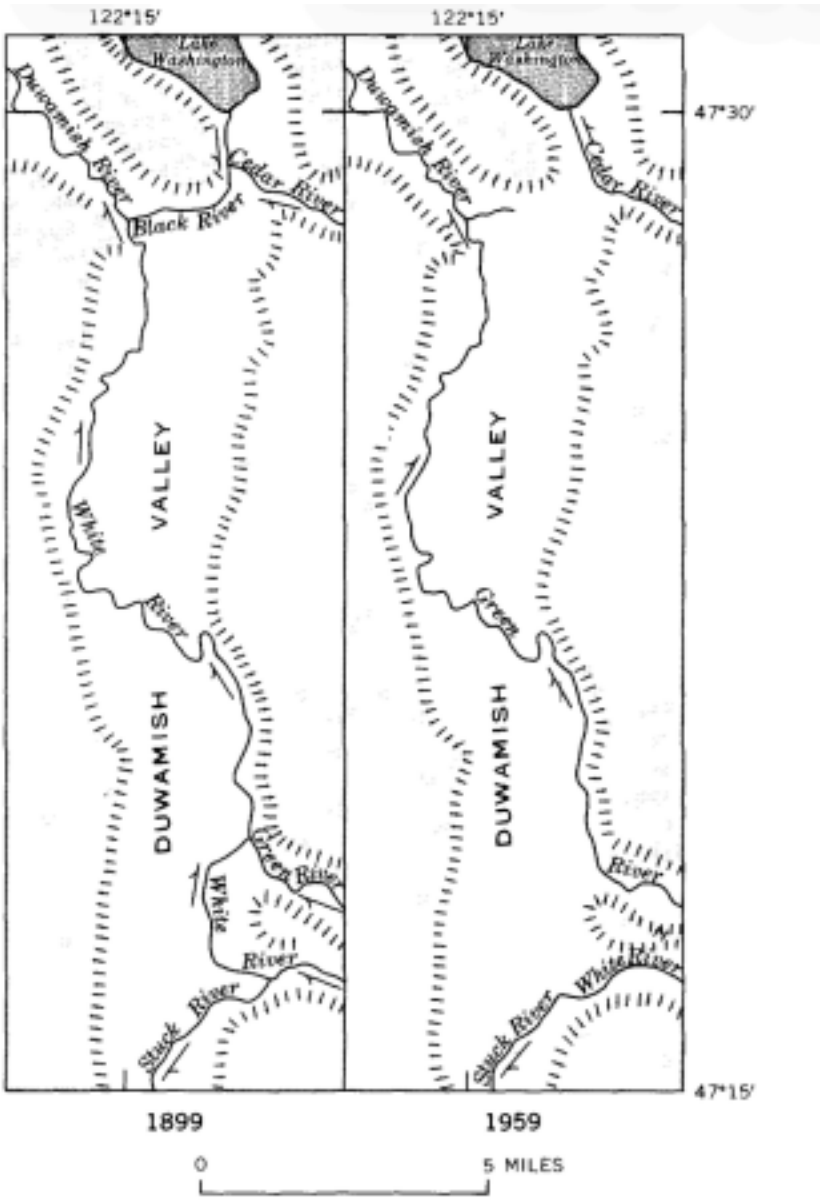
The history of this landscape is complicated, and we need to go back to the late 1890s to begin to understand how this river system has changed.

In the 1890s, the area around the Black River was the center of the Duwamish people. The word Duwamish meant 'the inside', referring to the same area. Tides come up to the

confluence, which meant that salmon coming upstream would pause as they acclimated to the fresh water upstream. White Lake was just above the confluence. In the 1800s, the Duwamish River drained an area of 1640 square miles, from Emmons Glacier on Mt Rainier, to the land around Lake Washington and Lake Sammamish.

At that time, the Green River was a tributary of the White River, which flowed almost to our starting point before meeting the Black River and becoming the Duwamish. With no Montlake cut or Ballard Locks, the Black River flowed out of Lake Washington, almost immediately joined by the Cedar River.

All this began to change in the 1890s, as farmers settled in the Auburn area. The soil was very good, but every year many logs came down the rivers, jammed up, and caused floods that damaged the fields. Farmers used dynamite to clear the logjams, inadvertently affecting the course of the rivers and causing strife between King and Pierce Counties. The White river flowed quite near the Stuck River (a small creek named for the logjams), and it began to divert some water to that channel. In 1906 a large flood pushed a logjam through the Stuck




By Donal R. Mullineaux - Geology

of the Renton, Auburn, and Black Diamond Quadrangles, King County, Washington. (United State Government Printing Office, Washington: 1970)

River, and cleared a channel to the Puyallup River, and the White River changed course permanently, flowing into the Puyallup. This helped the farmers to the north, but Pierce County farmers had more flooding, and Pierce County sued King County over the change. The lawsuit was settled when Hiram Chittenden stated that the White River could not be re-diverted back to King County.

In 1916, the Ballard Locks were built, Lake Washington was lowered, and it began to drain directly into Shilshole Bay. The Cedar River began to flow into Lake Washington, and the Black River dried up.

For the Duwamish people, this changed everything. The villages that had existed for centuries emptied, as the salmon were no longer able to return. Some people remained, unwilling to leave their ancestral home, continuing to live and fish in the area. The new Locks had a plentiful supply of water to operate, but the changes meant that the Duwamish had a watershed a third of its previous size.

From here, we can look across at Starfire Sports, in Fort Dent Park. Before 1855, this land was a winter settlement for the tribe, but a few years after the Point Elliot Treaty, a blockhouse, or small fort was built at this location. It was named after Ulysses Grant's



brother-in-law, Frederick Dent, who led the National Guard Unit that built it.

The land was sold in the 1870s, and privately owned until the 1970s, when it was purchased with funds from Forward Thrust, and made into a park with athletic fields operated first by the City of Seattle, later by King County, and now by the City of Tukwila, and leased to Starfire Sports.



As we cross under the railroad tracks, we'll enter Renton, following the path of the Black River through wetlands. Then we'll walk through an office park, crossing the Black River again and exploring the Waterworks Gardens around the King County Stormwater treatment plant. Waterworks Gardens is a King County Park, designed to filter stormwater runoff as well as offering art and a native wetland for the public to enjoy.



Heading east, we'll walk briefly along busy Grady Way, crossing back into Tukwila, and rejoining the Cedar River trail to take us into Fort Dent for lunch. After lunch, we'll follow the Duwamish past Foster Golf Links again, see the homestead site of the Foster brothers, and walk on, crossing the river into the Tukwila Community Center. After a break, we'll walk through the neighborhood on the east side of the river, returning to the start, and happy hour at Pasifika.

Answer: Left Duwamish

Center Green

Right Black