

Executive Summary

Harper Estuary Restoration Project

Introductory Meeting Summary Report

May 29, 2014

The Harper estuary is a pocket estuary located in Puget Sound in the vicinity of Southworth, Washington. The estuary is bounded to the west and south by SE Southworth Drive. The Harper Estuary Restoration Project began in January 2014 with the goal to restore tidal influences and natural habitat that are now impacted by an ineffective culvert and fill.

Because the community is a valued stakeholder in the design and outcome of this project, Kitsap County and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife initiated a public outreach program for the project. The first meetings accomplished the following:

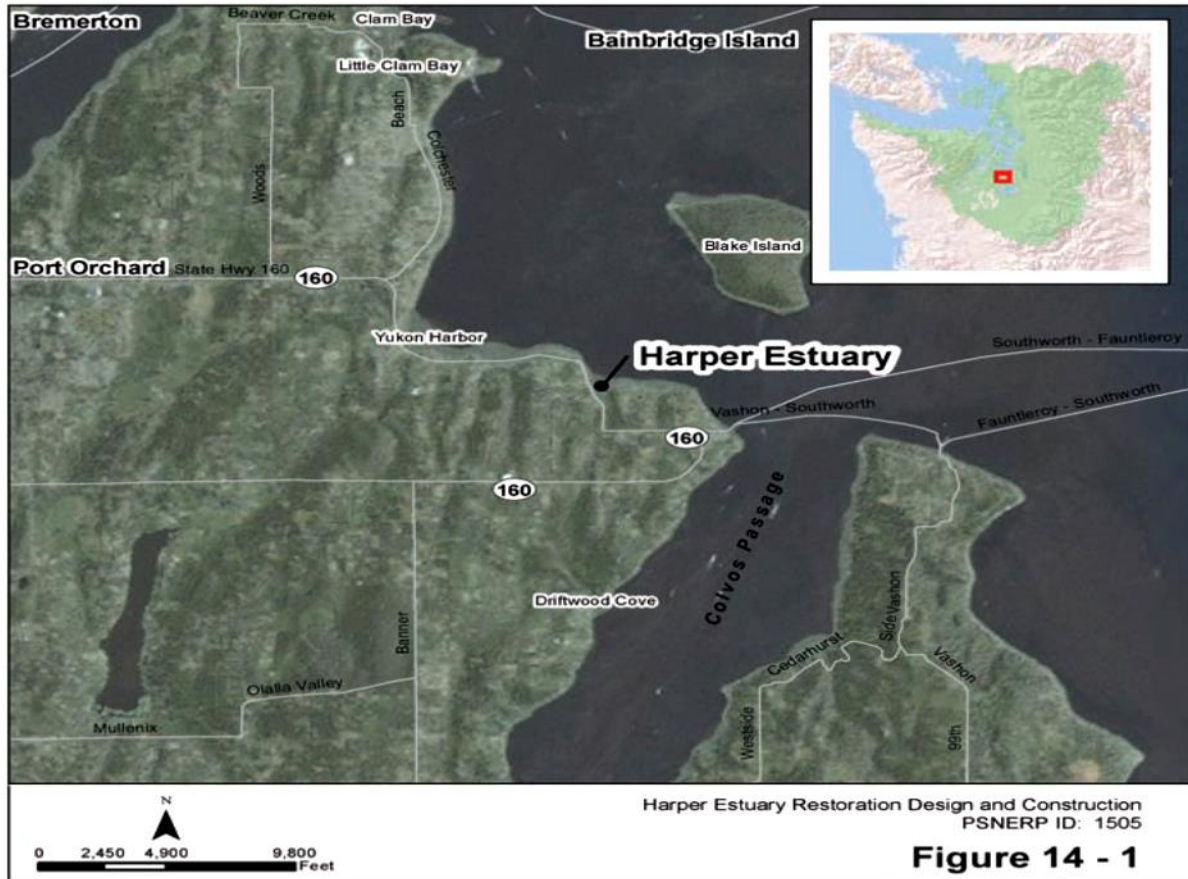
1. The restoration project was introduced to the community
2. The community provided feedback based on a questionnaire

The discussion and the completed questionnaires produced comments for Kitsap County on how residents enjoy the estuary; what the community believes could improve the estuary area; and the residents' preferred methods of communication with the project managers. The ongoing outreach program connects to residents bordering the estuary and those within a mile radius of the estuary. Key observations on the comments received include:

- The community, as a whole, places a high value on the estuary.
- The most discussed enjoyment within the area include: the wildlife and natural environment; the multi-use recreation within the park area; intangible values of neighborhood connectivity; and an appreciation of local history and culture.
- The community, generally, supports enhancing the estuarine habitat, tidal exchange, and fish passage.
- The community members also prefer that local recreational and transportation needs be met as a part of the estuary restoration project.

This summary report describes the meetings, identifies the method used to categorize the comments, and offers an analysis of the comments received from completed questionnaires, meeting discussion and emails. Recommended next steps for community outreach are identified. All comments are provided in the Appendices.

Figure 1 Project Vicinity Map



Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Project, Strategic Restoration Conceptual Engineering-Final Design Report, March 2011.