

Chronological Process

- In 1993 the FAA required Paine Field Airport to expand their main runway safety area.
- A wetland would be destroyed by the required runway expansion.
- The Snohomish County Airport proposed the creation of a large wet land nearby in exchange for credit against this and future environmental impacts.
- Parcels belonging to one public and two private landowners were targeted for acquisition.
- Plans for the wetland would incorporate access for public viewing.
- Permitting human entry into wetlands was a concept that met with strong resistance from the regulatory agencies.
- With the blessing of environmental biologists, a suitable site, plans for an engineered wetland, and a dynamic vision for the educational value of permitting people to visit a working wetland, regulatory agencies were induced to compromise.
- A 501(c)3 Corporation named Friends of Narbeck was formed and, composed of members of the business, educational, government, and environmental groups as well as citizens at large, united to make the sanctuary a reality.
- As soon as the land deal was closed, construction began on the engineered wetland.
- *Friends of Narbeck* funded a boardwalk, interpretive signage, a human-sized beaver lodge, a greenhouse, and restroom facilities.
- Volunteers relocated plants from the soon-to-be-displaced wetland - first to a holding area, then to the new site.
- During construction, islands of habitat were left undisturbed and provided a reservoir for repopulating the wetland once it was completed in 1998.
- For seven years, water flow and quality as well as its ecological progressions was monitored.
- At the end of the probationary period, Narbeck was declared an unqualified success.
- The wetland boardwalk, perimeter trail and pond-side amphitheater continues to serve employees of nearby businesses as a place of respite during work breaks.
- Community members spend leisure time in the wetlands and bring their children to its natural environment for wildlife viewing.
- Every year brings a change in plant and animal life as the wetlands matures.