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INFORMATION RELEASE  
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### **Yes, those are dead trees**

*Island in Seawalk to enhance biodiversity of area, creating habitats for wildlife and fish*

Juneau residents have been noticing what appear to be dead trees planted on the island located between the new sections of Seawalk. Those are indeed dead trees and they serve as perching areas for local birds, like eagles and kingfishers. Amusingly, the birds seem to so far prefer the whale statue. But one day, those standing dead trees – and other transferred root wads and logs – will blend into groups of planted alders and spruce trees, shrubs and plants among beach grass and other vegetation.

The dead trees are part of an effort to enhance the diversity of intertidal and upland habitats of the Gold Creek delta for fish, birds and other wildlife – leading to the moniker “habitat island.” Currently, not many things grow in the low quality tidelands. The creation of the island is changing that.

The island is a component of the new Seawalk that extends from W 8th Street near the Juneau-Douglas Bridge to Gold Creek. Pedestrians will be able to step off the piling-supported walkways onto a trail through the island, which will eventually look like a natural shoreline. In addition to the dead trees, other enhancements include rocks and cobbles, various soil mixes, trees and different plants transferred from around Juneau.

The island also fulfills CBJ’s Long Range Waterfront Plan, which the Assembly adopted in 2004, to provide an area for environmental enhancement, education and recreation. The island will have lighting, benches and educational signs.

The public can access the habitat island this fall from the new Seawalk or on an intertidal walkway from the Department of Labor building. The new Seawalk will be open to the public at the end of June.

Follow the construction and learn more about the project at [www.seawalkconstruction.org](http://www.seawalkconstruction.org)

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For more information, contact CBJ project manager Skye Stekoll at 586-0887 or [Skye.Stekoll@juneau.org](mailto:Skye.Stekoll@juneau.org).

Design Illustration, October 2010:



Construction Progress, June 2017:



(Note: The island access road shown in the picture will be removed following completion of the work.)