Millions of salmon historically migrated through the California Delta to thousands of miles of spawning grounds in the Sacramento and San Joaquin River watersheds.

The great water projects of the mid-20th Century transformed the Delta watershed into a global agricultural leader. Dams, diversions, and flood control projects that enabled this transformation depleted 90% of historic salmon spawning and rearing (juvenile) habitat. As a result, salmon populations crashed.

Despite these changes, every autumn we witness the perseverance of salmon. From distant waters of the Pacific Ocean adult salmon return to spawn in Marsh Creek.

To reduce flooding, Marsh Creek was straightened in the 1950s. Well-established streamside, or riparian, vegetation was removed, severely degrading salmon habitat.