

## District works with city, others to prepare for flooding along Green River

*Work to strengthen reservoir wall and raise levees means a slightly lower chance of flooding in Green River Valley says Army Corps of Engineers*

October 14, 2009 —Cities, school districts, families and businesses are preparing for possible flooding this fall and winter in the Green River Valley.

The Army Corps of Engineers says that damage last winter to the Howard Hanson Dam, located above Kent, Renton and Auburn, means that more water than usual might have to be released during the rainy season to relieve pressure on the damaged dam.

The Corps recently adjusted their initial flood projections, telling the King County Council that interim repairs are on track to be completed by Nov. 1, including raising the height of the levees in the Green River Valley. The City of Renton reports that it would take a catastrophic event for the floodwaters to raise high enough to reach downtown Renton.



**View Flood Plans:**

[City of Renton](#)

[King County](#)

### No Renton schools thought to be in jeopardy

The Green River flows along the western border of Renton near the boundary between Renton and Tukwila. No Renton schools are in the projected flood zone; however, the district continues to work with city and county officials to be prepared. The district's administrative office is the closest district building to the Green River. About eight homes of Renton School District families, primarily in the Tukwila area, are in the projected flood area.

The district has sufficient insurance in case of flooding. A greater concern for the district, however, is the effects flooding might have on the local sewer system, which could cause severe backflow, causing toilets and water lines at several schools to run over. Maintenance personnel are obtaining permits to install plugs for those sewer lines to stop such backflows if needed. This will keep schools from experiencing water damaged, but will mean schools will not have water and toilet facilities and might have to close until any flood water subsides.