

Public Forum on Lower Coal Creek Flood Hazard Reduction Alternatives Analysis Project Meeting Summary

May 12, 2014, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
81 Skagit Key, Bellevue, WA 98006
Newport Yacht Club

Action Items

	Actions	Person Responsible
1.	Confirm appropriate method to dispose of sandbags.	City of Bellevue
2.	Is there a phone tree in place that alerts community members about flooding upstream?	City of Bellevue
3.	Confirm point of contact at the City to assist community members when trees bordering the Creek need to be pruned or cut down.	City of Bellevue
4.	Confirm the following regarding stream bank stabilization: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where to get permission to remove or alter stream bank vegetation; Who is responsible for maintaining the stream bank; and What can be done by residents. 	City of Bellevue
5.	Provide information/comments to the City on alternatives presented and observed areas of flooding by July 1, 2014 . Please email additional comments to Brian Ward at bward@bellevuewa.gov .	Newport Shores Residents

Welcome/Introductions

The purpose of this meeting was to hear input and questions from the community; review the project's status and next steps; and provide information about existing flood risks in the Newport Shores neighborhood and potential alternatives to reduce those risks.

Questions & Comments

Community members had the opportunity to ask the project team – comprised of the City of Bellevue (the City), Northwest Hydraulics Consultants (NHC), Tetra Tech, Inc., and Triangle Associates, Inc. – a series of questions and/or provide comments. Responses are indicated by *italics*.

Questions

- Will the City consider completing more than one alternative?
 - *Yes, the City may implement a suite of alternatives.*
- How should Newport Shores residents dispose of sandbags after a flood event?
 - *The City delivers sandbags to residents in emergency situations. When the emergency has dissipated, cut open the sandbags, dump out and spread the sand around. Avoid putting the sand directly into the stream.*

- *Sandbags left out in the sun will deteriorate due to UV rays making redeployment or disposal difficult.*
- Can individuals submit comments after this Public Forum?
 - *Yes, comments should be submitted to Brian Ward (bward@Bellevuewa.gov) as soon as possible, with a deadline of July 1, 2014.*
- Through this project, will the City restore stream banks to combat erosion issues?
 - *If culvert replacements are chosen as the preferred alternative, there will be some stream bank restoration work completed near the culverts. Otherwise, there are no other plans to complete stream bank restoration as part of this project.*
 - *One community member commented that he planted native Washington plants along the stream bank on his property, which do not need to be fertilized or watered. These plants have kept erosion at bay.*
- What is the overall timeline for this project if the City decides to replace all the culverts?
 - *Design is scheduled to begin in late 2014. In 2015, the City will coordinate with the appropriate agencies and take comments from the public on the project design. In order to avoid salmon runs, the construction window in this area is a six week period starting July 15. The City projects that it can replace two to three culverts a year, if that is the chosen approach.*
- In what order will the culverts be replaced?
 - *The City has done some initial prioritization of the culverts to determine which should be replaced first, but has not made any final decisions.*
- Will the State Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW) be involved in this project?
 - *Yes, WDFW will be involved, specifically through the permitting process, once the City has identified the project(s) it will implement.*
- Does stormwater runoff drain into Lower Coal Creek or into the sewer system? Does the City allow water from residential properties to drain into the storm system?
 - *The sewer system (wastewater) is a closed system that does not include stormwater. All stormwater eventually drains into the Creek, whereas the wastewater is sent through the sewer system to be treated. The City cannot allow homeowners to route stormwater into the wastewater systems.*
 - *It is possible to route the runoff from residents' roofs onto the street so that water enters the stormwater system.*
- Can the stormwater pipes be diverted so they do not release water into the Creek?
 - *Yes. When flows in Lower Coal Creek are high, stormwater from residential structures is not able to drain to the Creek until the high creek flows subside. Residents with downspout connections to the creek could alleviate flooding by redirecting stormwater from their property to the street.*
- Is there a phone tree in place that alerts community members about flooding upstream?
 - *Yes, but only for those who elected to have their name included on the list. Contact the HOA office manager to either add or remove your name from the Reverse 911 list.*

- What is happening on Coal Creek Parkway? Does this affect flooding in Newport Shores?
 - *The City is currently replacing the culvert under Coal Creek Parkway, which is complicated by the fact that the Olympic Pipeline (which carries fuel to Sea-Tac) is adjacent to the culvert. Construction should be completed October 2014.*
 - *The Coal Creek Parkway culvert replacement is independent from this project and does not affect flooding issues in Newport Shores.*

Comments

- There are issues with trees and branches falling into the creek, causing blockages in the culverts. Residents are unclear what the steps are to remove trees, preventing debris from entering the creek.
- One community member commented that the houses in Newport Shores were built in the 1960s and 70s before the modern stormwater system was in place. That means that now it is the owner's responsibility to ensure that the water is re-directed to the storm system. Having stormwater drain into the stormwater system is better than having the water flow into the Creek.
- Community members were concerned about neighborhood access and any potential disruptions that may result if the culverts are replaced.
 - *The City commented that it is difficult to know what access issues will occur until the projects are selected, though access issues are considered when the City begins a project. The City always takes precautions to maintain emergency service access.*
 - One community member commented that there is only one way in and out of much of the neighborhood, so it will be important to take this into consideration as the City plans for projects.
- Community members would like to see more vegetation management and an increase in native plant vegetation.
- Community members are concerned with erosion issues and would like to see actions to stabilize the stream banks. There is a need for a more coordinated response related to stabilizing stream banks. Community members are unclear about what they can and cannot do to address this issue.
 - *The City has a "Stream Team" which can help residents determine how to deal with erosion. The City will respond to this question through the Homeowners Association (HOA) Newsletter.*
- One individual expressed preference for the I-405 expansion over culvert replacements.
 - *It was noted by the technical consultants that these two options are not mutually exclusive, and therefore could both be implemented.*

Suggested Future Public Involvement Efforts

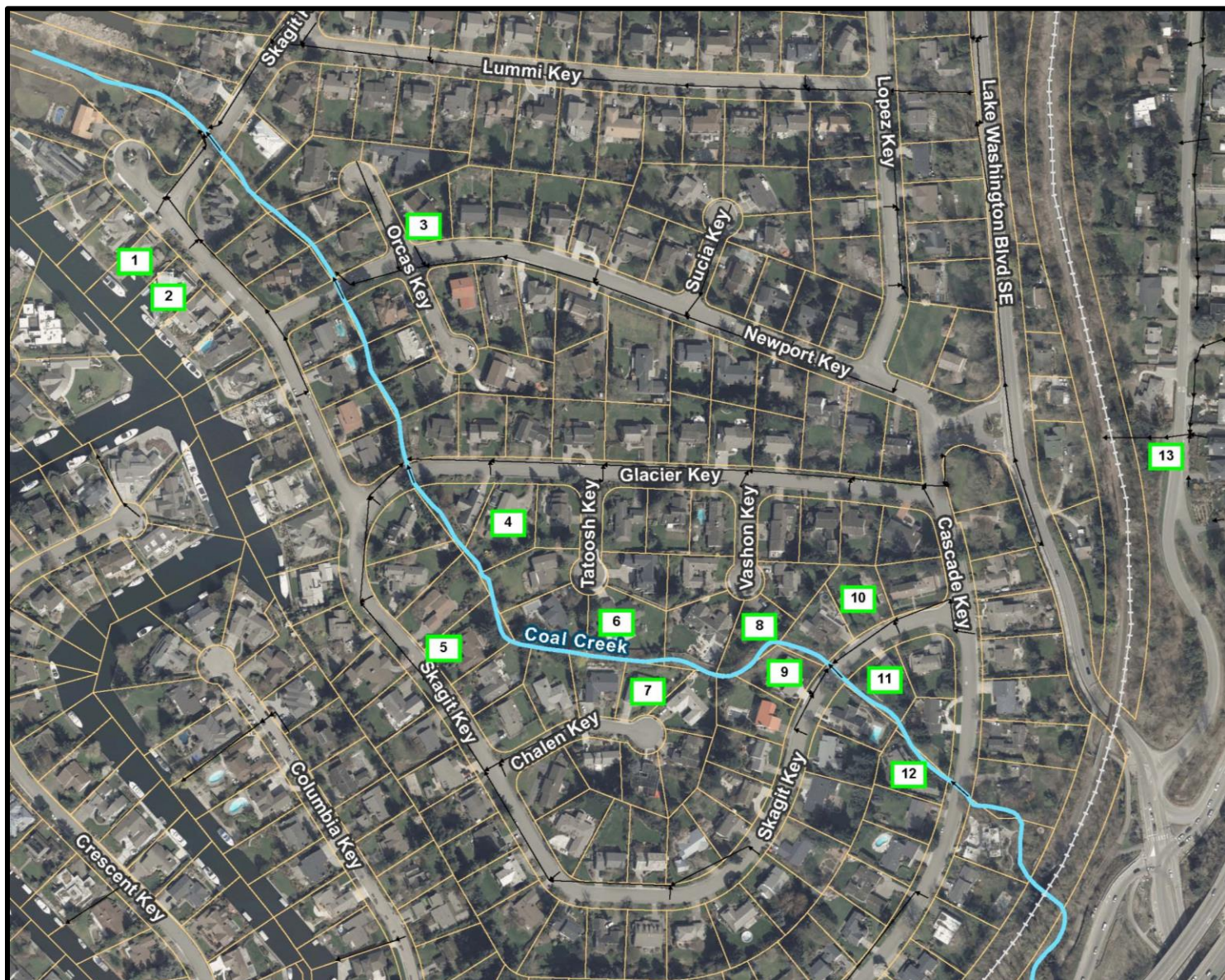
Community members suggested the following as ways to keep the community informed:

- Monthly HOA newsletter – this was suggested as a way to provide answers to some of the outstanding questions from today's meeting.
- Website – the HOA is launching a new website, and can link to the City's website or provide information directly on the page. The HOA can also add the Frequently Asked Questions document about this project to its website.

- Additional public forums – it was requested that the City hold a second Public Forum once it chooses which projects to implement. Community members would like to hear the City’s rationale and hear more information on vegetation management, erosion control, and sandbag disposal.
- Use HOA as primary point of contact – the HOA can disseminate information on behalf of the City.

Identification of Flooding & Drainage Problems

Community members identified site specific issues and commented on areas where flood events have occurred in the neighborhood.



Comments organized by site location (green boxes):

Site 1 (61 Skagit):

- There has been street flooding due to culvert blockages at Cascade Key.

Site 2 (63 Skagit):

- In the 1990s, the City worked to address drainage issues in and around this property, which proved successful. There is still a bit of standing water on the property.

Site 3:

- There is poor drainage in this area. One community member suggested that this is due to no inlet at this location.

Site 4 (49 Glacier):

- The yard flooded in 2010.

Site 5:

- Sandbags have been used at this site.

Site 6 (35 Tatoosh):

- There is a 185 foot berm at this site. The middle part of the berm at the base is beginning to erode. One individual was concerned that the berm will fall into the Creek.

Site 7 (36 Chelan):

- In 2010, flooding occurred at this site and sandbags were used. Flood water reached up to four feet.
- The bank is eroding.
- In the 1980s, the City planted alders, which now snag debris when there is high water, further eroding the bank.

Site 8 (21 Vashon):

- There is a 90 degree turn, which changes the river dynamics and flow.
- The rock berm is too low and is deteriorating.

Site 9 (8 Skagit):

- In 2007, sandbags were used on the berm in the backyard to protect against flood waters.

Site 10 (4 Skagit):

- During the 2007 flood event, water ponded on this property.

Site 11 (5 Skagit):

- In 2008, flooding occurred at this site and there was ponding in the backyard. Water pooled on the driveway. Sandbags were used.

Site 12:

- In 2006, flooding occurred at this site and sandbags were used to protect the property.

Site 13:

- During rain events, little rivers run down the slope, crossing Lake Washington Blvd, and run into community members' backyards.

Written Comments

Comment #1

What is being done about large trees – some diseased – in or near the Creek? In a windstorm, a fallen tree would dam the Creek and create flood conditions very quickly.

Who is responsible for removing or pruning diseased tree and vegetation management?

Comment #2

Sandbag disposal – what do I do?

Attendees

	Name	Affiliation
1.	George Bagley	Newport Shores
2.	June Bartell	Newport Shores
3.	Sally Caplan	Newport Shores
4.	Roy Chine	Newport Shores
5.	Steve Cole	Newport Shores
6.	Alan Cornell	Newport Shores
7.	Bob Edwards	Newport Shores
8.	Tiffany English	Newport Shores
9.	Mieko Gilmore	Newport Shores
10.	Janie Gros	Newport Shores
11.	Dick Hailry	Newport Shores
12.	Ward Harris	Newport Shores
13.	Jim Hirshfield	Newport Shores
14.	Mike Holmes	Newport Shores
15.	Steve Lee	Newport Shores
16.	Dick & Norma Line	Newport Shores
17.	Grey Lundberg	Newport Shores
18.	Brian McCartan	Newport Shores
19.	Pat McHaul	Newport Shores
20.	Clark Olsen	Newport Shores
21.	Mark Reimann	Newport Shores
22.	Steve Sandberg	Newport Shores
23.	Gil Schoos	Newport Shores
24.	Ann Skoardopole	Newport Shores
25.	Mark Spatl	Newport Shores
26.	Bob Tomberg	Newport Shores
27.	Bill Weinstein	Newport Shores
28.	Brian Ward	City of Bellevue
29.	Mark Cross	City of Bellevue
30.	Bruce Jensen	City of Bellevue
31.	David Hartley	NHC
32.	Vaughn Collins	NHC
33.	Jerry Scheller	Tetra Tech
34.	Mark Hopper	King County Flood Control District
35.	Bob Wheeler	Triangle
36.	Shanese Crosby	Triangle
37.	Claire Turpel	Triangle