



Harper Estuary Restoration and Park Planning

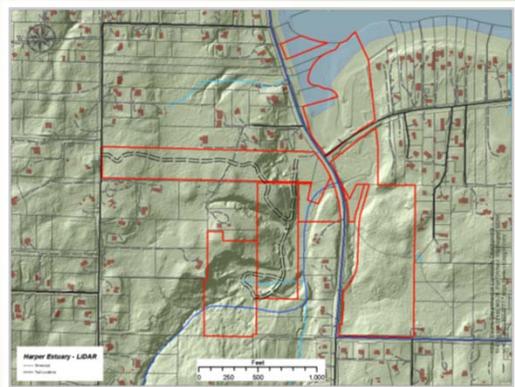
March 21, 2019



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Program

- ▶ Meeting purpose
- ▶ Grant review
- ▶ What we heard from Harper residents



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Meeting Purpose

- Learn about grant progress
- Discuss ideas for park and estuary improvements
- Explore community interest about the project



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Grant Review

- Purpose: To plan for the protection and restoration of Harper Estuary and improve the park.
- Goals:
 - Develop a park improvement plan
 - Monitor natural estuary functions
 - Support community engagement

Monitoring our Estuaries:
Where the Streams Meet the Sea
Calvin Sidhu, Western Washington University, Husley College on the Peninsula

What is an Estuary? How are they important?

An estuary is a body of water where fresh water and salt water come together. This creates a unique environment for specialized plants and animals that thrive in brackish water. Within the Puget Sound region, estuaries are found in places such as: Great Bay, Hood Canal, Cobscook Bay, and many others. Estuaries are important because they provide a natural filter for pollutants, and they provide a natural habitat for many species of fish and wildlife. Estuaries are also important because they provide a natural habitat for many species of fish and wildlife.

What Can an Estuary do?

Estuaries provide many vital ecosystem services to the Puget Sound region, including:

- Protection of Fish, Wildlife, and Shellfish from the Sea
- The Removal of Pollutants from the Atmosphere
- Increased Species Diversity
- Harvesting of products such as Mollusks, Bivalves, and Fish
- Scenic, Recreational, and Cultural Value
- Protection from Floods and Sea Level Rise
- Cooler Climate and Water Temperatures

Restoration and Monitoring

It is important to restore and protect estuaries and wetlands in the Puget Sound region because they are important to the health of the Puget Sound. Estuaries are also important because they provide a natural habitat for many species of fish and wildlife. Estuaries are also important because they provide a natural habitat for many species of fish and wildlife.

Field Extran and Oxygen Saturation Levels

Monitoring Water Quality with an Emphasis on Heavy Metal Accumulation

Water Quality Including Fluid Chemical Dynamics and Sediment Stability

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Project Activities So Far

1. **Community Meeting: Introduce project goals/team**
2. **Community Walk-shop: On site review of park improvement ideas**
 - Identify park safety and maintenance projects
 - Advance maintenance projects
 - Form stewardship group
3. **Partners Meeting: Coordinate with Suquamish Tribe, DOE, DNR, & WDFW**
4. **Set up survey locations for estuary monitoring**



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Harper Park Upgrades and Maintenance

- Start trail maintenance
- Remove ivy
- Renew park entrance signs
- Assess tree hazards
- Design a new trail bridge



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Community Opportunities

- ▶ Participate in a Harper stewardship group
- ▶ Contribute ideas for the park plan and improvements
- ▶ Monitor estuary features (crab and shoreline surveys)
- ▶ Create other community projects



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Community Engagement Goals

- ▶ Build from previous participation
- ▶ Provide clear information
- ▶ Record community ideas for possible actions



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Community Outreach to Date

- January 30, Open House, grant overview
- February 24, Walk-shop, discuss park and estuary improvements while on-site
- Coming soon... your ideas in action!



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What we learned from you: Harper community

Values:

- Harper estuary
- Quality of the estuarine habitat, tidal exchange, & fish passage
- Access to recreation for all ages
- Safety, history, and public access to scenic water views
- Community stewardship



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Community Assets

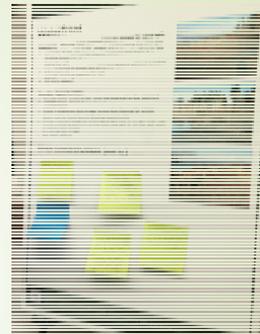
- ▶ Local history and culture
- ▶ Scenic vistas
- ▶ Neighborhood connectivity
- ▶ Wildlife and natural environment
- ▶ Multi-use recreational opportunities in the park area
 - ▶ Cited Recreation Uses: Hiking, kayaking, bicycling, play (child focused), boating, picnicking, wildlife observation, and baseball



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Theme: Shoreline Amenities

- ▶ Kayak launch
- ▶ Observation viewpoints
- ▶ Benches
- ▶ Perhaps a boardwalk along the spit
- ▶ Vehicle barrier on the shoreline to prevent driving on beach



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Theme: Signs

Place interpretive signs for points of history, nature, and community projects

- New signs (Harper Hill)
- Create trail map



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Theme: Trails

- Enhance trails
- Place a new pedestrian bridge across the ravine
- Locate benches at key viewpoints along trails



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Theme: Ballfield (Requires More Discussions)

- Some favor shifting the single-use ballfield into a multi-use open field
- Some concerns about changing this space
- Need recreation features for youth



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Additional Park Suggestions

- Picnic shelter enhancements
- Parking lot upgrades
- New play structures for children
- Safe crossing from park to beach
- Bike racks, rain garden, bathroom



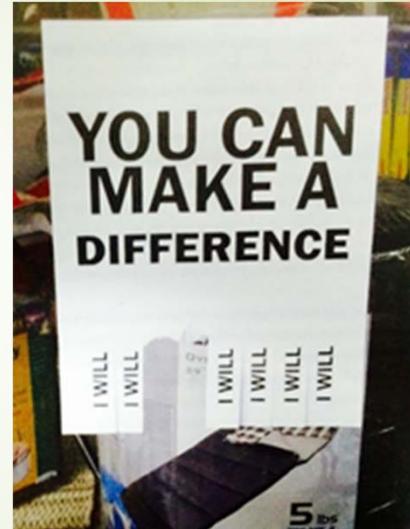
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Community Conversations

- What do you think?
- How can we partner with you?
- Who wants to work on this community project?

POSTER STATIONS:

1. Discuss, add your thoughts at each of the topical stations



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Thank you
for your dedication
to the Harper
community!

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