



Harper Community Meeting Summary

Date: Thursday, March 21, 2019, 6:30-8 p.m.

Location: Colby United Methodist Church, 2881 Harvey Street SE, Port Orchard

Purpose: This is a third meeting with Harper residents to discuss possible improvements to the park, estuary, and shoreline to be funded by a Washington State Department of Ecology grant. The 2019 grant supports continued restoration planning for the estuary as well as developing a plan for Harper Park. This gathering follows a Harper Park site tour and a January community conversation about park and estuary improvements. Today's event provides neighbors and staff an opportunity to explore potential park improvements further, learn about grant progress, and hear community interest about the project.

Community Attendees: Twelve community members attended the meeting. Of these, eight expressed interest in volunteering or becoming park stewards.

County Representatives: Commissioner Charlotte Garrido; Christina Kereki, Department of Community Development; Jennifer Cannon, Commissioners Office; and Jim Dunwiddie, Steven Starlund, Jackson Lee, and Ric Catron of the Parks Department.

Agenda:

1. Commissioner Garrido welcomed attendees and made introductions.
2. Christina Kereki outlined the meeting purpose and the project; and gave an update on the grant for estuary restoration and park improvements.
3. Jennifer Cannon presented ideas we heard from Harper residents. She outlined core community values learned from local residents, since

these values will help shape the future of both the estuary and park. This presentation was followed by public conversations and some questions and answers. (The public comments are summarized in the Community Comments section that follows.)

4. The presentation is available [here](#).

A presentation slide with a light green background. The title is "What we learned from you: Harper community". Below the title, the word "Values:" is followed by a list of five bullet points: "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", and "Community stewardship". To the right of the text are two small photographs: the top one shows a wide view of an estuary with a boat, and the bottom one shows two children sitting on a rocky shore. A blue arrow points from the left towards the title.

5. The posters (available [here](#)) presented for open house discussion display newly created conceptual ideas for different park features. The six posters offer information on:
- 1) trails;
 - 2) signage, interpretation, wayfinding, and history;
 - 3) landscaping enhancements and gardens;
 - 4) field;
 - 5) picnic facility and parking upgrades; and
 - 6) waterfront and estuary access.

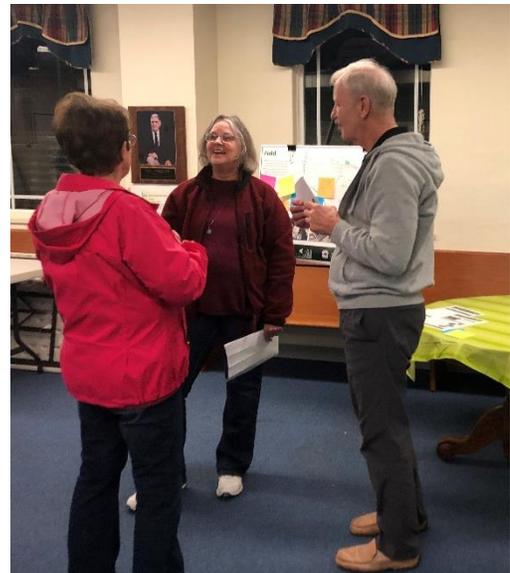
Meeting Outcomes:

- ✓ This event asked Harper area residents about possible features to enhance or improve -- such as the parking lot, picnic shelter, drainage, trails, signs, ballfield and shoreline.
- ✓ Participants provided verbal and written comments about potential park and shoreline improvements. In addition to previous suggestions and existing project/site constraints, these ideas will guide Kitsap County staff in shaping future efforts and a park improvement plan.
- ✓ The conversations help distinguish actions the community members generally agree should occur, and topics that require further discourse.

Summary of Community Comments

Project Update Questions

- How much does the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) allow through a land lease? *Staff said DNR emphasizes water-dependent uses on State Owned Aquatic Land leases. If uses are not water-dependent they may require authorization for exceptional circumstances. The non-dependent uses must be compatible with current and future water-dependent uses in the area. Rent is typically charged for non-water dependent uses (such as parking).*
- What's the update on the bridge? *Staff replied that Public Works has finished permitting and that the project awaits funding to construct the bridge. The design drawings are posted on the project website.*
- How many families live in Harper? *It would be useful to understand demographics in the area, and research will be done to learn more.*



Harper Park

Picnic Facility & Parking Upgrades

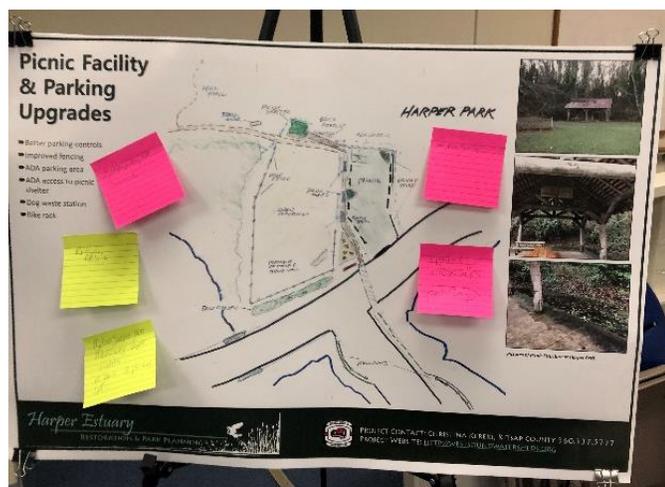
- Better parking controls
- Improved fencing
- ADA parking area
- ADA access to picnic shelter
- Dog waste station
- Bike rack

Pictures of Picnic Structure at Harper Park

PROJECT CONTACT: CHRISTINA KEREKI, KITSAP COUNTY 360.337.5777
PROJECT WEBSITE: [HTTP://WESTSOUNDWATERSHEDS.ORG](http://WESTSOUNDWATERSHEDS.ORG)

Picnic Facility and Parking Upgrades

- The parking lot is being used for drug deals. I caution against adding a bathroom in the park.
- Please consider motion detector lights to promote safety. However, the park should be closed at dusk. There is a utility pole in the parking lot that was removed over a decade ago.
- What about an open market or allowing food trucks? There was an electrical pole that could help with the trucks.
- Would like light for parking lot.
- Should add motion sensor LED or Mercury Vapor lights in the back of the parking lot.
- Need a crosswalk.
- The crosswalk should be lighted to capture the attention of drivers. Need pedestrian flags.
- Would like multiple barbecues.
- Consider reestablishing the drainage ditch which was constructed many years ago, and helped drain the field from upper forest ground water.



Landscaping Enhancements, Gardens

- Native plantings along the road swale
- Plantings at entrance

Harper Park Pollinator Plants Entry Garden

Example Non-Native Plants – Yellows & Pinks

Example Native Plants

Not Pictured:

- Emergent Huckleberry – Vaccinium ovatum
- Oregon Grape – Mahonia aquifolium
- Red Flowering Currant – Ribes sanguineum
- Red Twig Dogwood – Cornus stolonifera
- Snowberry – Symphoricarpos albus
- Sword Fern – Nelystium muricatum

Harper Estuary
RESTORATION & PARK PLANNING

PROJECT CONTACT: CHRISTINA KEREKI, KITSAP COUNTY 360.337.5777
PROJECT WEBSITE: [HTTP://WESTSOUNDWATERSHEDS.ORG](http://WESTSOUNDWATERSHEDS.ORG)

Landscaping Enhancements, Gardens, and Vegetation

- The dangerous trees are extending into the trails and main park area. These should be removed.
- I like the rain garden and landscaping ideas.

Trails

- Improve Harper Hill trail (widen, improve alignment)
- Create safe crosswalk going across Southworth Dr. and along Olympiad Drive to the beach
- Construct new pedestrian bridge
- View bench at clay pit

Timber Bridge Example (5 ft. wide, grating tread, glu-lam beams)

Picture of Part of the Trails at Harper Park

Picture of bench on the Hill Trail

Harper Estuary
RESTORATION & PARK PLANNING

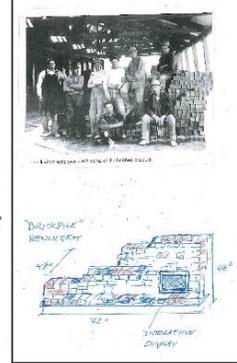
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Trails

- *I favor gravel walkways.*
- *Place a bench along the Harper Hill trail for an overlook of the park and estuary.*
- *Add bench at historic trail/road terminus near clay mine pit area.*
- *Restore the foot bridge.*
- *The asphalt pad in the parking area was built for a tennis court. Not needed now.*
- *Improve the Harper Hill trail with better trail construction, cribbing and some benches.*
- *Restore the culvert under the entrance trail to help drain water from the picnic shelter.*

Signage, Interpretation, Wayfinding, History

- Replace trail signage
- Add interpretive signs at proposed Olympiad Drive pullouts
- Trail map
- Interpretive displays



Brick Pile Bench Seat Concept



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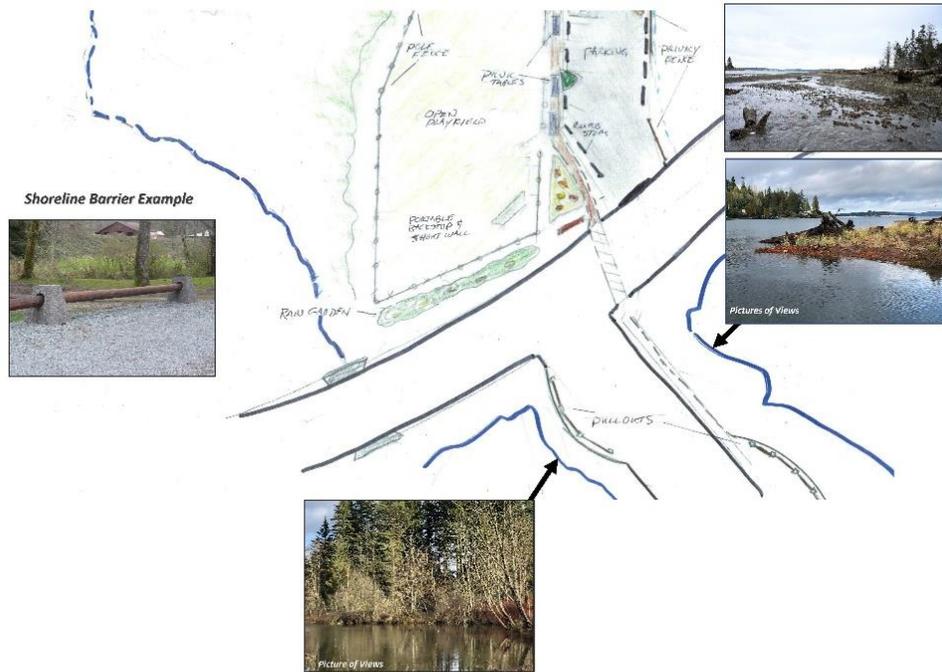
Signage, Interpretation, Wayfinding, History

- *Replace the trail entrance signs.*
- *Add interpretation along the trails.*

Waterfront & Estuary Access

- Rustic-style roadway parking barrier with space for kayak transport
- 1-car pullout for viewing / unloading hand-launch

Shoreline Barrier Example



Harper Estuary

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Waterfront and Estuary Access

- *The estuary is fantastic. The waterfront is wonderful. I appreciate the opportunities to kayak and enjoy the waterfront. The Harper Pier also is an attractive feature.*

Field

- Multi-use play field versus single-use baseball field (wet/uneven land, small size below standards)
- Improved safety with multi-use playfield allows for play features like a rock climbing structure

Harper Park

Portable Backstop Example

Existing Backstop

Play Feature Examples

Harper Estuary RESTORATION & PARK PLANNING

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Field: Ballfield

- *What about the possibility of extending the ballfield to the south? [Staff responded that the land south of the ballfield includes a stream, steep lands, and a floodplain. Other participants were concerned about balls landing in the stream area.]*
- *A t-ball practice occurred over the weekend. Also, people were playing catch in the ballfield.*
- *Are there other ballfields that people use? [People pointed out the following: South Kitsap Regional Park, South Colby Elementary, John Sedgwick Middle School, and South Kitsap Eastern Little League.]*
- *I support the portable backstop idea.*
- *I like the portable back stop.*
- *I prefer the portable back stop.*
- *People are sleeping in the dugouts.*
- *If people are not using the field for formal baseball, there is no need for the dugouts.*
- *The portable backstop could serve the baseball need. This could be a great solution. I support multi-use of the field since this allows for more activities.*
- *Why not allow soccer in the field? Baseball was the most popular sport in the 1960s when the ballfield was built and now it is no longer the top sport.*
- *Make the field conducive to multi-purpose use.*
- *Do not want to lose the t-ball field.*

Field: Play Features

- *I like the play feature ideas – they are great!*
- *Not sure we have the right population for a playground.*
- *Adding a climbing structure that allows people to look out into water would be fun (perhaps by the rain garden).*
- *Should consider adding a music space or a rock-climbing wall to the park area.*
- *What are demographics in the neighborhood and within a two-mile radius? Are there South Colby kids in the area?*

Field: Fencing

- *Should fully enclose the fence to keep in dogs and children.*
- *Keep fence on the south side of the field.*
- *I like the pole fence design.*
- *I am concerned about the fence since this needs to be kept up and extended to prevent driving in the park.*
- *Remove the chain-link fencing. This is not needed for ball and open field play. Add wood rail fence along Southworth Drive and extend to the top of the ravine.*



ACTION ITEMS:

1. Draft the Harper Park Improvement Plan, including a long-term vision, that is shaped by community input.
2. Provide a summary of the demographic characteristics for the Harper community.
3. Schedule additional community conversations to share (and tailor per general feedback) the Harper Park Improvement Plan and future tasks.
4. Continue inviting community interest on a project or projects, such as interpretation and signage support. The goal is to partner with community efforts.
5. Summarize community comments, identify themes, provide support information and a summary of the estuary cleanup progress, as well as conceptual plan options for Harper Park upgrades.
6. Explore possible ways volunteer/stewards can participate with tasks outlined in the stewardship plan. The Parks Department will follow up on additional opportunities, including invasive plant species removal (English ivy), trail improvements and interpretive displays.