

Harper Estuary Restoration & Park Planning



September 26, 2019

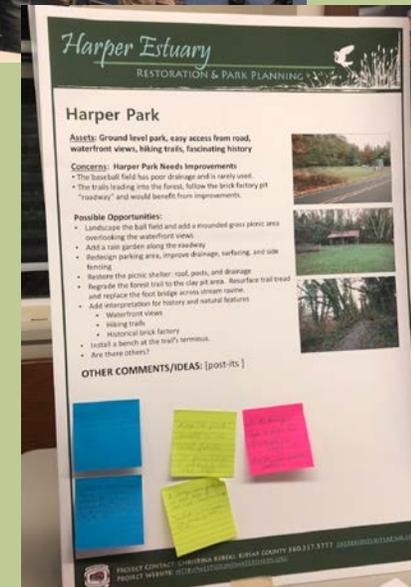
Estuary Restoration & Park Improvements



GOALS: CLEAN UP & RESTORE ~ COMMUNITY STEWARDSHIP ~ UPGRADE PARK FACILITIES

Meeting Program

- ▶ What we have heard from the Harper community
- ▶ Review the draft Harper Park Improvement Plan
 - ▶ Plan goals
 - ▶ How does the proposed plan reflect community recommendations?
- ▶ Possible community actions



What does the Harper Community value?

Most valued assets:

- ▶ Estuary and natural setting
- ▶ Healthy estuarine habitats, fish and wildlife
- ▶ Safety and public access to scenic water views
- ▶ Recreation for all ages
- ▶ Local history and culture
- ▶ Community stewardship



Community Recommendations

- ▶ **Trails and gathering spaces**
 - foot bridge, benches, upgrade picnic shelter
- ▶ **Signs and interpretive education**
 - new signs, trail maps, educational signs, entrance landscaping
- ▶ **Recreation opportunities**
 - baseball facility, multi-purpose field
- ▶ **Beach and estuary access**
 - vehicle barrier along shoreline, access to water for kayaks
- ▶ **Safety and Parking**
 - safe pedestrian crossing, increased parking



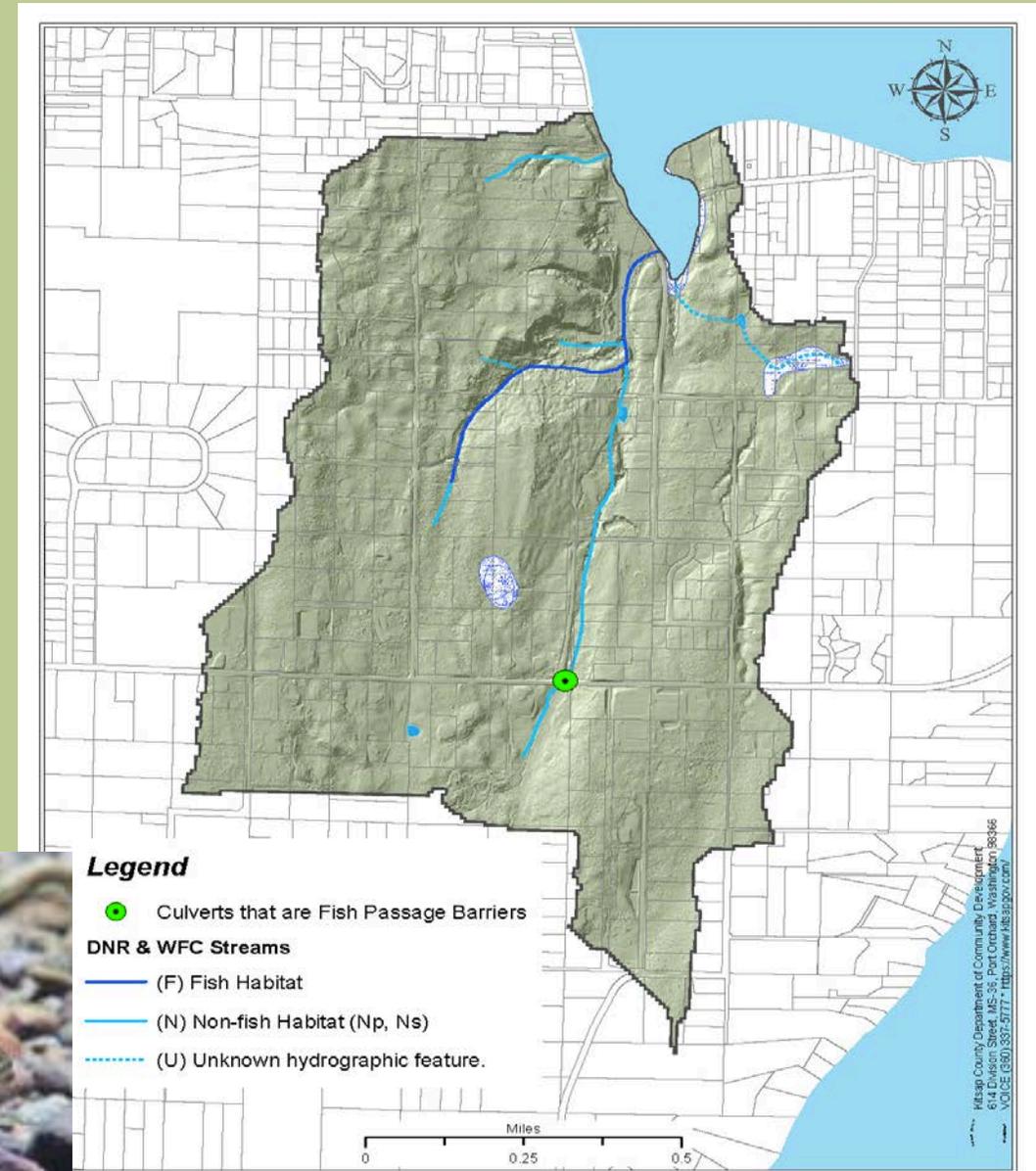
Park Ownership

- ▶ Kitsap County Park boundary
- ▶ WA Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Aquatic Lands////////
 - ▶ A lease is required for state aquatic lands
 - ▶ Emphasis on water-dependent public uses



Watershed & Estuary

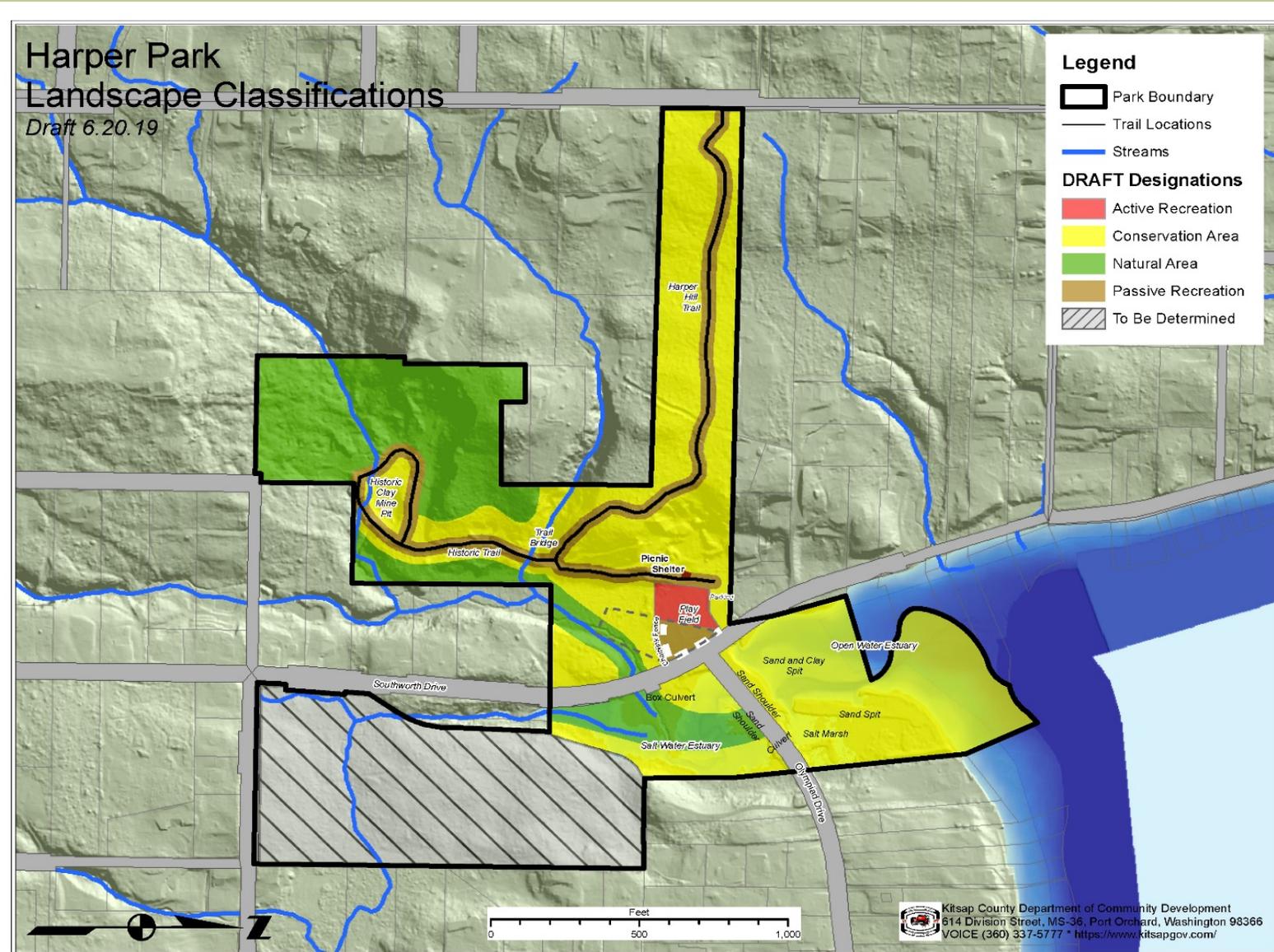
- ▶ 640 acre Harper Creek watershed
- ▶ Two miles of stream with 0.6 mile "fish bearing"
- ▶ Cutthroat trout, sculpin, juvenile salmon
- ▶ Saltwater wetlands and tidelands recovering after ecological restoration



Planning for Diverse Park Uses

LANDSCAPE CLASSIFICATIONS (draft)

- Natural
- Conservation
- Passive Use Areas
- Active Use Areas





Park Improvement Goals

- STAGE 1: Maintain Harper Park facilities
- STAGE 2 : Enhance Harper Park
- STAGE 3 : Augment Harper Park

Stage 1 Goal: Maintain

- Remove hazard trees
- Control noxious weeds
- Restore picnic shelter
- Restore water drainage in field
- Replace foot bridge, entrance signs
- Upgrade historic trail
- Improve privacy fencing
- Organize park stewardship group



Your thoughts?



Stage 2 Goal: Enhance

- ▶ Vehicle control barriers along shoreline
- ▶ Interpretive signage related to estuary restoration and local history
- ▶ Improve picnic furnishings
- ▶ Trail standards and annual maintenance
- ▶ Parking lot controls/fencing



Other ideas?



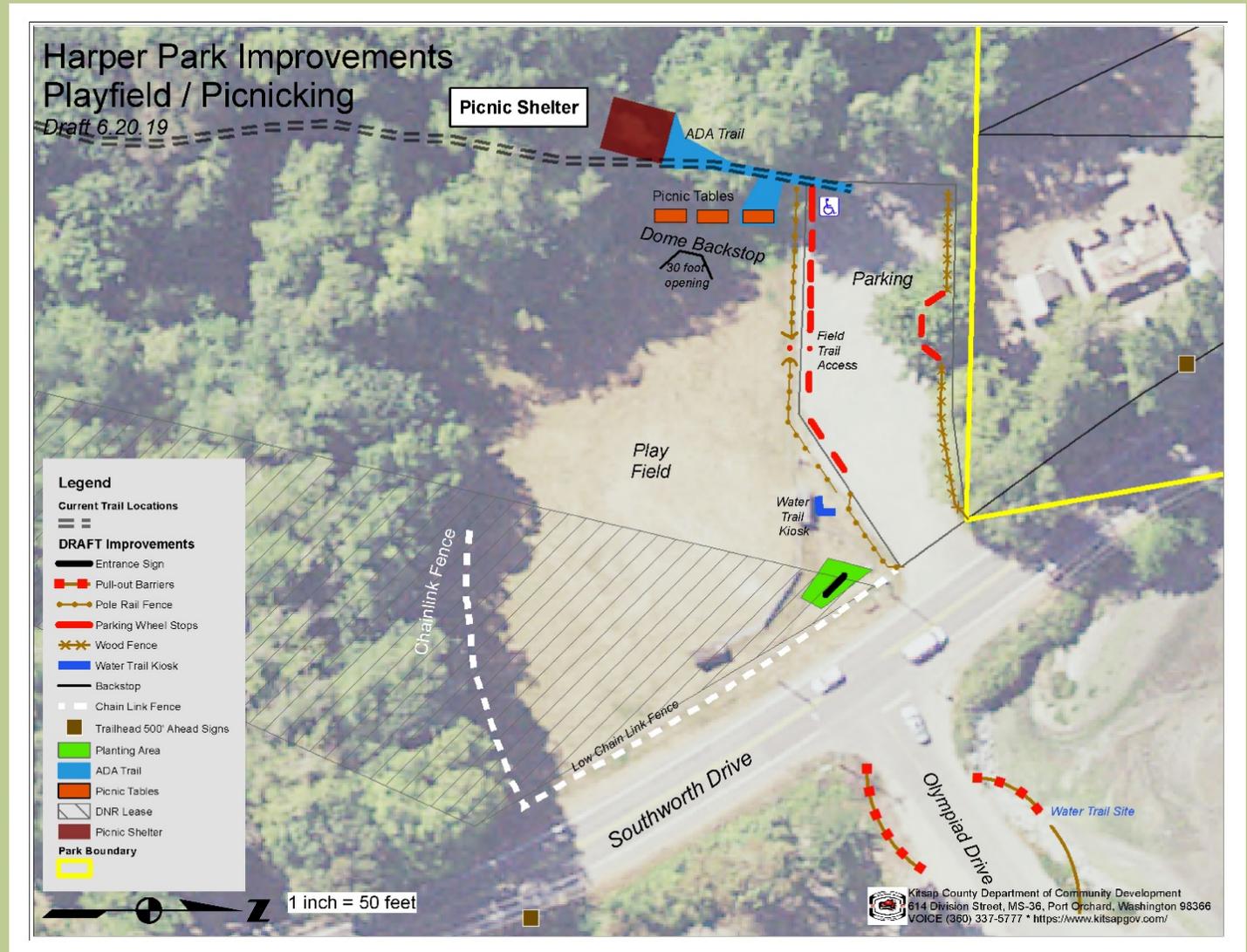
Stage 3 Goal: Augment

- ▶ Update ballfield
- ▶ Redevelop field fencing and backstop
- ▶ Redesign parking area
- ▶ Additional signage as needed
- ▶ Docent tours
- ▶ Native plant garden



Draft Layout for Park Improvements

- Replace backstop
- Accessible picnic shelter
- More picnic tables and BBQs
- Parking controls
- Fencing
- Native garden near entrance
- Interpretive waterways display



Updated Ballfield and Backstop

Benefits:

- ▶ Water views
- ▶ More space for multi-use activities and picnicking
- ▶ Enhanced entrance / Park landscaping
- ▶ Interpretive displays and waterway kiosk
- ▶ Per DNR leasing requirements



What else?





Next Steps: Plan Approval

- ▶ Community Final Draft Plan and comments/responses posted online
- ▶ REVIEW by Parks Advisory Board

Community Opportunities for Actions

- ▶ **Community park stewardship**
 - Noxious weed removal & new opportunities
 - October 27 meeting and work party (contact Amy Smalley or Carmen Smith)
- ▶ **Science for citizens!**
Green crab and shoreline monitoring
 - Washington Sea Grant Green Crab Team (contact Jeff Adams)
- ▶ **Plan interpretive signage**
 - Participate in ideas workshops (contact County project team)



Thank you!

