

Draft Harper Park Improvement Plan Feedback and County Response Matrix

This attachment summarizes feedback received during the Harper Estuary Restoration and Park Planning Project comment period between August 30 and September 20, 2019. The first matrix summarizes public comments and provides responses. The second matrix summarizes comments from agency partners and the Suquamish Tribe and provides responses. Appendix A presents the original comments from both partners and the public.

PUBLIC COMMENT MATRIX: SUMMARY AND RESPONSE		
Topic #	Issue description and page reference in draft park improvement plan where applicable	County response or change to draft plan with page reference in final plan
1.	Extend the baseball field and meet softball field regulations (and possibly baseball field regulations too).	Extending the baseball field was considered, but determined to be infeasible due to the wetlands and stream buffer along Harper creek. Proposing to expand into these areas would require County process with uncertain results (i.e. stream buffer reduction through the County process, environmental impacts analysis and mitigation). This area also has wet and muddy soils most of the year which is not a very suitable field substrate.

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2.	Desire to rebuild small trailered boat launch on Olympiad Dr. at Harper Estuary.	<p>During the first phase of the Harper Estuary restoration it was determined that the informal boat launch (at Olympiad Dr.) needed to be relocated to meet the restoration goals of the project. The goal set by the partners, Kitsap County, WDFW, WDNR and the Suquamish Tribe, was: <i>The completed project shall provide full tidal exchange and restore the impacted intertidal area within the right of way to maximum extent practical.</i></p> <p>During the design phase for the Olympiad Bridge, alternative boat launch designs and locations were considered as a replacement for the informal boat launch, but it was determined they were not feasible nor compatible with the restoration. The boat launch at Port Manchester four miles away was the most practical, safe and feasible alternative for vehicle access and a trailered boat launch facility.</p> <p>There still remained community support for low-impact, hand-launch accommodation. To support the community's value for recreational non-motorized boating, a hand-launch for non-motorized boats became part of the new bridge design. The hand-launch was designed without compromising the restoration.</p> <p>In the interim, before the bridge is built, the community has shown support for the use of the Olympiad Drive shoulder and an opening in the proposed roadside barrier to allow people to unload and hand-launch small recreational boats.</p> <p>*Because of this comment a section was added to the narrative in the draft plan explaining why the trailered boat launch could not be replaced. (See pg. 11 in Section III)</p>

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3.	Consider adding grass volleyball courts to Harper Park.	<p>Throughout the project's community meetings community members have voiced their desire for a field that serves multi-purposes and all ages, such as playground, soccer etc. The project recognizes these desires and the need to balance them with the community desire to keep the baseball facility.</p> <p>Volleyball courts and other open organized sport fields are not suitable with the existing baseball field use. The field preparation for other play areas would require substantial field improvements, which are not feasible with this grant project.</p>
4.	Reconfiguring ballfield with backstop on the west end of field is not practical. Balls will be hit into the street.	<p>In response to the public's lack of support at the September 2019 community meeting for reorienting the backfield to the western end of the field, the project recommended further community outreach. A community conversations online survey asked people for their preference in November 2019: a) to reorient backstop to the west end of field or b) to maintain backstop in the current location.</p> <p>Survey results show Option A with the reoriented backstop won the majority.</p> <p>*The final draft plan includes this preferred option. Figure 13 and text on pg. 18 has been revised accordingly.</p>
5.	Will proposed dome backstop positively stop foul balls?	<p>Once the preferred design location for baseball field backstop is selected, Parks staff will work with play structure design professionals for approved backstop designs and orientation to deter foul balls entering parking or group gathering areas.</p>

PUBLIC COMMENT MATRIX: SUMMARY AND RESPONSE		
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6.	Please remove 'ugly' tree trunks in estuary. (This refers to the large wood installed along the beach as part of the first phase of the restoration, that also included fill removal and replacing the undersized culvert on Southworth Drive).	The installed wood (115 logs) on the restored spit are part of the first phase of restoration. Their purpose is to trap sand, decrease beach erosion and provide habitat for plants and beach fauna. The installed logs are part of the initial investment by WDFW, and as such won't be removed.
7.	With rising sea levels, the plan for a bridge at Olympiad Drive is ill conceived. The new bridge will facilitate traffic south along Olympiad Dr. where vehicles will get blocked by standing water and road erosion in the 10,900 block. Cars will have to reroute on Nokomis and then back to Southworth. Consider letting the bridge be a pedestrian path, and the area that fronts the water a pedestrian path also.	Decommissioning Olympiad Drive at Harper estuary was considered as an option during the first phase of restoration planning in 2014. Because of emergency vehicle response rates and a lack of community support, decommissioning the Olympiad Drive to vehicle traffic was not considered further.

PARTNER COMMENT MATRIX: SUMMARY AND RESPONSE		
Topic #	Issue description and page reference in draft park improvement plan where applicable	County Response or change to draft plan with page reference in final plan
1.	Suquamish Tribe: Please add Suquamish Tribe to the Note on pg. 21.	On page 21. the Suquamish Tribe added as partner in the Note.

PARTNER COMMENT MATRIX: SUMMARY AND RESPONSE		
Topic #	Issue description and page reference in draft park improvement plan where applicable	County Response or change to draft plan with page reference in final plan
2.	<p>Washington Department of Natural Resources (WDNR):</p> <p>a) Figure 13. Proposed Draft Harper Park Playfield and Picnicking Improvements, pg. 18 – Insert scale.</p> <p>b) Constraints for the WA State Dept. of Natural Resources State-owned Aquatic Lands, pg. 19 Updated language and RCW citations.</p>	<p>a) On pg. 19. Figure 13- an accurate scale is inserted.</p> <p>b) On pg. 20 language is updated per DNR's recommendations:</p> <p>Currently about half of the ballfield development is within Washington State ownership. This area consists of filled state-owned aquatic lands. RCW 79.105.220, 79.105.230, 79.110.330 stipulate that if a use is for public parks or public recreation purposes, then the use shall be granted without charge if the aquatic lands and improvements are available to the public on a first come, first-served basis. So, filled tidelands used a park are not charged rent. However, Kitsap County must secure a lease for occupation of state-owned lands.</p> <p>Washington State prioritizes water-dependent uses of State-owned lands over nonwater-dependent uses. Public use and/or access activities that provide opportunities for water dependent public use and access are to be preserved and enhanced. Examples of water-dependent public use and access activities typically include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Physical access to the water for swimming, fishing, shell-fishing or boating; 2. Unfettered visual access to the water. Some examples of typical improvements that might provide access include boardwalks, walkways, benches, viewing areas and open shelters which allow protection of users participating in these activities. <p>Non-dependent uses of state-owned aquatic lands are discouraged from expanding or establishing in new areas.</p>

PARTNER COMMENT MATRIX: SUMMARY AND RESPONSE		
Topic #	Issue description and page reference in draft park improvement plan where applicable	County Response or change to draft plan with page reference in final plan
3.	<p>Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW):</p> <p>a) Footnote 2, Pg. 1. Clarify language surrounding funding sources.</p> <p>b) Fish and fish habitat details, pg. 3</p> <p>c) Figure 3, pg. 4 contradicts later maps and implies only one barrier culvert in watershed which is not true.</p> <p>d) Pg. 5 Recommendation to distinguish between salt tolerant and freshwater plant species.</p> <p>e) Figure 7, pg. 8 Map verification.</p> <p>f) Pg. 9 Restoration goals clarification</p> <p>g) Pg. 12, in the natural areas section, also add restore to 'natural' definition.</p> <p>h) Pg. 14 Suggestion of adding guiding principle that reflects supporting state-funded restoration activities.</p> <p>i) Figure 13, pg. 18 Pull-out barriers appear to be in incorrect location.</p> <p>j) Pg. 26 Support for targeted approach to invasive species control.</p>	<p>a) On pg. 1 the updated language clarifies that the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife received funds from the Department of Ecology in 2014 to remove fill and replace the culvert on Southworth Drive; and Kitsap County received funds from the Department of Ecology for a design solution to address the undersized culvert at Olympiad Drive.</p> <p>b) On pg. 3 the language is updated to better reflect fish passage barriers in the watershed, and fish species documented by WDFW surveys. The culvert replacement at Southworth Dr. by WDFW is also noted.</p> <p>c) Deleted Figure 3 and replaced it with a revised Figure that more accurately represents the estuary and watershed features.</p> <p>d) Updated text reflects how the plant distribution.</p> <p>e) Yes, the ownership map reflects the Deford property acquisition.</p> <p>f) On pg. 9 updated the language to be better aligned with ecological goals.</p> <p>g) On pg. 13, updated map land classification areas.</p> <p>h) On pg. 15, additional guiding principle added.</p> <p>i) On pg. 18 pull-out barriers verified to be in correct location.</p> <p>j) Thank you. No response.</p>

<p>4.</p>	<p>Washington Department of Ecology (WDOE)</p> <p>a)Pg. 1 Minor language edits</p> <p>b)Pg. 3 Stress the value of the habitat and significant environmental benefits of the restoration. Highlight completed restoration and provide accurate description of fish passage blockages. Recommend a live flounder photo.</p> <p>c)Pg.9 Highlight the work that the partners have performed in community engagement as well.</p> <p>d)Pg. 10 Language edits. If estuary and natural setting is most frequently mentioned asset, then document should support that.</p> <p>e) Pg.11 Clarity second bullet under Safety.</p> <p>f)Pg. 12 Clarify hazard tree removal</p> <p>g)Pg. 15 Please add a goal to commit to maintain/replace with native riparian vegetation.</p> <p>h)Pg.16 Add another bullet to address estuary and erosion impacts</p> <p>i)Pg.17 Address if sign is on SOAL</p> <p>j)Pg.25 Address if estuary vegetation maintenance is included in plan.</p>	<p>a) On pg. 1 made minor language edits.</p> <p>b) On pg.1 made minor language edits made. Suggested changes made. Also see response for 3.b and 3.c . Replaced flounder photo with one that has a live flounder.</p> <p>c) On pg. 9 added mention of partners participation in community engagement.</p> <p>d) On pg. 10. Added note that assets are not listed in prioritized order.</p> <p>e) On pg.12 deleted second bullet under Safety because it was redundant.</p> <p>f) On pg.16 clarified that hazard trees are those that pose a threat to public safety and are determined by the County. Efforts will be made to leave downed hazard trees onsite.</p> <p>g) On pg.16 added maintain native vegetation as part of third bullet goal. Once invasive weeds are removed native plants will recruit into those areas (there is a lot of existing native stock).</p> <p>h) Any park site improvements or field drainage issues will be addressed to protect the riparian and estuary from erosion impacts and work to improve surface water flow and flooding issues.</p> <p>i) The entrance sign and adjacent native planting area would be positioned on the uplands area of the state-owned aquatic lands and in close proximity to the existing sign and fencing.</p> <p>j) On pg.25 An explanation is added that clarifies that weed removal efforts in the upland part of the</p>
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		park are in addition to efforts in the estuary.

Appendix A: Partner Agencies and Public Responses to Draft Harper Park Improvement Plan in their Original Format

Jennifer Haro

From: kat3wilmarth <kat3wilmarth@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, September 09, 2019 10:27 AM
To: Jennifer Haro
Subject: Harper Plan

The very beginning of this project was a lie. The much loved boat launch was part of the plan in the beginning. Then it just disappeared. Even after bringing it up at community meetings we were told, don't worry it will be back. We knew this was a concern. When the plans morphed and the boat launch disappeared we knew it wasn't going to happen. Twice Charlotte Garrido told me face to face they were still figuring out how to do the boat launch. As you can see, that was not the plan. We didn't matter. And worse, it was okay to outright lie to us. The plan to remove the boat launch was there from the beginning, but officials wouldn't be honest.

To make matters worse, evidently a boat was launched a few months back from the former ramp. In driving by we saw the tires on the boat trailer attached to a truck had been slashed. Unacceptable.

We are not able to keep the boat launch, but we would not launch where barricades are set up. Even worse, we would not damage our neighbors property because we disagree with the Harper Plans.

So from my perspective. We were lied to. Honest discussion didn't happen. Then, vandalism occurred by someone who felt it their right to harm someone else's property.

Kathy Wilmarth

Sent from my T-Mobile 4G LTE Device

Jennifer Haro

From: Scott <scottmohr50@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 07, 2019 6:00 PM
To: Jennifer Haro
Subject: Harper Park Plan

Jennifer; I reviewed the draft plan and it all looks pretty good. Although It appears that the communities' interest and high priority on keeping a small boat launch has been ignored or inadvertently left out. It would seem that the draft narrative explaining the lengthy interactive process with the Communtiy, would at least acknowledge this desire, and include an explanation as to why it is being ignored.

Scott Mohr, Viewsound Lane.

Sent from my iPhone

Jennifer Haro

From: Kitsap1
Sent: Tuesday, September 03, 2019 9:42 AM
To: Jennifer Haro
Subject: FW: Draft of Harper Park improvement plan available for public comment!

Hello,

Please see the below

Please see the below email forwarded by Kitsap1.

Kitsap1
614 Division St, MS-11
Port Orchard, WA 98366
(360) 337-5777
help@kitsap1.com

From: Robert Roblee <statute@msn.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 01, 2019 6:58 AM
To: kitsapcounty@public.govdelivery.com
Subject: Re: Draft of Harper Park improvement plan available for public comment!

Do they know there's two dams up creek not far
So how can cut throat go up stream

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 30, 2019, at 3:31 PM, Kitsap County <kitsapcounty@public.govdelivery.com> wrote:

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8/30/19



Jennifer Haro

From: govtmule@wavecable.com
Sent: Friday, August 30, 2019 4:09 PM
To: Kitsap County
Subject: Re: Draft of Harper Park improvement plan available for public comment!

Get involved??? You're joking!!!! You're mind is made up!!!! Restore the boat ramp like you promised to protect. BS all the way!!!!!!

Sent from my T-Mobile 4G LTE device

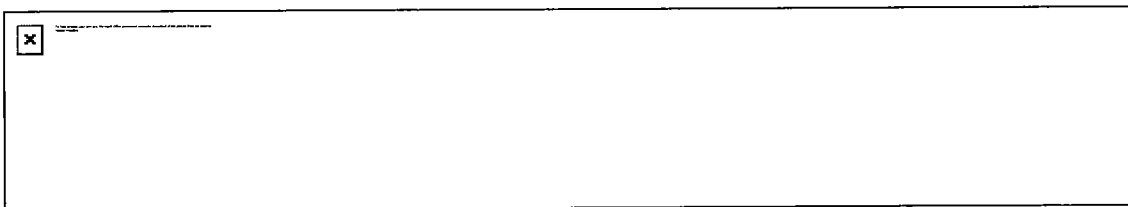
----- Original message-----

From: Kitsap County
Date: Fri, Aug 30, 2019 3:31 PM
To: govtmule@wavecable.com;
Cc:
Subject: Draft of Harper Park improvement plan available for public comment!

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8/30/19



**Draft of Harper Park improvement plan available
for public comment!**

Jennifer Haro

From: govtmule@wavecable.com
Sent: Friday, August 30, 2019 4:10 PM
To: Kitsap County
Subject: Re: Draft of Harper Park improvement plan available for public comment!

Green new deal. What BS!!!!

Sent from my T-Mobile 4G LTE device

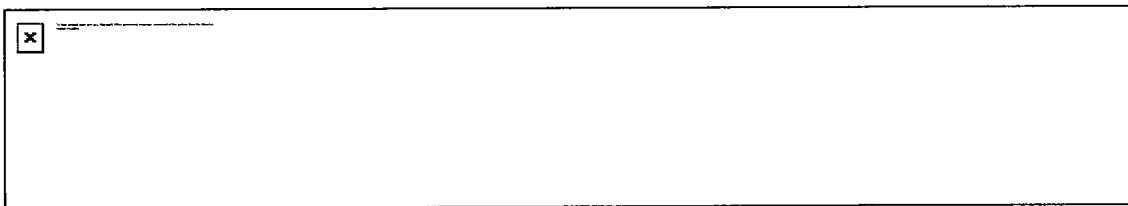
----- Original message -----

From: Kitsap County
Date: Fri, Aug 30, 2019 3:31 PM
To: govtmule@wavecable.com;
Cc:
Subject: Draft of Harper Park improvement plan available for public comment!

Having trouble viewing this email? [View it as a Web page.](#)



8/30/19



**Draft of Harper Park improvement plan available
for public comment!**

Jennifer Haro

From: George Beavis <beavisgc@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 30, 2019 4:09 PM
To: kitsapcounty@public.govdelivery.com
Subject: Re: Draft of Harper Park improvement plan available for public comment!

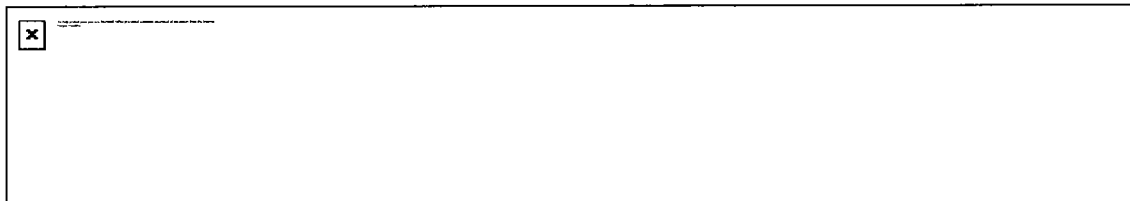
any traffic plan needs to consider the condition of the road between nokomis and cherry. the road is failing and often underwater. without that section of road traffic has nowhere to go

On Fri, Aug 30, 2019, 15:31 Kitsap County <kitsapcounty@public.govdelivery.com> wrote:

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8/30/19



**Draft of Harper Park improvement plan available
for public comment!**

Jennifer Haro

From: Kitsap1
Sent: Tuesday, September 03, 2019 8:33 AM
To: Jennifer Haro
Cc: Kitsap1
Subject: FW: Draft of Harper Park improvement plan available for public comment!
Attachments: Re: Draft of Harper Park improvement plan available for public comment!; Re: Draft of Harper Park improvement plan available for public comment!; Re: Draft of Harper Park improvement plan available for public comment!

Here are additional comments received.

Thank you,

Kitsap1
614 Division St, MS-11
Port Orchard, WA 98366
(360) 337-5777
help@kitsap1.com

From: govtmule@wavecable.com <govtmule@wavecable.com>
Sent: Friday, August 30, 2019 4:07 PM
To: Kitsap County <kitsapcounty@public.govdelivery.com>
Subject: Re: Draft of Harper Park improvement plan available for public comment!

You promised to save the boat ramp!!!!!!

Sent from my T-Mobile 4G LTE device

----- Original message-----

From: Kitsap County
Date: Fri, Aug 30, 2019 3:31 PM
To: govtmule@wavecable.com;
Cc:
Subject: Draft of Harper Park improvement plan available for public comment!

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Kitsap County News

Jennifer Haro

From: Kitsap1
Sent: Tuesday, September 03, 2019 8:31 AM
To: Jennifer Haro
Cc: Kitsap1
Subject: FW: Draft of Harper Park improvement plan available for public comment!

Hello,

Please see the below email forwarded by Kitsap1.

Kitsap1
614 Division St, MS-11
Port Orchard, WA 98366
(360) 337-5777
help@kitsap1.com

From: govtmule@wavecable.com <govtmule@wavecable.com>
Sent: Friday, August 30, 2019 4:06 PM
To: Kitsap County <kitsapcounty@public.govdelivery.com>
Subject: Re: Draft of Harper Park improvement plan available for public comment!

Restore the boat ramp!!!!!!

Sent from my T-Mobile 4G LTE device

----- Original message-----

From: Kitsap County
Date: Fri, Aug 30, 2019 3:31 PM
To: govtmule@wavecable.com;
Cc:
Subject: Draft of Harper Park improvement plan available for public comment!

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Kitsap County News

8/30/19

Jennifer Haro

From: Ebi, Donna <donna.ebi@ci.tacoma.wa.us>
Sent: Tuesday, September 03, 2019 6:37 AM
To: Jennifer Haro
Subject: Harper Estuary Comments

The project is looking most favorable. Hopefully, Harper Hill will someday soon install sewer to prevent the inundation of effluent and storm from entering our most beautiful Puget Sound.

Donna Ebi

Jennifer Haro

From: Jacob Cooper <jacobdcooper2@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 01, 2019 3:12 PM
To: Jennifer Haro
Subject: Harper Park

Jennifer,

I live just down the road from the park and I was wondering if there was a possibility of extending the baseball field. I could be wrong, but I don't think it is (or will be in the plan) 275-300 feet from home to the fence which is a standard male slow-pitch softball distance. In this case, having a larger field facilitates all other distance regulations for softball. I'm particularly interested in softball, but if it's possible to meet baseball field regulations that would be great too. I just think that a larger field will make it more dynamic for all people instead of the current set up which facilitates for T-ball/minor or major youth. The new backstop in the plan looks great, but I think the current one is practical. Extending the field wouldn't need to involve any fencing/structure just some clearing/removal.

I think that it's important to have a dynamic field because there are not many outlets nearby for my generation in particular. The nearest place for me to go for this sort of recreation is either Jackson park or if I change sports the Village Greens golf course.

Thanks for taking the time to read my comment!

Jacob Cooper

PS Grass volleyball courts would also be relatively cheap solution to generate more use of the park.

[illegible]

Subject:

[illegible]

From: Bruce Hinds <brucehinds@earthlink.net>

To: jharo@co.kitsap.wa.us <jharo@co.kitsap.wa.us>

Subject: Harper Park Comments

Having attended all of the first meetings regarding the estuary, the commissioner kept saying we want to hear from you and what the community wants. The major comments were that everyone wanted to keep the boat ramp . . . that was twisted to mean a place where people could walk their kayaks to the water. It appears the only "improvement" to the area was to eliminate what the neighbors wanted to keep and in addition they've destroyed a wonderful fresh water habitat that was thriving with wild life in hopes that in 100 years it may return to something as it once may have been. In the mean time, we're left with something that looks like the remnants of a war zone and certain times smells nearly as bad. A smell we'd never had there I might add in the 20 years we've lived here!

Jennifer Haro

From: Bruce Hinds <brucehinds@earthlink.net>
Sent: Sunday, September 01, 2019 1:41 PM
To: Jennifer Haro
Cc: Bob Flynn; Michael Gustavson; Jennifer Velling; family@curnutt.us; brooke42@wavecable.com; carolmix@wavecable.com; ironhorse15_444@msn.com; knothed63@gmail.com; laniburley@gmail.com; lthocher@aol.com; evelynlawrence@yahoo.com; reesaustin@wavecable.com; mix1009@wavecable.com; James Heytvelt; hmweatherford@yahoo.com; robert_6091@msn.com
Subject: Harper Park Comments

We are aghast again

Having attended all of the first meetings regarding the estuary, the commissioner kept saying we want to hear from you and what the community wants. The major comments were that everyone wanted to keep the boat ramp . . . that was twisted to mean a place where people could walk their kayaks to the water. It appears the only "improvement" to the area was to eliminate what the neighbors wanted to keep and in addition they've destroyed a wonderful fresh water habitat that was thriving with wild life in hopes that in 100 years it may return to something as it once may have been. In the mean time, we're left with something that looks like the remnants of a war zone and certain times smells nearly as bad. A smell we'd never had there I might add in the 20 years we've lived here!

Now, we continue to shake our heads. When everyone wants to retain the ball park - some brain child that's never played ball decides the best thing to do is turn it around so the kids can hit balls into the street! It really make one wonder what you all are smoking.

Bruce Hinds
10719 SE Olympiad Dr.



Virus-free. www.avast.com

Christina Kereki

From: Alison Osullivan <aosullivan@suquamish.nsn.us>
Sent: Wednesday, September 4, 2019 12:26 PM
To: Christina Kereki; lema461@ECY.WA.GOV; 'lindie.schmidt@dnr.wa.gov'; Small, Doris J (DFW) (Doris.Small@dfw.wa.gov); Morss, Corey M (DFW); Gunnar Fridriksson
Cc: Harkins, Angela (ECY); Jeff Adams (jaws@uw.edu); Jenise Bauman; Charlotte Garrido; Steven Starlund; Jennifer Haro
Subject: RE: Harper Estuary and Park Project: Draft Harper Park improvement plan available for comment

Please add Suquamish Tribe to the Note on page 21.

Thanks,
Alison

Alison O'Sullivan
Senior Biologist, Suquamish Tribe Fisheries Department



P.O. Box 498 (mailing)
18490 Suquamish Way
Suquamish, WA 98392
phone: (360) 394-8447

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From: Christina Kereki [mailto:CKereki@co.kitsap.wa.us]
Sent: Wednesday, September 04, 2019 10:35 AM
To: lema461@ECY.WA.GOV; 'lindie.schmidt@dnr.wa.gov' <lindie.schmidt@dnr.wa.gov>; Small, Doris J (DFW) (Doris.Small@dfw.wa.gov) <Doris.Small@dfw.wa.gov>; Morss, Corey M (DFW) <Corey.Morss@dfw.wa.gov>; Alison Osullivan <aosullivan@suquamish.nsn.us>; Gunnar Fridriksson <gfridik@co.kitsap.wa.us>
Cc: Harkins, Angela (ECY) <angh461@ECY.WA.GOV>; Jeff Adams (jaws@uw.edu) <jaws@uw.edu>; Jenise Bauman <baumanj4@wwwu.edu>; Charlotte Garrido <cgarrido@co.kitsap.wa.us>; Steven Starlund <sstarlun@co.kitsap.wa.us>; Jennifer Haro <jharo@co.kitsap.wa.us>
Subject: Harper Estuary and Park Project: Draft Harper Park improvement plan available for comment

Hello Partners,

I am very excited to forward you a draft of the Harper Park Improvement Plan. This draft plan is a result of multiple community meetings and conversations since the beginning of the year, not to mention all the community outreach that has occurred since the very beginning of the restoration project. This plan aims to facilitate ongoing restoration,

protection and enhancement of the estuary and surrounding habitats while providing for public access and recreational opportunities. We have posted this online for public comment (See below). I would also very much like to hear your feedback.

Click here for the draft

plan: <http://westsoundwatersheds.org/images/content/Harper%20Park%20Improvement%20Plan%208.30.19%20DRAFT.pdf>

Feel free to call or email with questions.

Thank you,

Christina

Christina Kereki

Environmental Planner | Kitsap County Department of Community Development

Direct. 360.337.5777 ext. 3173

Email. ckereki@co.kitsap.wa.us

Mailing address: 619 Division St. MS-36

Port Orchard, WA 98366

From: Kitsap County <kitsapcounty@public.govdelivery.com>

Sent: Friday, August 30, 2019 3:31 PM

To: jessica.guidry@kitsappublichealth.org; Natalie Marshall <nmarshall@co.kitsap.wa.us>; Rebecca Pirtle <rpirtle@co.kitsap.wa.us>; Kirvie Mesebeluu-Yobech <kyobech@co.kitsap.wa.us>; tad.sooter@kitsappublichealth.org; Erina Kong <ekong@co.kitsap.wa.us>; Michelle Perdue <mperdue@co.kitsap.wa.us>; Christina Kereki <CKereki@co.kitsap.wa.us>; Caitlin Newman <cnewman@co.kitsap.wa.us>; Kathleen Peters <KPeters@co.kitsap.wa.us>; Doug Bear <Dbear@co.kitsap.wa.us>; Jo Meints <jmeints@co.kitsap.wa.us>

Subject: Courtesy Copy: Draft of Harper Park improvement plan available for public comment!

This is a courtesy copy of an email bulletin sent by Natalie Marshall.

This bulletin was sent to the following groups of people:

Subscribers of Harper Estuary Restoration Projects (1499 recipients)

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Kitsap County News

8/30/19



HILARY S. FRANZ
COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC LANDS

September 23, 2019

**DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES**

SOUTH PUGET SOUND REGION
950 FARMAN AVENUE N
ENUMCLAW, WA 98022-9282

360-825-1631
TRS 711
SOUTHPUGET.REGION@DNR.WA.GOV
WWW.DNR.WA.GOV

Christina Kereki
Kitsap County Department of Community Development
619 Division St. MS-36
Port Orchard, WA 98366

Subject: Harper Park Improvement Plan – Comments

Dear Ms. Kereki:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the *Draft Harper Park Improvement Plan* for your park facility located in Harper Estuary, Port Orchard. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is steward of Washington's aquatic lands and their resources. Aquatic lands are managed for current and future citizens of the state to sustain long-term ecosystem and economic vitality, and to ensure access to the aquatic lands and the benefits derived from them. Washington DNR's management authority derives from the State's Constitution (Articles XV, XVII, XXVII), Revised Code (RCW 79.02 and 79.105) and Administrative Code (WAC 332-30). As proprietary manager of state-owned aquatic lands, DNR has been directed to manage the lands "...for the benefit of the public" in a manner that provides "...a balance of public benefits for all citizens of the state" that includes"

Encouraging direct public use and access

Fostering water-dependent uses

Ensuring environmental protection, and

Utilizing renewable resources.

In addition, generating revenue in a manner consistent with subsections 1) through 4) of this section is a public benefit (RCW 79.105.030).

DNR supports Kitsap County's efforts to restore, protect and enhance Harper Estuary. DNR has completed a preliminary review of your draft plan and has the following comments:

- 1) Figure 13. *Proposed Draft Harper Park Playfield and Picnicking Improvements*; pg. 18:
Please insert a scale into the drawing.

2) *Constraints for the Washington State Department of Natural Resources State-owned Aquatic Lands*; pg. 19:

Currently about half of the ballfield development is within Washington State ownership. This area consists of filled state-owned aquatic lands. RCW 79.105.220, 79.105.230, 79.110.330 stipulate that if a use is for public parks or public recreation purposes, then the use shall be granted without charge if the aquatic lands and improvements are available to the public on a first come, first-served basis. So, filled tidelands used as a park are not charged rent. However, Kitsap County must secure a lease for occupation of state owned lands.

Washington State prioritizes water-dependent uses of State-owned aquatic lands over nonwater-dependent uses. Public use and/or access activities that provide opportunities for water-dependent public use and access are to be preserved and enhanced. Examples of water-dependent public use and access activities typically include:

- 1) Physical access to the water for swimming, fishing, shell-fishing or boating;
- 2) Unfettered visual access to the water. Some examples of typical improvements that might provide visual access include boardwalks, walkways, benches, viewing areas and open sided shelters which allow protection of users participating in these activities.

Nonwater-dependent uses of state-owned aquatic lands are discouraged from expanding or establishing in new areas.

DNR reserves the right to comment on future amendments and revisions to this proposal. Please contact me at 206-949-1740 for more information about securing an aquatic lands lease for your park purpose.

Sincerely,



Lindie Schmidt, Property and Acquisition Specialist 3
Shoreline District; Aquatics Division

c: District File



State of Washington
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Mailing Address: 600 Capitol Way North, Olympia, WA 98501-1091 • (360) 902-2200 • TDD (360) 902-2207
Main Office Location: Natural Resources Building, 1111 Washington Street SE, Olympia, WA

Tuesday, October 01, 2019

Christina Kereki
Kitsap County Department of Community Development
MS-36, 614 Division Street
Port Orchard, Washington 98366

SUBJECT: Draft Harper Park Improvement Plan

Dear Ms. Kereki,

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the *Draft Harper Park Improvement Plan*. We commend County staff for compiling this information and for proactively planning for the future of this park. Overall, the plan does a good job of highlighting the important natural resources at Harper Park and planning for future restoration and protection needs, as well as recreational uses. We offer the following comments for your consideration and have broken the comments down by page number for convenience.

General comment: It seems the document could use a section summarizing the past restoration activities that have been done in Harper Creek and Harper Estuary, which could be used to help guide maintenance and further restoration.

Page 1: We recommend changing Footnote 2 to "The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife received funds from the Department of Ecology in 2014 to restore..." Additionally, nobody has received funds to address the SE Olympiad Drive Culvert. Perhaps add that Kitsap County received funds from Ecology for design of a solution to address the Olympiad Drive culvert.

Page 3: Suggest changing "non-fish bearing" to "non-fish habitat." Also, add a disclaimer that map data is subject to field habitat surveys. Additionally, it would be worth noting that WDFW replaced an intertidal barrier culvert at Southworth Drive to restore fish passage and hydrologic processes. The fish were found in the former scour pool, which is no longer present, as the culvert was upgraded. State resources have been invested in this watershed and may continue to be invested in future projects here. WDFW also recorded spawning coho salmon in Harper Creek immediately following the Southworth Drive culvert replacement.

Page 4: Suggest adding a note that map data is subject to field verification. Also, Figure 3 contradicts many of the maps later in the report, which are more detailed and show more streams. Is this map necessary? It also implies that there is only one barrier culvert in the watershed, which is not true (i.e. the culvert at the old clay mine and the crossing at the old bridge are barriers, and the Olympiad Drive culvert is not shown).

Page 5: The wetland description includes an interesting mix of salt tolerant and freshwater species. We recommend distinguishing between what is in the salt marsh and what is higher in the freshwater areas.

Page 8: Please verify whether this map reflects ownership following the Deford property acquisition.



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Page 9: Suggest changing “and, therefore, fish” to “and improve fish passage and habitat connectivity.” Otherwise it implies that there were no fish above the culvert previously, but there could have been passage during some flow/tide conditions.

Page 12: In the Natural Areas section, we suggest adding “restore” to retain and protect. Invasive species are still very prominent in many of the areas identified as “natural.”

Page 14: We suggest adding a guiding principle of supporting past state-funded restoration activities in Harper Estuary and continuing to work toward reaching maximum restoration potential at the site.

Page 18: The current location of pull-out barriers along Olympiad Drive appears to be incorrect, as these barriers are located southeast of the photo limits.

Page 26: We support the proposed targeted approach to invasive species control.

Thank you again for the opportunity to review this document and for considering these comments and suggestions. We appreciate our partnership with Kitsap County and look forward to working together in the future.

Best regards,

Brittany N Gordon

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brittany N Gordon". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Area Habitat Biologist
Region 6: Port Orchard
360-620-3601
Brittany.Gordon@dfw.wa.gov

Harper Estuary

RESTORATION & PARK PLANNING



DRAFT Harper Park Improvement Plan

Kitsap County

August 2019



Table of Contents

I. Introduction	1
II. Natural Features of the Harper Park	3
III. Community Engagement in Harper Planning	9
IV. Park Plan	12
Landscape Classifications	12
Harper Guiding Principles	14
V. Bibliography	22
VI. Appendices	23
Demographic Information	23
Plan for Noxious Weed and English Ivy Removal	25

Figures

1. Harper Park is Located in Southworth	2
2. Fish Known to be in Harper Creek and Estuary	3
3. Harper Creek Watershed	4
4. Wetlands and Riparian Areas in Harper Park	5
5. Tree Heights and Characteristics in Harper Park	6
6. Steep Slopes in Harper Park	7
7. LiDar Imagery of Harper Park	8
8. Current Signage in Harper Park	10
9. Harper Park Land Classifications	13
10. Park Entrance Sign at Southworth Drive	15
11. Olympiad Drive, Looking North	16
12. Fencing Between Ballfield and Parking Area	17
13. Proposed Draft Harper Park Playfield and Picnic Area	18
14. Example of a Dome Backstop	18
15. Census Tracts Around Harper Park	24
16. English Ivy	25
17. Noxious Weed Removal Zones (English Ivy)	26

I. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the Harper Park Improvement Plan is to facilitate restoration, protection and enhancement of the park's natural ecosystems while providing for appropriate public access, recreational opportunities for diverse uses, and enjoyment of the environment.

The Harper Estuary is a small bay in southern Kitsap County. This pocket estuary and salt marsh are productive habitats for fish and wildlife. A project to restore Harper Estuary's natural functions is coordinated and managed by Kitsap County, in partnership with the Washington Departments of Ecology (DOE), Fish and Wildlife (DFW) and Natural Resources (DNR).

The charming Harper area has a rich, local history and diverse ecology. The Harper park and estuary feature shore and tidelands, a stream corridor and 47 acres of Kitsap County forested parkland (See Figure 1). Another 19 acres is owned by Washington DNR. Kitsap County classifies Harper Park as a heritage park because of its valued historical roots. Dedicated as a park in 1946,¹ today's Harper Park offers a playfield, picnic facilities, trails, parking, and an interpretive display of the former brick plant known as Harper Brick and Pottery. Established in the southwest portion of the estuary in 1900, the factory was abandoned in the 1940's. The company buildings were demolished, and much of the material pushed into the estuary. The many "clinker" bricks remaining in the tidelands and park area serve as reminders of the community's historic industry that nurtured the growth of a town and community at Harper.

Kitsap County seeks to enhance the Harper Park recreational qualities, while reflecting its historical significance and supporting efforts to restore natural functions of the pocket estuary and salt marsh.² This project highlights restoration of a community asset; and enhances access to a local park and waterfront.

¹ Sharon A. Boswell, *Harper Brick: The Foundation of a Community* (2016), p 31.

² The Washington Department of Ecology received funds in 2014 to restore tidal influences and natural habitat impacted by an ineffective culvert and fill at Harper Estuary, SE Olympiad Drive, and Southworth Drive. Kitsap County hosted seven public meetings with several educational walks, and gained community feedback via questionnaires, meeting conversations, and social media. Kitsap County and State agencies received approximately 530 comments about estuary restoration – and responses span themes pertaining to the environment, history, cultural values, recreation, access across the estuary, and estuary restoration. Over the years, conversations have continued with Harper community members – to discuss project activities, and to refine a vision for further work. The Harper community has been actively involved in planning for the enhancement and continued stewardship, of Harper Park and Estuary. The neighbors' involvement has been crucial to preparing for needed park and estuary improvements.



Figure 1. Harper Park is located in Southworth. The yellow outline denotes the park boundary and the hatched area, lands owned by Washington Department of Natural Resources.

II. NATURAL FEATURES OF THE HARPER PARK

General Watershed Description

Harper Park is located in Southworth within the 640-acre Harper Creek watershed, ~~as seen in~~ Figure 1. This watershed offers ~~habitat~~ habitat for plants, fish and other wildlife. Coastal cutthroat trout presence, for example, is documented in the lower stream.³ The only noted stream-blocking culvert is in the upper watershed, more than a mile from the mouth. According to Department of Natural Resources data, there are just over two miles of stream – most is designated as “non-fish bearing,” with 0.6 mile of “fish” stream in the lower end, near the Harper Park.

Surveys conducted by the Department of Fish and Wildlife during a Southworth Drive culvert removal project found surprising results. Over 500 fish, crabs and shrimp were documented in a 50-foot section of stream, ~~concentrated in the culvert’s scour pool~~. The fish were primarily sculpin -- both staghorn and prickly sculpin. Three spine sticklebacks were also present, along with juvenile coho salmon and starry flounder.

The park features interesting geology including the clay deposits that sustained the Harper Brick and Pottery industry. Steep slopes are found in the central part of the park, along its western border; while gentler inclines are near the shore and along the lower reaches of Harper Creek. Much of the park is forested with both conifer and deciduous trees.

The development pattern surrounding the park is mostly residential, with an average parcel size of two acres. Except for Harper Park, the watershed is zoned rural residential, so future development impacts should continue to be minimal.



Coho Salmon



Prickly Sculpin



Starry Flounder

Figure 2. Fish known to be in Harper Creek and Estuary

³ Documented per Washington State Department of Natural Resources database.

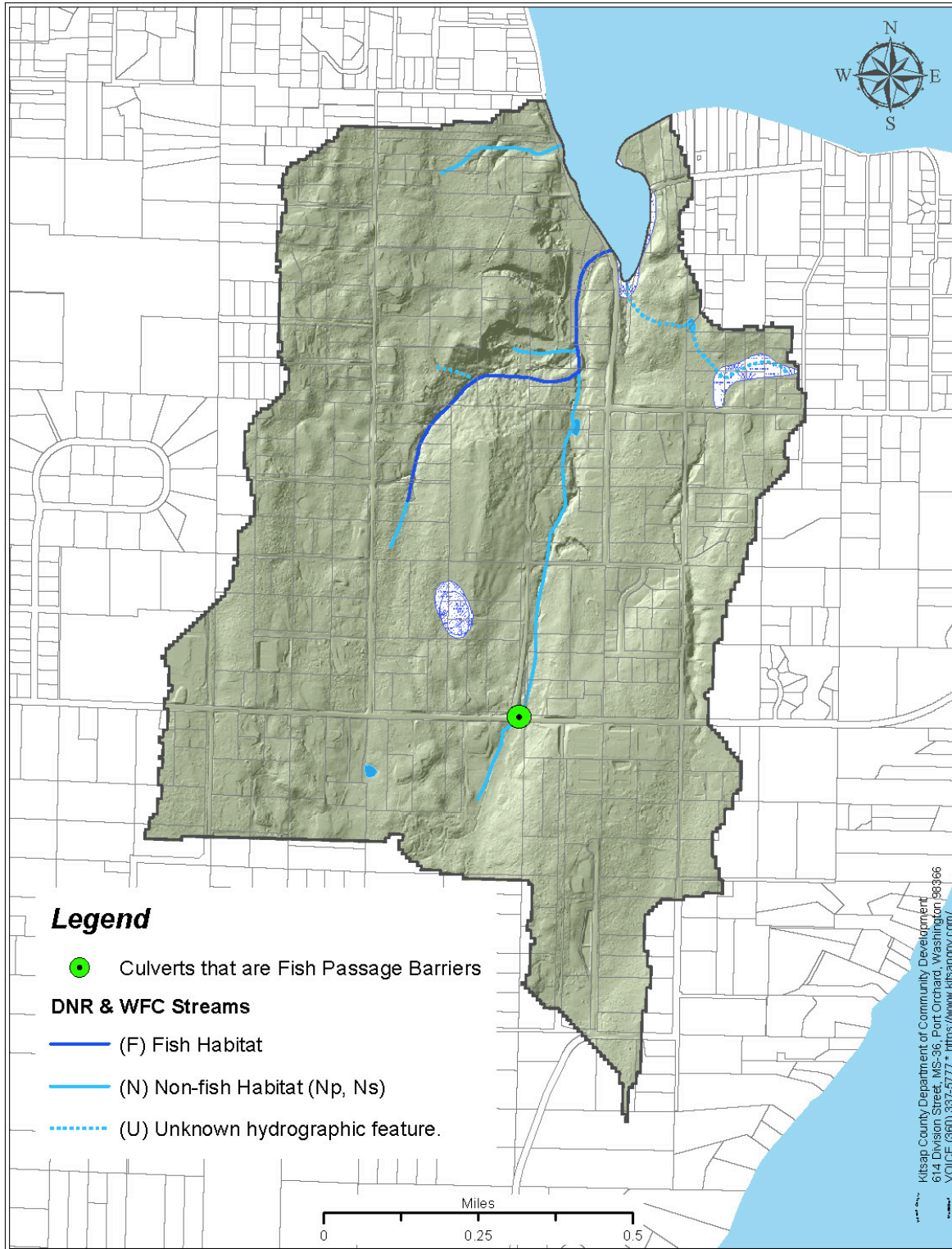


Figure 3. Harper Creek Watershed

Wetlands

The National Wetlands Inventory designates the Harper Estuary as a saltwater wetland. Bounded on the west by Southworth Drive and enclosed by Olympiad Drive (built across the estuary), common vegetation for moist areas grows well here. This includes Lyngbye's sedge, broadleaf cattail, reed canary grass, lady fern, soft rush, tapertip rush, pickleweed, false lily-of-the valley, field horsetail, Kentucky bluegrass, creeping buttercup, skunk cabbage and seaside arrowgrass. Also documented in the Harper wetlands are the shrubs salmonberry, willow species, rose spirea and nootka rose. Riparian areas (indicated 150 feet from either side of all streams in Figure 4) tend to have wet soils with shade to maintain cool temperatures and clean waters in streams.

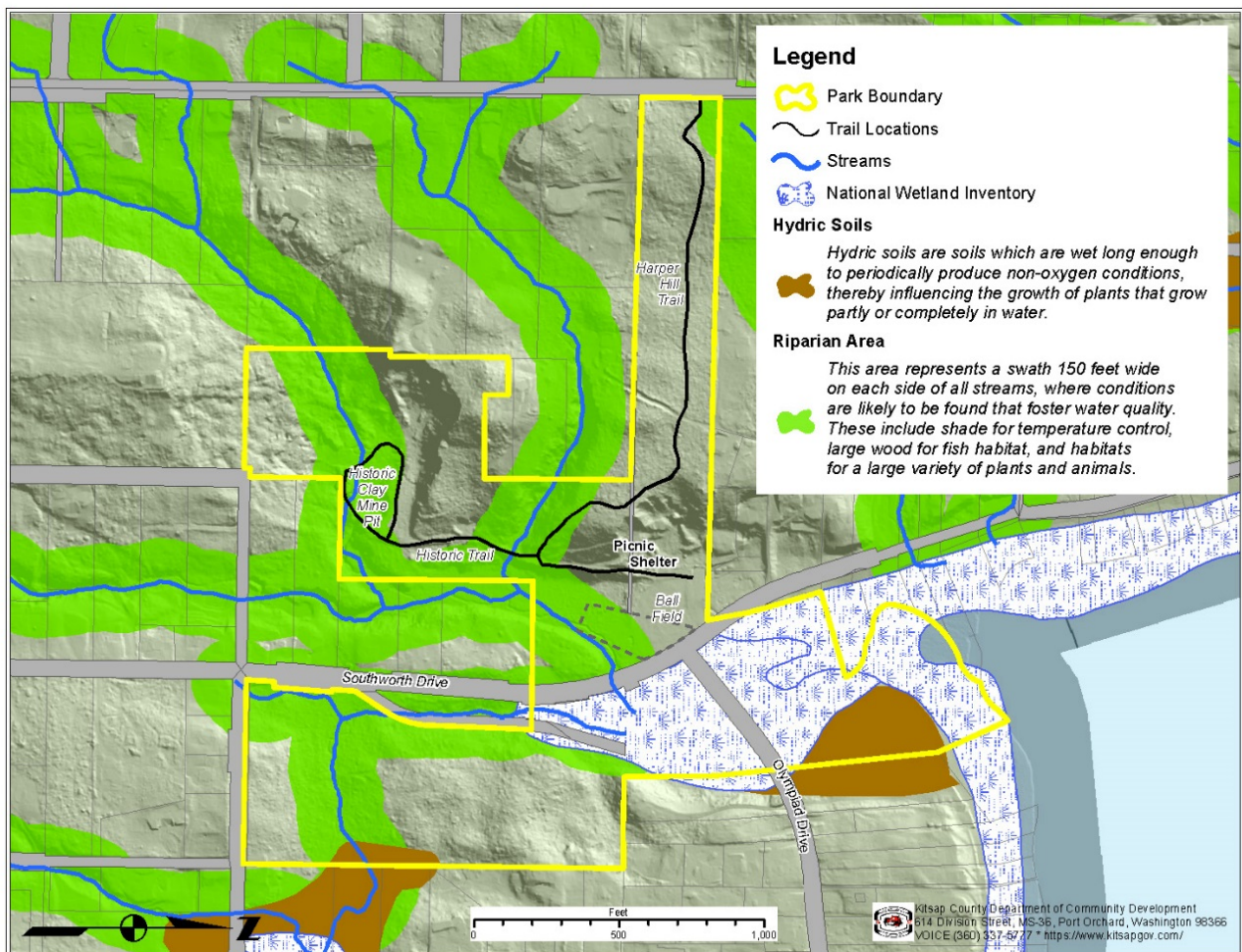


Figure 4. Wetlands and Riparian Areas in Harper Park. (Please note these wetland boundaries are not exact and provide only regional level accuracy).

Forests

The forest consists of a mix of conifer trees, including Douglas fir and western hemlock, along with western red cedar and limited amounts of grand fir. The broadleaf trees found here are red alder, willow and some madrone. The tallest forest areas, with many trees over 125 feet tall, are along the trail uphill (west) to Harper Hill Road. The remaining forest is primarily deciduous, with limited areas of mixed forest species. The deciduous stands tend to be younger and located in canopy openings.

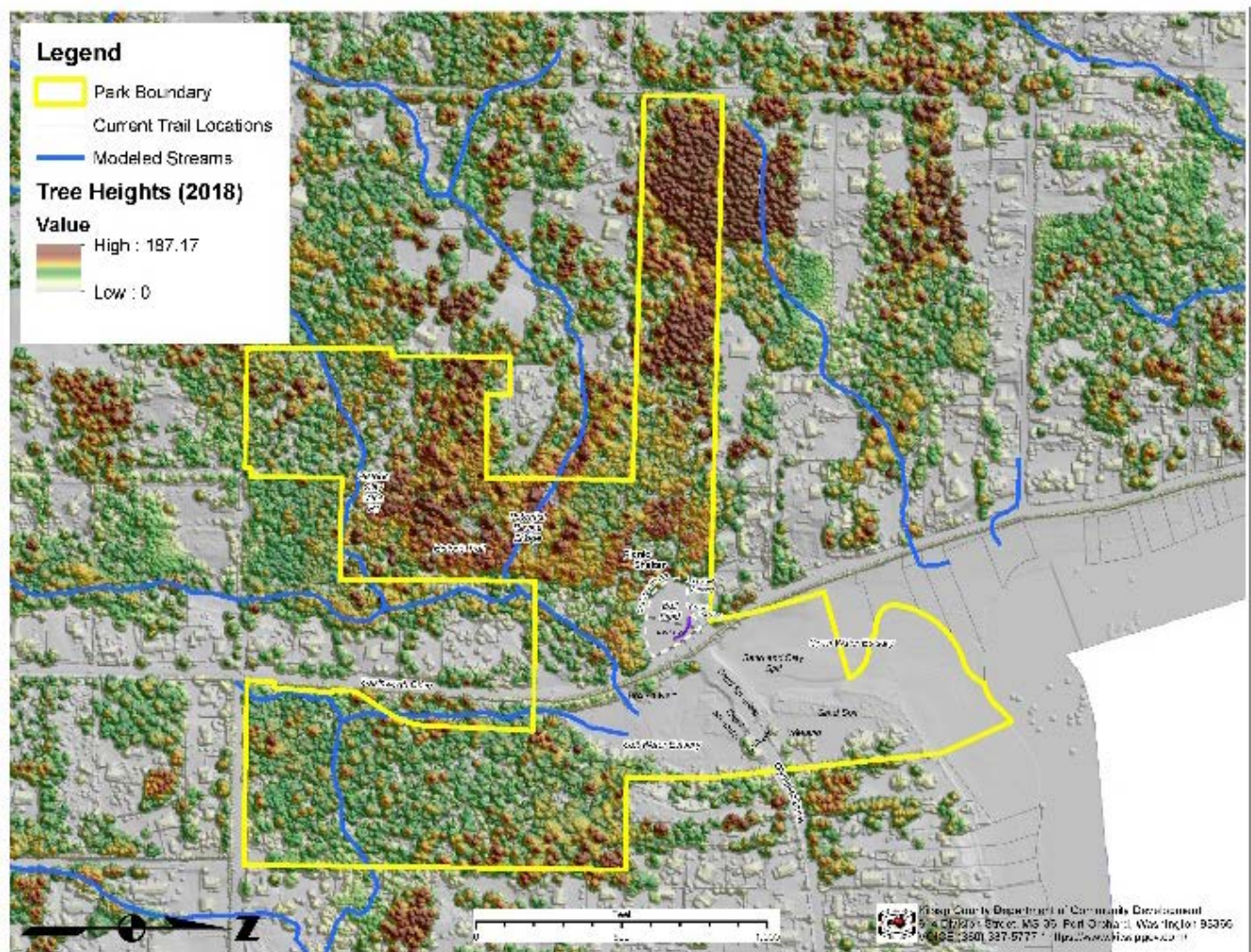


Figure 5. Tree heights and characteristics in Harper Park

Steep Slopes and Geology

Steep slopes (greater than 30%) that border small streams located in deep ravines (the dark red areas on Figure 6) pose erosion and land slide hazards at the historic clay mine pit and the transportation route leading to it⁴. Most of the remaining park consists of gently sloping forests. The LiDAR imagery in Figure 7 also depicts the topography of the land surface.

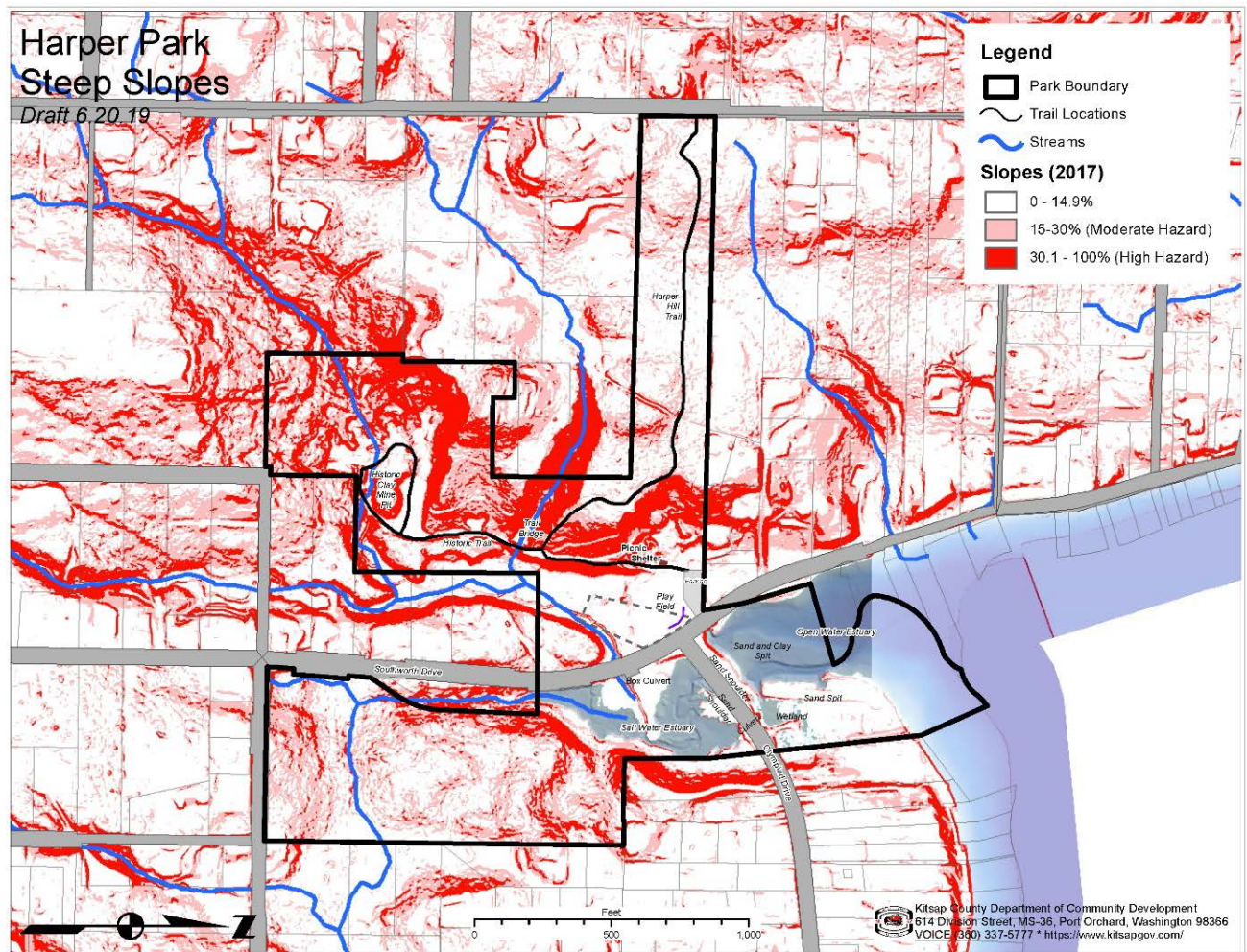


Figure 6. Steep Slopes in Harper Park

⁴ Today this transportation route is the location of the trail to the clay pit.

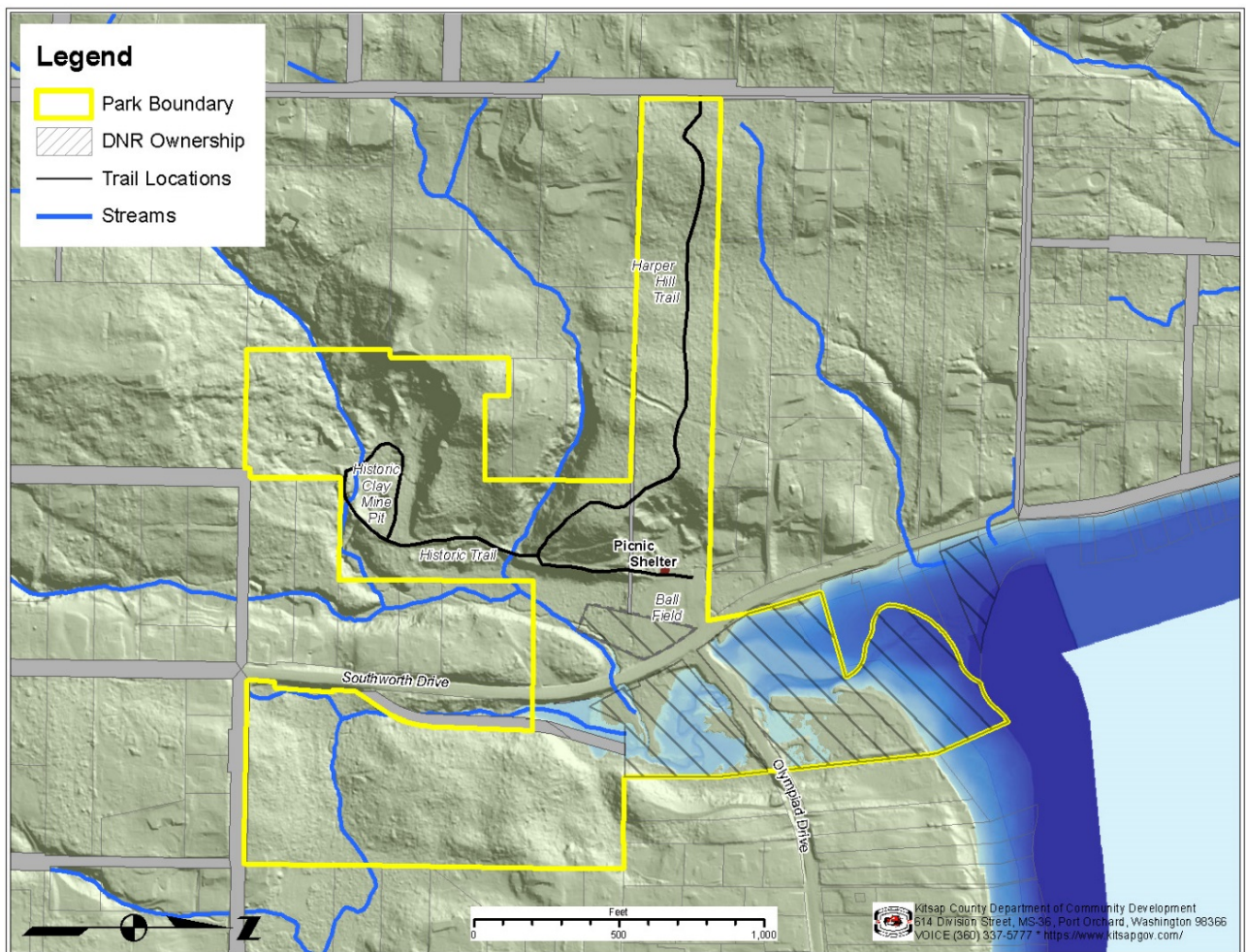



Figure 7. LiDAR Imagery of Harper Park

III. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IN HARPER PLANNING

Summary of Community Interests

The Harper-Southworth community members are valued stakeholders in the design and outcomes of the Harper Estuary Restoration Project. When the restoration project began in 2014, Kitsap County and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife communicated with neighbors that they would be well informed throughout the project. Kitsap County consistently engages with the community to understand the community's needs, gain feedback, and provide updates about project developments. 

Kitsap County relies on the involvement of neighbors for the ultimate success of this project. Community involvement for the grant builds on previous community participation that shaped the direction of the project. Kitsap County's Commissioners' Office, Department of Community Development, and Parks Department collaborated with Harper neighbors through open house meetings, interactive walking meetings and further conversations. The first meeting was used to introduce the project goals, and to gather community insights to guide the restoration. The goals are to:

- restore tidal movement – and, therefore, fish -- to the estuary; and
- clean up industrial fill “clinker bricks” and relic roadway debris in the estuary.

The “Harper Estuary Restoration Project: Introductory Meetings Summary Report” delineates early meetings and ideas that have been used as a foundation for this restoration project. Additional meetings held between December 2014 and the present support the restoration and improvements for Harper Estuary and Park. For example:

- 2015: Four community meetings were held to hear from locals and provide updates on tasks associated with the estuary restoration and construction of a new bridge.
- 2016: Five more meetings were held to gather community ideas on topics ranging from bridge design and permitting, boat launch access, to Harper history (the latter led to development of a booklet, entitled *Harper Brick: The Foundation of a Community*). Another forum identified valued assets and helped refine the future vision for the Harper community.
- 2017: Three community meetings were held to discuss projects related to estuary restoration with community members and representatives of Kitsap County departments (Parks, Community Development, Public Works) working on this project.
- 2019: Four community meetings have occurred to date as a part of a new DOE grant. These communications have helped shape the Harper Park Improvement Plan, as we begin to implement park improvements –and invite stewardship activities. This work builds on previous recommendations to restore Harper Estuary. These meetings occurred

through two open house meetings, a walking-workshop (“walk-shop”), one educational walk and various community stewardship activities. In addition, “conversation boards” have stimulated conversations about topics associated with the future of Harper Park and Estuary. The conversation boards were posted at Harper Park and at Audrey’s Espresso to invite neighbors and park users to add their voices to the conversation.

Over the years, the Harper community has worked on projects to protect and improve Harper Park and Estuary. They initiate or participate in activities such as, picking up trash during their walks, monitoring green crabs, pulling noxious weeds, and posting beautiful photos of Harper’s scenic community online. Their perspectives have helped set the stage for implementing park and estuary improvements to benefit the community and the environment.

Harper community members have consistently expressed pride in their locale during this project, and particularly when walking along the shoreline. The most frequently mentioned assets are the:

- Estuary and the natural setting - they support enhancement of the estuarine habitat, tidal exchange and fish passage;
- Local history and culture;
- Scenic vistas;
- Neighborhood connectivity;
- Recreational opportunities for all ages - naming, for example, hiking, kayaking, bicycling, child focused play, boating, picnicking, wildlife observation, and baseball;
- Multi-recreational opportunities in the park area; and
- Safety, public access to scenic water views and community stewardship.

Community Recommendations for Park Improvements

- Signage
 - Install a new sign on Harper Hill
 - Provide a trail map and interpretive educational signs for points of history, nature and community projects
- Trail enhancements
 - Replace pedestrian bridge across the ravine
 - Add benches at key viewpoints along the trails
- Parking
 - Increase available parking



Figure 8. A current sign along a trail in Harper Park (spring 2019)

- Install a privacy fence between the parking lot and neighboring private property
 - Provide bike racks
- Entrance
 - Upgrade the picnic shelter (such as adding barbecues)
 - Improve landscaping/garden improvements at entrance
- Safety is a priority for the community.
 - Create safe pedestrian crossing on Southworth Drive from the park to the beach
 - Recommend accommodating the transportation of kayaks across to the beach
- Access to the waterfront and estuary
 - Provide ways to support environmental restoration
 - Add a vehicle barrier along the shoreline to prevent driving on beach
 - Provide a small opening in the barrier for kayak access
 - Add benches at waterfront (if this could be safely done)
- Recreation opportunities for all ages
 - Play structures for children
 - Multi-purpose recreation facilities
 - Continue offering baseball uses

IV. PARK PLAN

Landscape Classifications for Resource Management and Recreation

Kitsap County Parks' Resource Management and Recreation Landscape Classification System delineates areas within a park that are suitable for resource protection, and the management to accommodate public access and recreational activities. These Landscape Classification Categories (color-coded categories) are:

- **Natural Areas (green)** retain and protect the inherent natural, cultural or historic resource values, and are the most restrictive for public access.
- **Conservation Areas (yellow)** enhance the resource values, yet may require some management activities, such as invasive plant control, **hazard tree removal** and native plantings.
- **Passive Use Areas (brown)** denote low impact recreational uses, such as pedestrian trails, hand-launch water trail sites or interpretive vistas. [Note: Recreational shellfish harvesting areas may be included in Conservation or Passive Use areas depending on public access requirements.]
- **Active Use Areas (red)** are best suited for more developed recreational facilities and a broad range of uses. Such amenities include a parking area, picnic shelter, play fields, fencing, and art or interpretive exhibits.
- **To-Be-Determined (TBD)** indicates that this park area is not yet specified or needs to be assessed (such as for wildlife habitat or conservation concerns). Resource use will be considered after further research.

Figure 9 illustrates the land classifications in Harper Park. The narrative describes proposed guiding principles, as well as goals and objectives for each stage of Harper Park management.

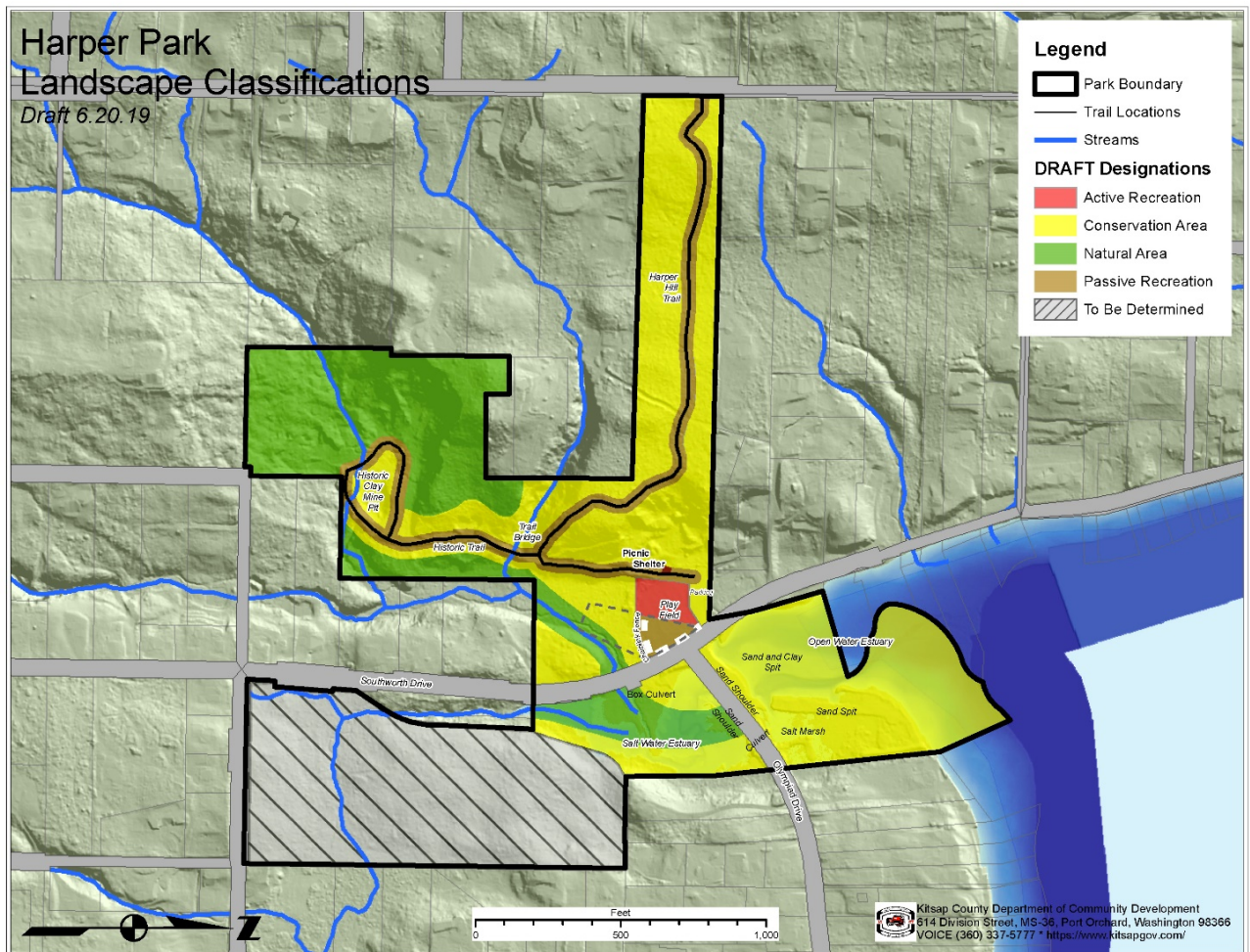


Figure 9. Harper Park Land Classifications

Harper Park Guiding Principles

- Restore and monitor the health of the saltwater estuary, stream and riparian areas and the parkland ecosystem.
- Provide appropriate public access to the waterfront and improve access to recreation for all ages in a way that supports and preserves estuary restoration, function and wildlife habitat.
- Enhance community education about saltwater estuary, stream environment and upland forest ecosystems; emphasizing marine life and upland wildlife habitat.
- Highlight the historical significance of the Harper Brick and Tile Factory through park design elements and on-site interpretation.
- Engage and involve local community members interested in park planning and management, and as active volunteer stewards of the park.

The park improvement plan will follow three progressive stages to achieve the following project goals.

- **STAGE 1 GOAL: Maintain Harper Park facilities.** Provide maintenance and minor project upgrades to promote safety, outdoor enjoyment, and recreation. *This initial stage includes planning work and minor projects that primarily maintain existing facilities.*
- **STAGE 2 GOAL: Enhance Harper Park.** Promote accessibility, safety, education, recreation, and environmental restoration by enhancing the park. *This second stage includes projects that require more planning than the initial stage.*
- **STAGE 3 GOAL: Augment Harper Park.** Add recreational amenities to support accessibility, safety, education, recreation, and environmental restoration. *This third stage includes more complex projects that could add new recreational amenities and require extra planning and preparation.*

STAGE 1 GOAL: Maintain Harper Park facilities. Provide maintenance and minor project upgrades to promote safety, outdoor enjoyment, and recreation.

Identify environmental and public access safety improvements.

- ✓ Conduct a hazard tree assessment and remove hazardous trees in public gathering areas of the park.
- ✓ Design and replace foot bridge crossing a ravine, which was vandalized and removed.
- ✓ Replace entrance signs at the two locations where visitors enter (Southworth Drive and Harper Hill Road).



Figure 10. Park entrance sign at Southworth Drive

Enhance the health of native vegetation. Begin a program to remove major invasive noxious weeds such as English ivy and Scotch broom throughout the park and shorelands.

- ✓ Assess priority areas for invasive noxious weed removal and develop a plan for control. See Appendix B for mapped locations of noxious weed management zones that are delineated based upon the long-term plan and specific goals.
- ✓ Coordinate volunteer labor to control invasive noxious weeds. Organize community volunteer work parties, and recruit volunteers from groups like the US Navy, high schools, churches, and Washington Youth Academy.
- ✓ Organize and coordinate a Parks community stewardship group that will take ownership of maintaining the forest and shoreland's health. The goal is for the stewardship group to continue English ivy and Scotch broom removal efforts long-term.

Coordinate major park site and facility maintenance.

- ✓ Restore water drainage controls to improve access to the shelter and play field.
- ✓ Enhance the picnic shelter structure and add new picnic tables and barbecue facilities.
- ✓ Grade and surface the main trail providing access to the historic clay mine.

STAGE 2 MID-TERM GOAL: [Enhance Harper Park](#). Promote accessibility, safety, education, recreation, and environmental restoration by enhancing the park.

Design vehicle control barriers at the estuary shoreline and Olympiad Drive road edge to prevent estuary and erosion impacts.

- ✓ Provide for pull-through vehicle access along road right of way.
- ✓ Provide for unloading and barrier opening for hand-launch vessels.



Figure 11. Olympiad Drive, looking north

Improve environmental education and park-wide communication/information.

- ✓ Develop signage related to estuary protection and restoration. Add a sign on the beach deterring driving on the beach and describing the restoration work.
- ✓ Design visitor introduction/orientation and interpretation signage.
- ✓ Explore a docent pilot program.

Improve the accessibility of park picnic facilities.

- ✓ Broaden access to the picnic facility by improving the path to accommodate ADA needs.
- ✓ Construct concrete pad extension for American with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility at kitchen shelter and barbecue area.

Enhance safety by discouraging crime, trespassing and vandalism.

- ✓ Identify park limits and add signage, etc. to help delineate park boundaries.
- ✓ Design and construct privacy fencing along property boundary adjacent to the north parking lot.
- ✓ Consider park facility features designed to promote safety.

Improve trail safety and accessibility.

- ✓ Routinely assess trail conditions.
- ✓ Upgrade trail standards and conditions (regarding trail width, grades, surfacing, and drainage) as needed to enhance safety and serve diverse user needs.

STAGE 3 LONG-TERM GOAL: Augment Harper Park. Add recreational amenities to support accessibility, safety, education, recreation, and environmental restoration.

Enhance and improve the park setting and recreational facilities including the ballfield to recognize the community's needs and values.

- ✓ Develop ballfield area improvement plans that support both baseball and open play activities.
- ✓ Improve park amenities such as: benches, picnic tables, barbecues, bike racks, art and interpretive displays, and fencing.
- ✓ Improve the aesthetic appeal of the entrance of Harper Park with a native plant landscape feature and a new brick-base entrance sign.



Figure 12. Fencing between ballfield and parking area

Support environmental restoration and environmental education in Harper estuary and park.

- ✓ Support projects and project partnerships to remove industrial fill (clinker bricks) and relic roadway debris for the restoration of natural functions and improvement of estuary health (partners could include the Washington Department of Ecology, Washington Conservation Corps, etc.).
- ✓ Provide visitor introduction/orientation and interpretation signage.
- ✓ Deliver engaging education to the community (e.g. events, online, etc.).

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT: Playfield and Picnic Area

1. Remove the large chain link backstop and dugout structures near Southworth Drive.
2. Retain the outfield (low) chain link fencing along the roadway and the south side of the field to deter kids, pets and balls from the stream and riparian area.
3. Replace the backstop with a smaller size structure (10 ft. height), like the dome backstop shown in Figure 13, to be located be in the northwest corner of the field (approx. 200 ft. from roadway, facing southeast) near the picnic shelter.
4. Replace the low chain link fence along the parking area with pole-rail fencing, and openings for family-friendly field access.
5. Install parking wheel stops to direct car parking.
6. Add interpretive signage to improve education.

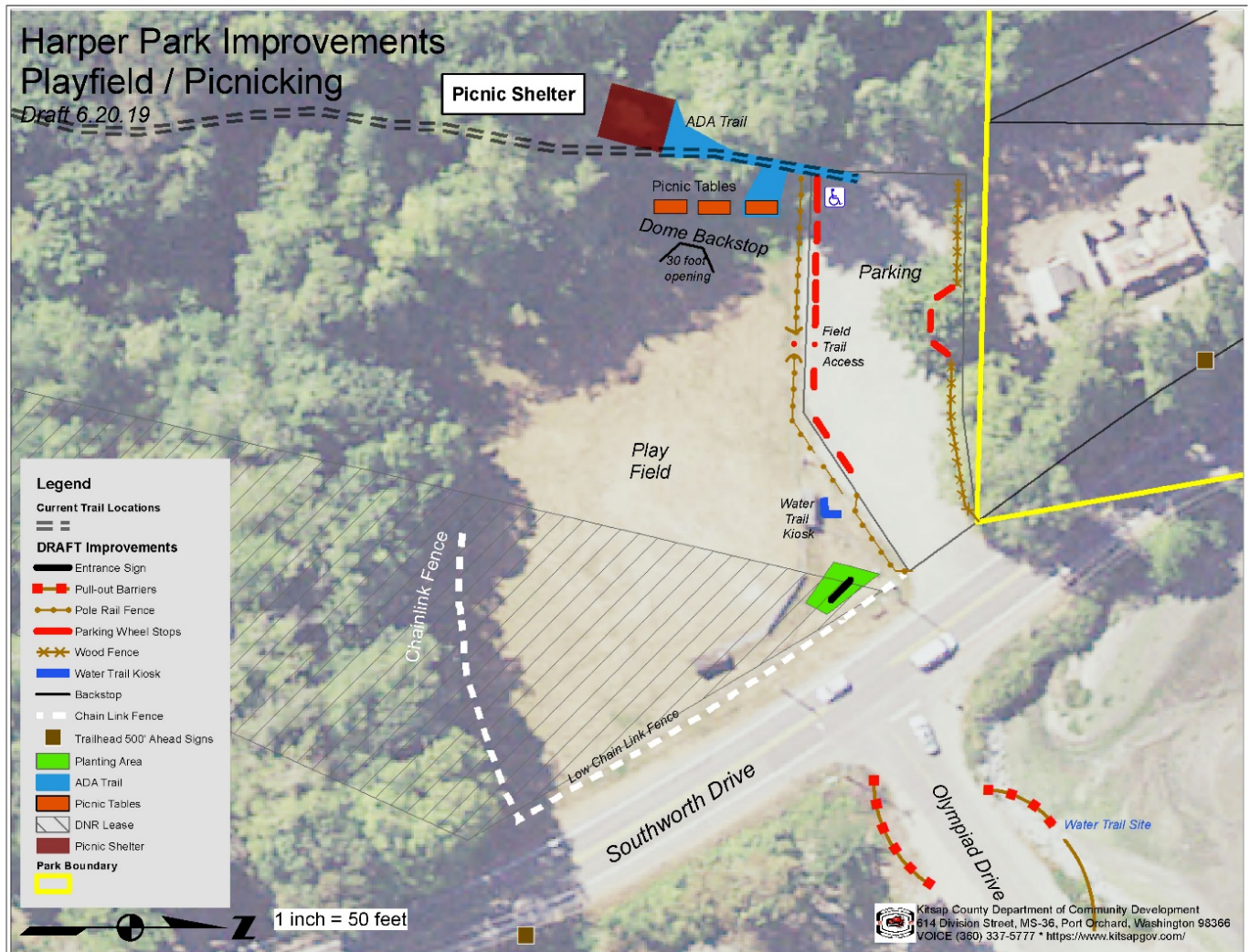


Figure 13. Proposed Draft Harper Park Playfield and Picnicking Improvements



Figure 14. Example of a Dome Backstop

Design Concept Advantages:

Baseball Function:

- Baseball use of the Park field is retained through the proposed concept. This responds to the community interest in retaining the baseball backstop, fencing, benches, etc. The proposed backstop is scaled down for lower visual impact yet retains safety aspects. Small field, informal baseball development is consistent with the current facility and community values as shown by community engagement.
- The relocation of and replacement with smaller backstop structures would provide for baseball activities which would be outside of the Washington Department of Natural Resources State-owned Aquatic Lands ownership, on which the current facility is placed. The open field becomes more inviting for open play activities when not in use by baseball activities. The relocation became more feasible due to the restoration of the drainage ditch and the addition of a curtain drain near the shelter.
- Visitors would be able to view baseball activities in the picnic shelter facility since it would be closer.
- This proposal focuses developed park structures in one area.

Open Field Opportunity:

- New two-rail pole fencing along the parking area will open the area visually and provide grass trail openings for open field play invitation and access.
- Part of the community expressed interest in an open-field concept to invite more play opportunities. The existing fenced baseball enclosure may discourage other uses.

Design Concept Limitations:

- With the ballfield facility in place, there is no apparent location within that baseball footprint for any playground facility.
- There could be potential conflict of baseball field use and other play field activities. The fields could be potentially added to the Parks reservation system (no fee).

Constraints for Washington Department of Natural Resources State-owned Aquatic Lands

Currently about half of the ballfield development is within Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) State-owned Aquatic Lands ownership. Washington Department of Natural Resources State-owned Aquatic Lands management would allow water-dependent uses (e.g.

boat access), water view access (vista areas), and some amenities (e.g. interpretive displays, benches, etc.). A DNR lease will be required for any changes to the uses in the ballfield (i.e. open playfield, water view amenities (displays, benches etc.) and kayak staging area field use) or if the current use is retained. Proposed non-water dependent uses should be an accessory to water dependent uses and they should help attract additional water uses and promote the usefulness of adjacent water dependent use areas.

Advantages for Department of Natural Resources Lease Application: Baseball structures are no longer on Washington Department of Natural Resources State-owned Aquatic Lands property. Focusing on the water-dependent components in a mixed-use plan will further support the public benefits and goals provided by DNR.

Renewed Park Attraction:

- Vista views of the estuary and waterway would be greatly improved without the large backstop and fencing. This enhancement aligns with the restoration emphasis of the shore area and natural viewshed.
- Adding Park entrance landscaping, signage and site orientation/interpretive displays will help to redefine the image of the park and attract a more diverse park use.
- Park interpretive displays and signage can draw attention to the estuary, the waterway and the park's historical background, now in full view.
- Near the Park entrance and by the waterway, provide signage to direct interest to the Kitsap Water Trail (WT) System with WT Regional Map and waterway chart orientation.
- Provide waterway access for kayaks and hand-launch boats at the roadside pull-out along Olympiad Drive. Displays, signage and kayak staging area will improve the usefulness of the adjacent beach area for water dependent public use and access.
- Picnic tables and a bike rack could be added near the field for increased attraction and use of the park.

1. Connect Harper Park to Waterfront Strategy:

- a. Provide safe crossing across Southworth Drive for pedestrians and kayakers (i.e. small boat users) to the beach. Connecting park to waterfront will enhance water-dependent public uses and waterfront access.

A formal pedestrian crosswalk along the high traffic Southworth Drive is absent.

An engineering study could be completed to identify feasible and preferable routes for providing a safe crossing. Should road crossing “Caution” signs at the park and at Olympiad Drive intersection for pedestrians traveling to the estuary beach area be provided? Should a “Trailhead Parking – 500 ft. Ahead” (highway-approved recreation brown signs) be provided along Southworth Drive in both directions to alert drivers and direct visitors?

- b. Enhance viewshed of the estuary, provide water view amenities like interpretive displays and benches, and provide kayak staging area in park.
- c. Design and construct bay/estuary viewing areas to support community’s values to protect the natural ecology of the estuary and enhance recreational experiences.

Note: All stages of planning will integrate community participation and will be reviewed by county staff and officials, Parks Advisory Board, partner agencies and other relevant organizations.

V. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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VI. APPENDICES

APPENDIX A. Summarized Demographic Information

Basic population demographic information was summarized for the communities residing within a short distance of Harper Park. The information shows that as you move further away from Harper Park, the population includes more non-white persons and slightly more children. Two schools are within one mile of Harper Park: South Colby Elementary School and John Sedgewick Junior High. These schools are within the South Kitsap School District. Additional information on the total population and housing units, race, and age for 2010 at different distances from Harper Park are provided below.

- **Population residing within one-half mile of Harper Park:** 288 children (19% of total population), 1261 adults (81% of total population is 18 years or older), and 130 non-white persons (8% of total population). Area has 706 housing units (627 occupied) and 1,549 persons, in total.
- **Population residing within one mile of Harper Park:** 604 children (21% of total), 2,308 adults (79% of total), and 260 non-white persons (9% of total). Area has 1,239 housing units (1,115 occupied) and 2,912 persons, in total.
- **Population residing within a distance of two miles of Harper Park:** 1300 children (21% of total), 4,925 adults (79% of total), and 598 non-white persons (10% of total). Area has 2,637 housing units (2,395 occupied) and 6,225 persons, in total.

Recent demographic information (2015-2018) on the ages of residents within two miles of Harper Park shows only minor shifts. Listed from closest to farthest, the following three census tracts are within two miles of Harper Park: Harper/Southworth Tract 927.04 is closest to Harper Park, West Harper Tract 927.01 is the next closest, and Manchester Tract 926 is located the furthest away (see Figure 15, below). Highlights:

- Tract closest to Harper Park (927.04): the number of potential retirees (65-74 and 75+ years) has increased and the number of children has remained the same since 2015.
- Tract west from Harper Park (927.01): the number of potential retirees (65-74 and 75+ years) and children slightly increased since 2015.
- Tract furthest and north of Harper Park (926): the number of older retirees (75+ years) dropped off but younger retirees (65-74) increased and the number of children remained the same since 2015.

The above information on population changes for different age groups from 2015 to 2018 is based on Washington State Office of Financial Management estimates.

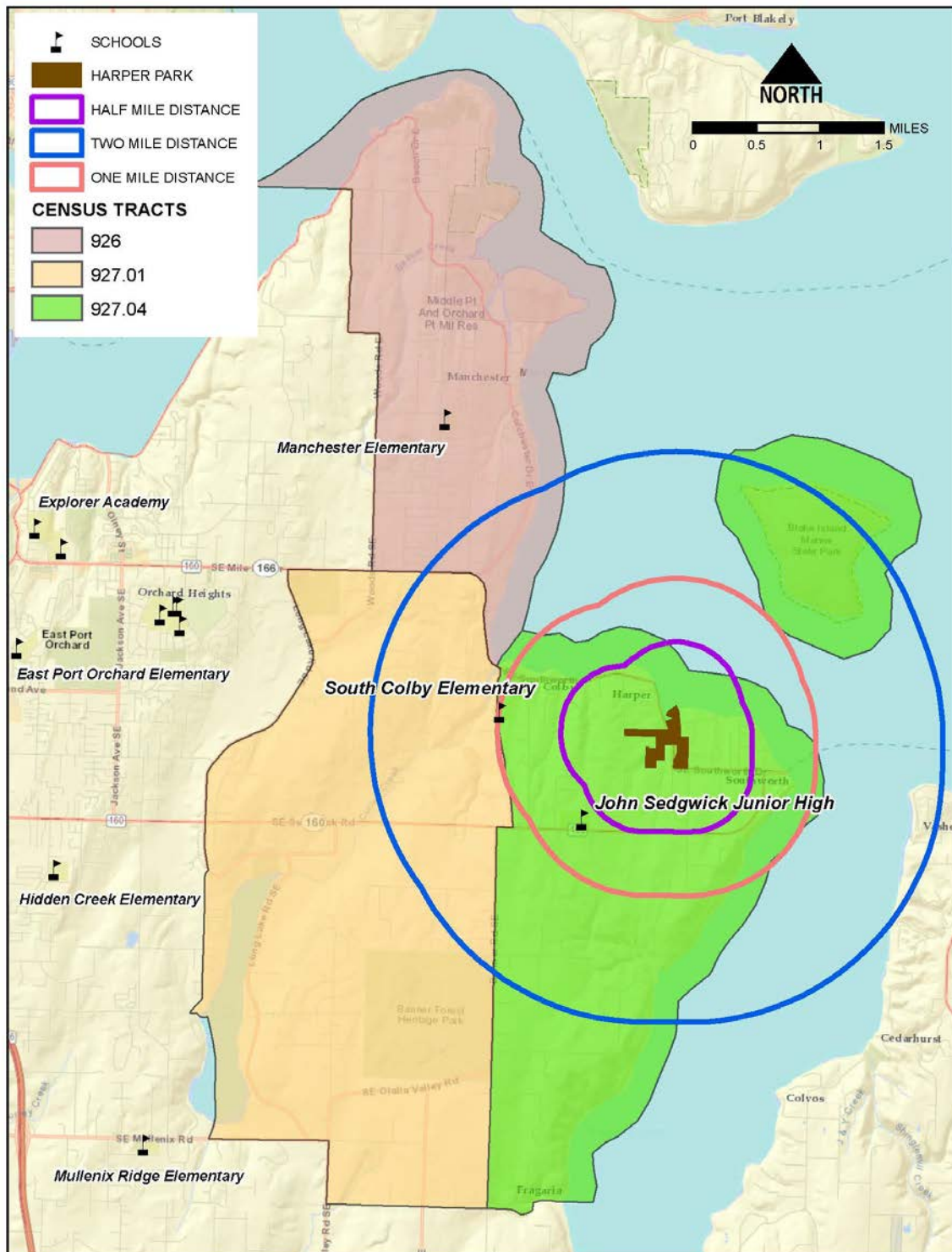


Figure 15. Census Tracts around Harper Park

APPENDIX B. Noxious Weed and English Ivy Removal Plan for Harper Park

Background

English ivy (*Hedera Helix*) is a non-native, climbing woody vine that invades parks, natural areas and landscaped sites. English ivy is a threat to tree health and plant diversity within habitats and ecosystems of Puget Sound. The weight of the ivy vines can smother trees, deprive them of sunlight and cause them to be more prone to wind damage. Thick blankets of perennial ivy vines crowd out native plant communities of herbaceous plants and shrubs, reducing natural forest diversity (See Figure 16). English ivy is classified as a Class C noxious weed by Washington State law (WAC 16-750) which means its distribution is already widespread or it's of special interest to the agricultural industry; however, the State does not enforce its control.

Management Zones

Managing English ivy is a multi-year process. Management can be done year-round, but tactics vary based on locations of infestations and end goals for management zones. The overall noxious weed control goals for Harper Park is to remove English ivy infestations within the park long-term to promote tree health, improve forest habitat diversity, improve riparian habitat quality for fish and wildlife, and to beautify the park and improve safety for visitors' recreation experience.

Harper Park is divided into three ivy management zones, Zone 1, 2 and 3. Figure 17 is a map which shows the boundaries of these zones.



Figure 16. English ivy infesting trees and up-close image of mature leaves

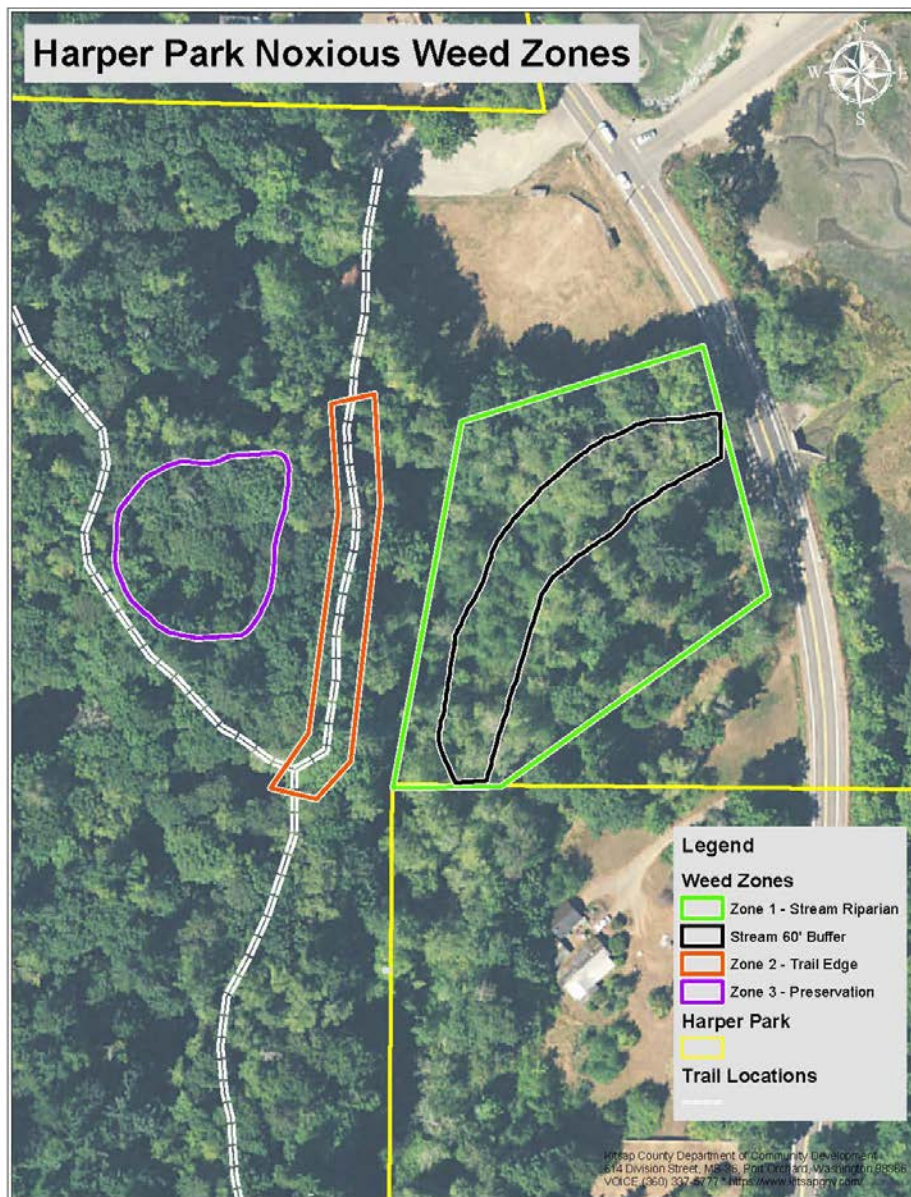


Figure 17. Noxious Weed Removal Zones (English ivy) in Harper Park

Zone 1 'Stream Riparian'

Zone 1 is located south of the baseball field. It encompasses an area of wetlands on either side of the stream, approximately 100 feet from each north and south stream bank. This zone is split into two sections: one section that is a 60-foot buffer from the stream banks, and a second larger section that is the entire 100-foot buffer from the stream banks. The management tactic

for these two zones is to concentrate resources and effort first within the 60-foot buffer area because of the high value of the riparian habitat. The stream is fish-bearing and spawning Coho salmon have been previously observed. After the ivy is reduced to an acceptable level in the 60-foot buffer area, then efforts will shift to the 100-foot buffer area. The Parks Department and the Kitsap County Noxious Weed Program will make the decision as to when to shift efforts to 100-foot buffer.

In Zone 1 the ivy infestation is both on the ground and up many of the trees. This zone is the largest area of ivy to be managed in the park. This area has a mix of native plants that are being impacted by the ivy on the ground. Management will be a combined effort of first managing the ivy on the trees, and then on the ground. Due to the stream running through the middle of this zone, special care will be taken to ensure that volunteers and county staff stay a safe distance from the stream edge. Being cognizant of group dynamics and matching areas of management within this zone to the experience level of our volunteers will be a priority in each volunteer event held at Harper Park. A focus will be placed on safe, responsible action within this zone, and volunteer education on best management practices.

The key to management in this zone is to pick a section that is small enough for a group of three people to manage. The first goal is to work on trees. The group will select a few trees that they would like to free from ivy.

Best Practices for Removing Ivy from Trees:

At the base of the tree, at ground level cut the vines, then cut the vines around the tree about 4-5 feet off the ground. Slowly peel the cut sections away from the tree, leaving the rest of the vines up in the tree. Either pile these cut sections in an already infested area or you may take them off site for disposal. Do not take the vine sections to a compost facility because this will infest the compost facility.

Once ivy is removed from the trees in the desired areas then start to focus on the ground around the freed trees.

Once ivy has been removed from the trees in Zone 1 ivy infestation on the ground can be addressed. It is best to work in teams to remove ivy from the forest floor. Take care to work around native plants. Map out an area to focus on. Work from the edge of the population and move the roles of ivy towards the edge of the population for easier “carry out” from the site.

Best Practices for Removing Ivy from the Ground:

Use tools to get under the roots and pry the ivy out of the ground. Roll the ivy onto itself by standing behind the ivy and rolling it towards the “patch”. When roots will not come out of the ground, cut them and keep the plants wrapped up.

Piles of ivy pulled from the ground can be placed on tarps, and then be moved to a holding location for pick up by county staff.

The removal areas should be surveyed for new growth once a month for 3-5 years.

Zone 2 'Trail Edge'

Zone 2 is a narrow corridor located either side of the main trail to the historic clay mine. The zone spans approximately 20 feet on either side of the trail and continues to the ravine crossing. This area has had passive control due to the restoration and widening of the trail. This section was cut, graded and graveled. This area needs to be managed in a way to maintain the new trail substrate (crushed gravel) from being destroyed by ivy regrowth. Ivy has been cleared from the sides of the trail but there is still ivy on the trees adjacent to the trail. The ivy also continues down the hillside towards the stream within Zone 1, but much of that ivy is not safely accessible for removal.

The goal for Zone 2 is to cut sections of ivy from the trees. Provide a 2-foot gap from the ground to where the ivy begins on the tree. Ivy on the ground could be cut and when the new growth appears licensed and trained staff should dab herbicide on the new growth. This will help move the herbicide into the root system without having to navigate the hillside or impact the newly placed trail substrate.

Encourage each visitor to take clippers with them to cut ivy along the trail side. Create a space for visitors and volunteers to dispose of ivy they have cut or pulled while on their hike. Create a kiosk or signage which asks visitors to document (written or online) the ivy they pulled.

Zone 3 'Preservation'

Zone 3 has limited ivy present and displays a generally healthy upland forested habitat. The area consists of mostly native plants, and staff speculates that this area could be successfully protected. There is a healthy mix of shrubs like Oregon grape, Indian plum and conifer species like Douglas Fir. The ivy is limited in this section so pulling plants is feasible. The pulled ivy should be carried out of the zone.

The ivy is small and the roots in this area are easily pulled. The ivy vines can be pulled from the middle of the plant towards the edges. Medium size patches in this section should be flagged so that volunteers can go back to the site to check for regrowth over the next 3-5 years.