KitsapCounty

Hansville Community Resiliency Project

Charter



Point No Point Lighthouse in Hansville.

Prepared by Garrett Ballew, Kitsap County Department of Community Development
Updated November 3, 2026

1. Executive Summary

The objective of the Hansville Community Resiliency Project is to provide the Hansville community with a resiliency and adaptation resource as the area faces projected sea level rise and flooding conditions. The project will provide landowners with potential resiliency and adaptation approaches, particularly for areas identified as having the highest risk in the county's Sea Level Rise and Vulnerability Risk Assessment.

The project is expected to bring the following benefits to the Hansville community:

- Identification of near-term and long-term adaptation actions.
- Improved understanding of costs, timing, and potential implementation pathways for adaptation measures.
- Increased community awareness and understanding of projected sea level rise impacts and adaptation strategies.
- Development of a framework that can inform future coastal resilience efforts in Hansville and other vulnerable areas of Kitsap County.

2. Project Purpose

The greater Hansville community is among the county's most vulnerable communities to the impacts of sea level rise and coastal flooding. During Kitsap County's 2025 Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and Risk Assessment, Hansville was identified as one of the areas facing the greatest risk from sea level rise and extreme flood events. These vulnerabilities were highlighted during the December 27, 2022 king tide event, when significant flooding and storm surge impacted low-lying portions of the community.

This project will develop guidance for the Hansville community to help property owners make more informed decisions and understand potential adaptation measures as the area faces rising sea-level risks.

The project aligns with the following Goals, Policies and Strategies outlined in the Kitsap County Comprehensive Plan.

Comprehensive Plan Goals

- **Land Use Goal 6. Health and Quality of Life** – Promote health and quality of life in the built environment.

- **Environment Goal 4. Natural Resources as an Asset** - Formally treat natural environments and ecosystems including forest lands, shorelines, freshwater systems, and critical areas as essential assets that are planned for, managed, and invested in to meet the needs of current and future generations.

- **Environment Goal 6. Use Best Practices** - Utilize best practices to protect people, property, and the natural environment.

- **Environment Goal 7. Outreach and Education** - The public is informed about opportunities for stewardship and engaged in dialogue regarding the management and protection of the natural environment.

- **Capital Facilities and Utilities Goal 11. Adaptation and Resilience** - Support efforts to increase the resilience of public services, utilities, and infrastructure by preparing for disasters and other impacts and having a coordinated plan for system recovery.

- **Climate Change Goal 3. Economy** - Shoreline properties, port districts, maritime industries, and businesses in general are resilient to impacts of climate change.

- **Climate Change Goal 10. Habitat** - Ensure the health, functions, and processes of natural environments and ecosystems, including forest lands, shorelines, freshwater systems, and critical areas are protected and adaptively managed for resiliency.

Comprehensive Plan Policies

- **Capital Facilities and Utilities Policy 11.1.** Plan for the adaptation and mitigation of the impacts of climate change, including sea-level rise, flooding, wildfire hazards, and urban heat on all new and existing development, infrastructure, and services.

- **Climate Change Policy 1.2.** Support all hazard emergency preparedness, planning, and resiliency programs to reduce the impacts of climate change, such as heat waves, drought, flooding, wildfires, and water shortages on individuals and households.

- **Climate Change Policy 2.2.** Promote mitigation actions in flood-prone areas where wastewater systems and drinking water supplies may be compromised.

- **Climate Change Policy 3.1.** Ensure development of Kitsap's shoreline and waterfront economy is resilient to coastal flooding and sea level rise.

- **Climate Change Policy 10.3.** Consider climate change impacts including sea level rise, extreme precipitation, increased streamflow, and other impacts in floodplain management planning.

Comprehensive Plan Strategies

- **Environment Strategy 6.b.** Utilize current and accurate maps and data available during the development review process and planning efforts.

- **Environment Strategy 6.h.** Provide public resources to identify parcels likely to be flooded and consider supporting relocation of structures away from such areas.

- **Climate Change Strategy 1.d.** Facilitate development of objectives and strategies to improve resilience in vulnerable populations and frontline communities.

- **Climate Change Strategy 3.a.** Assess the impacts of sea level rise on economic resources and develop strategies to mitigate the impacts.

3. Background and Framework

Hansville is an unincorporated community located at the northernmost point of the Kitsap Peninsula along the coast of Admiralty Inlet. It is bordered by the Puget Sound to the East and the Hood Canal to the West. Its 2020 US Census population was recorded at 3,858. Hansville contains rural residential development and significant ecological, recreational, and cultural resources that present unique opportunities for climate adaptation.

The County's 2025 Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and Risk Assessment identified Hansville as one of the areas facing the greatest risk from sea level rise and extreme flood events. A meeting with the Hansville community was held in February of 2025 as part of the Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and Risk Assessment to receive feedback on which assets should be prioritized for resiliency strategies and existing impacts. Residents highlighted bulkhead

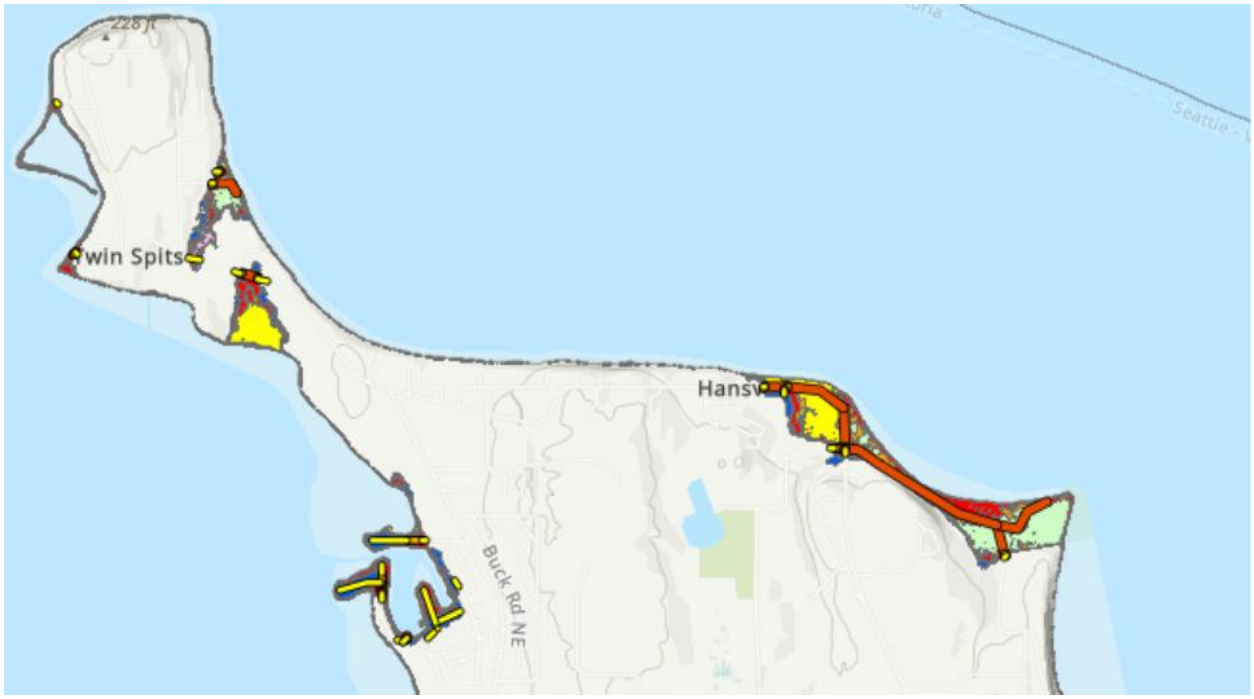
permitting as a concern and voiced community guidance should be developed to establish mitigation strategies.

4. Project Approach

The project will leverage existing information, data, and case studies available to the County. Staff will compile and review previous sea level rise assessments and coastal vulnerability studies, flood hazard information, ecological and habitat resources within the project area, land use and ownership patterns, as well as actions taken by other jurisdictions facing similar challenges. These sources will be synthesized into a clear summary of current and future risks, and strategies that can help community landowners improve the resilience of their properties will be identified.

5. Scope of Work

The project will focus on sea level rise and flooding resiliency within the greater Hansville community, based on the results from the county-wide Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and Risk Assessment and not on other climate driven risk factors such as wildfire danger. The geographic scope of the project will include the Twin Spits neighborhood, the Driftwood Key neighborhood, and Point No Point. The project will focus on county owned, community owned, and privately owned assets that are at highest risk of flooding impacts due to sea level rise.



The project will include recommendations for potential resiliency strategies. Conversations with sea level rise and adaptation experts and local landowners will occur to educate landowners on best ways to adapt to flooding in the area.

Another element of the project is a collaboration with the University of Washington's Landscape Architecture program through an Advanced Studio Project. The proposed studio project by University of Washington students will be geographically focused on the Point No Point neighborhood between Norwegian Point Park and Point No Point Park. The studio project will be smaller in scope, focusing on nature-based solutions to protect the neighborhood from flooding due to sea level rise at three specific time points - the years 2030, 2050, and 2100.

6. Project Schedule

September 2026: Initial Research and Development of Charter and Community Engagement Plan

October 2026: Scoping and Finalization of UW Studio Involvement

November 2026: Project Kickoff with the Kitsap County Planning Commission

December-January 2026: Project Kickoff with Hansville Community

January 2027: UW Studio Class Field Trip to Hansville

January – February 2026: Project Briefing to the Board of County Commissioners

January – March 2027: UW Studio Project Development

March 2027: UW Studio Presentation

March – April 2027: Presentation of Final Resiliency Report to the Hansville Community

7. Roles and Responsibilities

Name	Role	Responsibilities
Garrett Ballew	Project Lead	Project coordination & drafting of key project documents.
Jim Rogers	Planning Supervisor	Review of materials & project support.
Scott Diener	Planning Manager	Review of materials & project support

8. Organization and Internal Communication

Microsoft Planner will be utilized as a tool for development and organization of the project's internal timeline. Internal communication will occur through regular meetings and updates, with additional communications via messaging and email as needed. External communication plans are detailed in the project's Community Engagement Plan.