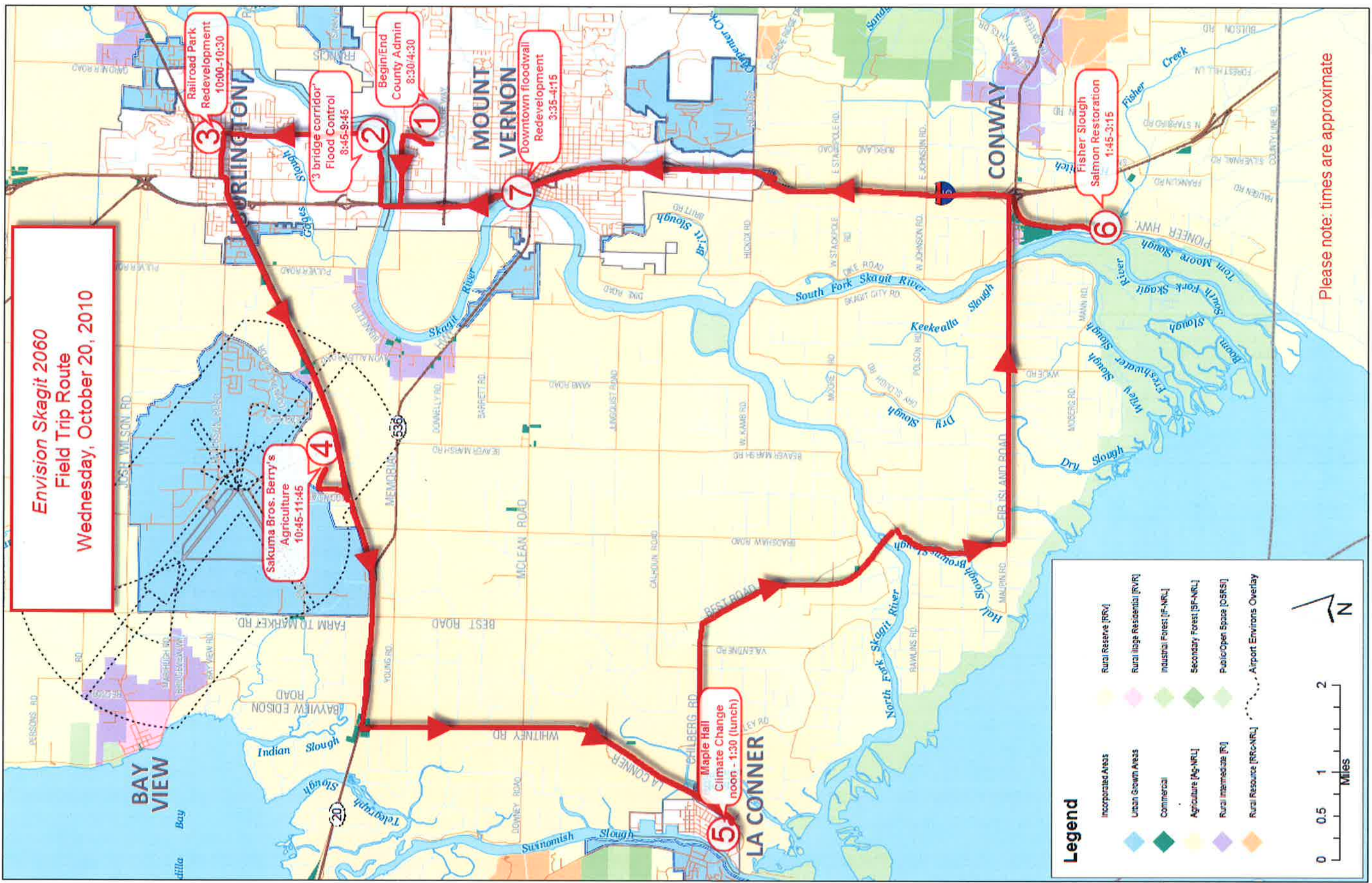


Preliminary Schedule for Wed. October 20
Envision Skagit Citizen Committee Field Trip – Lower Valley
Times subject to minor modification

Time	Location	Focus	Presenter(s)
8:15 a.m.	County Admin Building parking lot	Assemble and load bus	
8:30 a.m.	County Admin Building parking lot	Bus departs (promptly)	
8:45 – 9:45	Dike location, 3-bridge corridor	Floods – flood history and risk, FEMA maps, GI study, NFMS bio opinion implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tim DeVries, SC Floodplain Manager • Dan Berentson, Natural Resources Division Manager, SC Pub Works
9:45 – 10:00	Travel to downtown Burlington, Railroad Park		
10:00 – 10:30	Railroad park	Burlington redevelopment plans, urban “edge planning” issues, density credit program, affordable housing	Margaret Fleek, Burlington Planning Director
10:30 – 10:45	Travel to Sakuma Farms blueberry field (SR 20 and Higgins Airport Rd).		
10:45 – 11:45	Sakuma farm field	Unique features of Skagit agriculture; land preservation; WSU/ Port/ GrowFood incubator farm, I-5 Agricultural Scenic Corridor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steve Sakuma, Sakuma Bros. Farms • Allen Rozema, Skagitonians to Preserve Farmland
11:45 – noon	Travel to La Conner		
Noon - 12:30	Upper Maple Hall	Lunch	
12:30 – 1:30	Upper Maple Hall and Swinomish Channel	Climate change impacts: Swinomish and La Conner communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ed Knight, Planner, Swinomish Tribe • John Doyle, Administrator, La Conner
1:30 – 1:45	Travel to Fisher Slough		
1:45 – 3: 15	Fisher Slough site visit	Fisher Slough ecosystem restoration goals; flood storage benefits; cooperative planning with landowners/ dike district	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kevin Morse, Kris Knight, The Nature Conservancy • Mike Shelby, Western Washington Agricultural Association
3:15 – 3:35	Travel to downtown Mount Vernon		
3:35 – 4:15	Revetment area behind the Carnation Building	Downtown floodwall project, Mount Vernon flood protection, downtown redevelopment plans	Jana Hanson, Community and Economic Development Director, Mount Vernon
4:15 – 4:30	Return to County Admin building		



Please note: times are approximate

Legend

Incorporated Areas	Rural Reserve [RR]
Urban Growth Areas	Rural Intermediate Residential [RIR]
Commercial	Industrial Forest [IF-NRL]
Agriculture [AG-NRL]	Secondary Forest [SF-NRL]
Rural Intermediate [RI]	Public/Open Space [OSRS]
Rural Resource [RR-NRL]	Airport Environs Overlay

0 0.5 1 2 Miles

N

City of Mount Vernon Flood Protection Project and Riverfront Trail



Mayor:

Bud Norris

City Council:

Bob Fiedler

Joe Lindquist

Scott McMullen

Gary Molenaar

Ken Quam

Dale Ragan

Mike Urban



For more information, please contact:

Jana Hanson, Community & Economic Development Director
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(360) 336-6214

PO Box 809
910 Cleveland Avenue
Mount Vernon, WA 98273
www.ci.mount-vernon.wa.us

City of Mount Vernon Flood Protection Project and Riverfront Trail



DESCRIPTION OF CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

- 9,300 linear feet (1.76 miles) of floodwall and levee to protect historic downtown Mount Vernon and the Waste Water Treatment Plant
- 4,200 linear feet of 25-ft wide riverwalk & trail connection to regional trail system
- 64,000 square foot Public Riverfront Plaza
- **First phase now under construction**
 - **1300 lineal feet of floodwall & river trail between Division Street Bridge north to Lions Park**
 - **Scheduled to be complete September 2010**

IMMEDIATE BENEFITS

State Interests:

- Will protect Interstate 5 and State Route 536
- Will secure major freight, passenger and commuter corridors through the protection of I-5 and the BNSF rail line
- Will protect the City's Waste Water Treatment Facility located within 200 feet of the Skagit River and ultimately the Puget Sound from untreated wastewater

Additional Benefits:

- Eliminates need to deploy state and federal emergency services during flood event (2000 volunteers, 150,000 sandbags)
- Will stabilize and protect both local and state property tax base and tax revenue
- Will protect County and City essential public facilities
- Eliminates need for disaster relief support and funding for flood damage
- Will reduce expected flooding for several square miles to the south of Mount Vernon

PARTNERS

Funding Partnerships:

- Dike District #3
- Skagit County
- Puget Sound Energy
- State of Washington

Community Partners in Support:

- Skagit Valley Hospital
- Skagit Valley College
- Mount Vernon School District
- Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce
- Mount Vernon Downtown Association
- Mount Vernon Farmers Market

City of Mount Vernon Flood Protection Project and Riverfront Trail



ECONOMIC BENEFITS

JOB CREATION:

- **100+ immediate construction jobs** for flood control project during construction of flood control project
- **+ 1800 construction jobs over next 5-15 years due to redevelopment activity**

NEW DEVELOPMENT:

- New Development in downtown over next 5-10 years:
 - ◇ **626 new jobs in 5 years and 1,338 within 15 years**
 - ◇ 125,000 square feet of new retail commercial
 - ◇ 55,000 square feet of new office
 - ◇ 200 units of high-density residential
 - ◇ Master Developer committed to redevelopment of downtown
- Over next 30 yrs:
 - ◇ Cumulative State sales tax will increase \$156 million
 - ◇ Property tax will increase \$9 million
 - ◇ **2,548 new jobs within 30 years**

READINESS TO PROCEED

- ***All permits complete and in hand***
- Engineering design completed
- Environmental studies (NEPA, SEPA) completed
- Estimated Construction Period - Less than 1 year

City of Mount Vernon Flood Protection Project and Riverfront Trail



Summary of Funding for Downtown Flood Structure and Promenade

Revenue Source:	Amount
Secured Funds:	
City of Mount Vernon	4,518,475 ^a
Skagit County Dike District # 3	1,250,000
Skagit County Economic Development Grant	500,000
PSE Contribution	1,000,000
Governor's Capital Grant, 2007	987,500
Washington State Rural Vitality Grant	800,000
RCO / ALEA State Grant	436,442
RCO / WWRP Trails State Grant	349,153
CDBG funds	1,451,258
Total	11,292,828
Funding Pursuits in progress:	
Federal Reauthorization - SAFETEA-LU	2,960,000
Total	2,960,000
Other Possible Funding Pursuits:	
Future State / Federal Appropriation Request	8,800,000
2011 State competitive parks grants	834,405
Proceeds from land sales and/or bond proceeds	1,212,767
Total	10,847,172
Total Funding (all categories):	25,100,000
Estimated Project Cost:	25,100,000

Total Costs Incurred from Inception to June 30, 2010

Expenses by category:	
Property acquisition	3,486,670
Demolition	107,733
Design and Engineering	2,055,916
Construction	749
Master plan and other costs	715,728
Total Expense	6,366,796

a 40% of committed funds come from the City of Mount Vernon

SHORTFALL AND NEED:

\$8.8 million to complete Flood Protection Project

City of Mount Vernon Flood Protection Project and Riverfront Trail



The City of Mount Vernon has recently completed a comprehensive redevelopment plan for its historic downtown area. The goal of this planning effort is to guide the investment of public and private resources in the downtown area over the next 20 years. However, flooding on the Skagit River over the last century has caused millions of dollars in damage to land and infrastructure, put human lives at risk, and continues to pose a major barrier to further investment in the downtown area. Recent floods, including the October 2003, November 1995, and two November 1990 events caused extensive flood damage in floodplain areas within Skagit County, however the City of Mount Vernon was able to successfully mobilize flood-fighting measures to prevent damage to the City.



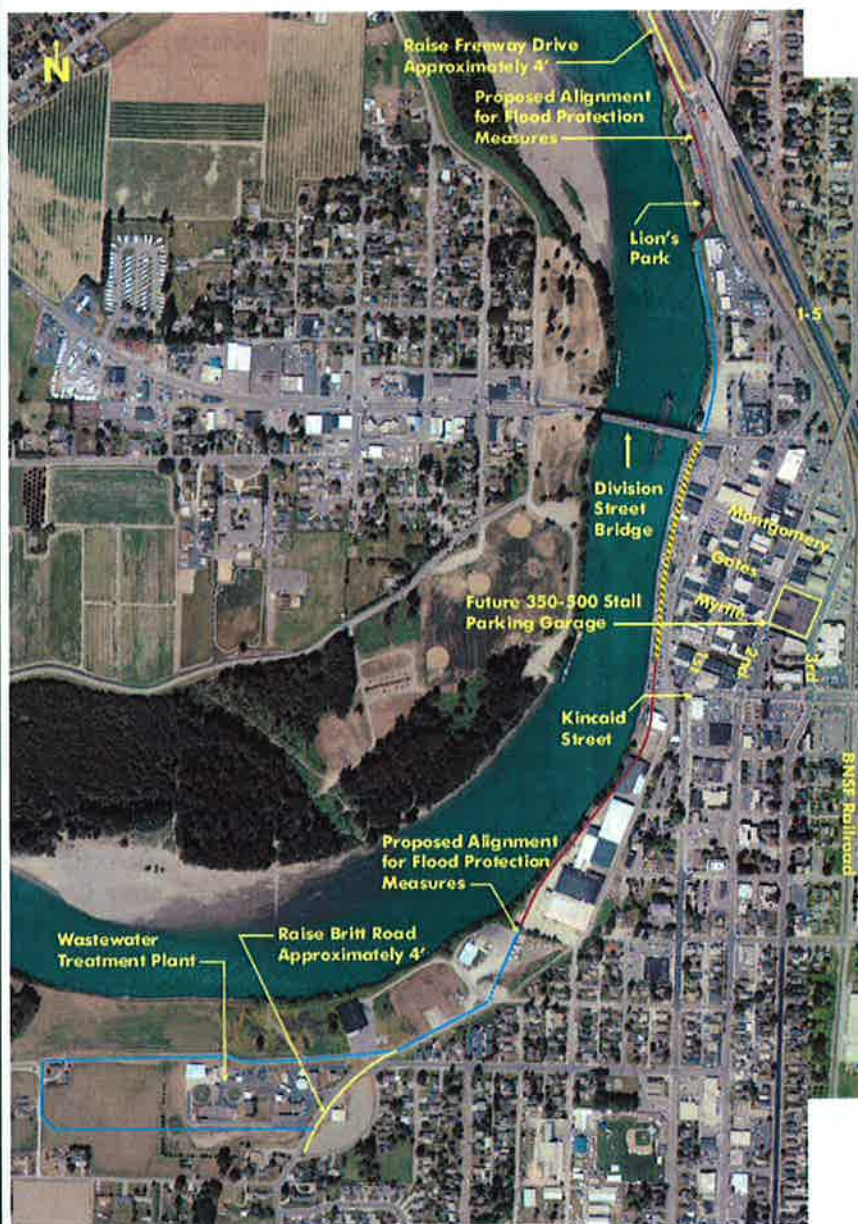
This effort involves over 2000 volunteers and over 150,000 bags of sand which are piled into a protective wall around the downtown area. Nevertheless, flood fighting measures cannot guarantee protection from major floods and unless permanent flood damage reduction measures are put in place the downtown will continue to be at undue risk. In addition to the urbanized areas of Mount Vernon, major transportation corridors, including Interstate 5, State Route 536 and the BNSF mainline along with other public infrastructure are prone to severe flooding. The US Army Corps of Engineers has estimated that a 100-year flood could cause more than \$1 billion in damages, with expected annual damages of \$75 million.

Over the past two years the City of Mount Vernon has taken proactive steps towards providing permanent flood protection in the historic downtown area. An EIS on flood protection measures was completed in 2007 and preliminary engineering is complete on the preferred flood protection measure. Final engineering is scheduled to be completed in fall 2008 and with adequate funding; construction will begin in late 2009/early 2010. The design of the flood protection measure will provide more than 100-year protection to the downtown area and will be combined with an enhanced river promenade and trail system to encourage public use of the shorelines.





FLOOD PROTECTION STUDY AREA



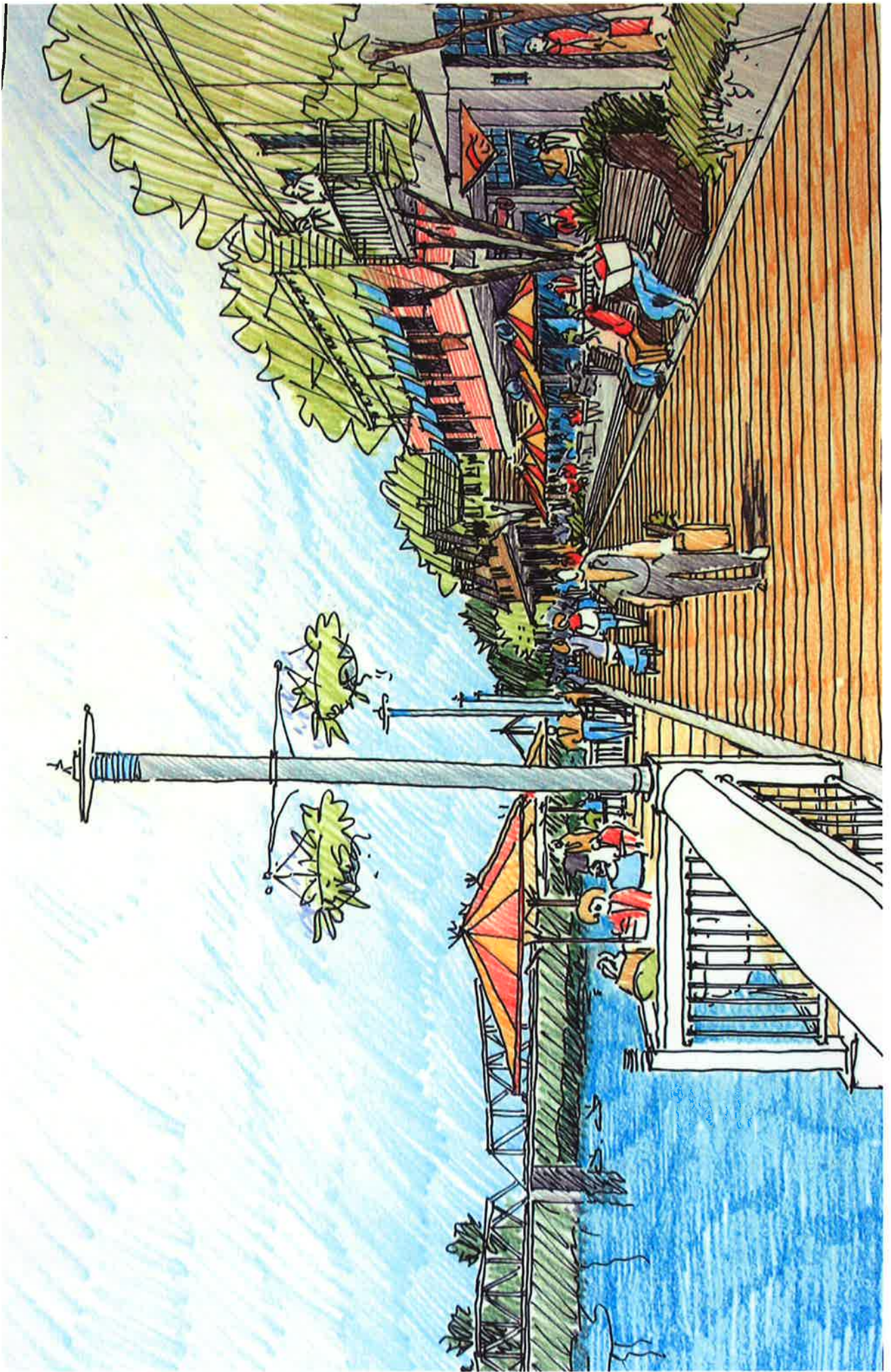
- Wall Levee
- Earth Levee
- To be determined during preliminary engineering

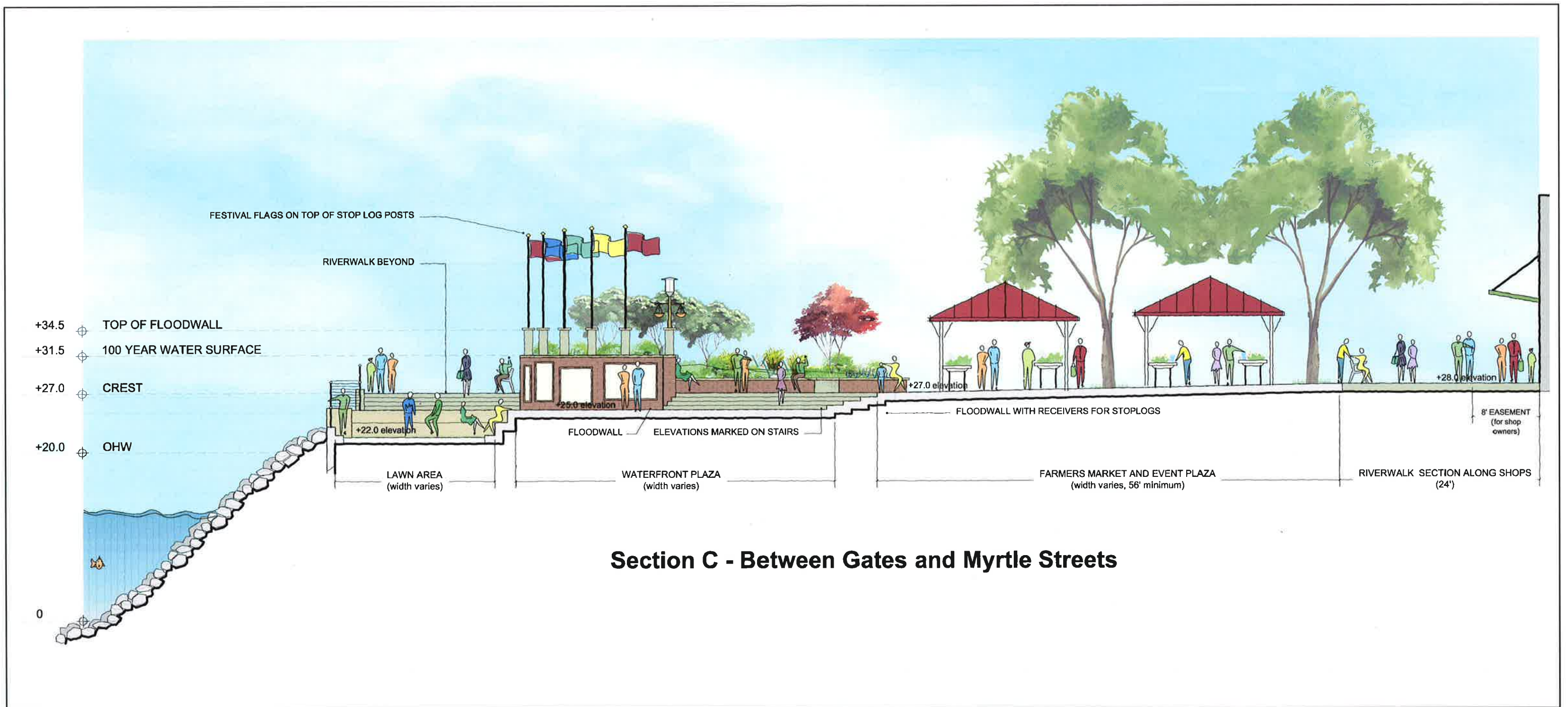
City of Mount Vernon Flood Protection Project and Riverfront Trail



Downtown and Waterfront Flood Control Project







Skagit Riverwalk - Mount Vernon WA

Conceptual Layout Plan

Prepared for:
City of Mount Vernon
with - Pacific International Engineering, Project Lead

Prepared by:
eccosDesign
Landscape Architecture and Planning
Mount Vernon, WA 99273
p. 360.419.7400
f. 800.508.2017



September 9, 2008





FISHER SLOUGH

FRESHWATER TIDAL MARSH RESTORATION



Kirsten Morse

Creating a more sustainable future for farmers and fish

Fisher Slough is a tidally influenced wetland and farmland complex in the southeast portion of the Skagit River delta, south of the town of Mount Vernon, Washington. The slough drains a 22 square mile watershed and is surrounded by prime farmland. The Nature Conservancy seeks to restore native plant communities, freshwater tidal marsh habitat and fish passage throughout the slough while increasing flood storage capacity. This project will demonstrate that restoration can benefit agriculture and serve as a community asset while also providing a better home for native species.

Restoring natural processes

Fisher Slough historically supported dynamic tidal and non-tidal wetlands. To claim land for agricultural purposes, tide gates and levees were installed decades ago. Today, the slough and its lower tributaries are confined and filled with invasive non-native plants; the historic alluvial fan has been eliminated; and natural flooding and tidal events are almost non-existent. The net results are a reduction in extent and diversity of wetlands, reduced accessibility for fish, degraded water quality and a reduction in flood storage capacity. By replacing antiquated tide gates, setting back levees and fixing complex drainage structures, The Nature Conservancy will restore 60 acres, creating vital habitat and allowing natural stream and tidal processes to work again.

Vital habitat for salmon

The Skagit River basin remains a salmon stronghold, and Fisher Slough contributes to that heritage: though heavily altered, it is one of the last significant freshwater tidal sloughs available to juvenile Chinook salmon as they move down the river. However, fish passage has been effectively blocked for decades in this system. By removing barriers to passage, The Nature Conservancy will open up many acres of marsh habitat for juvenile Chinook, as well as provide spawning access to 15 miles of tributary habitat for populations of Coho and chum salmon. Pink salmon, cutthroat and steelhead trout are also expected to benefit from this significant restoration action.

An investment in the future

The current structures and design at Fisher Slough are costly for local farmers, communities and the dike district to maintain. Tide gates and levees require frequent attention and repair. Floods damage fields and property. A complex drainage system serves as a bottleneck and inhibits effective management.

A goal of the Fisher Slough project is to design the restoration to improve system performance while minimizing the need for maintenance. The restoration will set back levees, which will improve area flood storage capacity and reduce the need to repair eroded levees, dredge tributary creeks or tend damaged fields.

This restoration project is a significant contribution to local and regional salmon recovery goals. The Skagit Chinook Recovery Plan, which calls for the restoration of several thousand acres of estuarine habitat, specifically references Fisher Slough. This restoration effort is also a component of the Three-Year Implementation Salmon Plan for the Skagit Basin 2008-2010, as developed by the Skagit Watershed Council.



The Fisher Slough project will restore 60 acres of native habitat (outlined in red). Current drainage ditches (solid green line) will be rerouted (dotted green line), allowing existing streams (blue) to flow more naturally through the slough.



Supporting local communities

The Skagit River delta is the heart of western Washington's agricultural community, home to a rich farming tradition. The Nature Conservancy supports this community and recognizes its essential role as a partner and steward of a sustainable natural heritage.

Fisher Slough is surrounded by farmland. When heavy rains fall on area lowlands, the Slough fills up quickly and floodwaters spill into neighboring fields. Restoring native wetland habitat and increasing flood storage capacity will protect productive farmland and provide greater certainty for area farmers.

Success at Fisher Slough will build partnerships and set a precedent that will generate opportunities for future restoration. The flood control and infrastructure challenges overcome here will inform other potential estuary restoration projects in the Skagit delta and beyond. Moreover, this project has the potential to break through past patterns of deadlock and adversarial struggle to achieve solutions that work.

This Fisher Slough restoration effort is the first of its kind on private land in Skagit County. Since its inception, this project has been a collaborative endeavor with community stakeholders, resulting in widespread support of the effort. By working together, the Conservancy and its partners hope to demonstrate that such habitat restoration will contribute to a sustainable agricultural tradition in the greater Skagit delta.

Nature Conservancy Contacts

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