

## Vasa Basin Study Questions and Answers

What is a basin study?

Answer: A basin study is an analysis to address long-term hydrologic impacts to streams, wetlands and floodplains. A basin study may be used to evaluate and propose solutions to manage the quality and/or the quantity of drainage water in a drainage basin and prepare other studies as appropriate. This basin study is limited to a better delineation of the floodplain, an assessment of Vasa Creek for landslides south of I-90 and an assessment of the habitat in lower Vasa Creek.

What is a floodplain map?

Answer: A floodplain map shows the land area adjacent to streams, rivers, and lake that are subjected to inundation from the 100-year flooding event. A 100-year flooding event is the area in a floodplain which has a 1 percent chance of flooding at any time. It does not mean a flood event only occurs once in a hundred years.

Why is the City of Bellevue's Utilities Department studying Vasa Basin now?

Answer: This basin has been identified as the next basin to be studied primarily because of the level of inaccuracy of floodplain delineation and the unknown habitat conditions for kokanee. Development pressure on large parcels in the lower watershed require better understanding of actual floodplain locations to assure new homes are not at risk of flooding.

What effect will the basin study have on my property?

Answer: The Basin Study will more accurately delineate the floodplain and determine the condition of the stream habitat in the area below I-90. There will be no new development regulations based on this study, and existing development regulations (e.g. for floodplains) will continue to be applied but the area that they will be applied to will be more clearly identified for property owners.

What if good kokanee habitat is found on my property? Will restrictions be placed upon my property?

Answer: Vasa Creek is already identified as a Salmon-bearing stream. If kokanee habitat conditions are found on a property no further restrictions will be placed on your property.

Who is paying for the basin study?

Answer: The study is being funded by the surface water rates collected from Bellevue property owners.

What will the city be doing during a habitat assessment?

Answer: The habitat assessor will note if the stream is in a pool (ponded water from rock or woody debris) or a riffle<sup>1</sup> section. The composition and size of the sediment in the stream channel will be recorded. The assessor will also be looking at the type of vegetation in the area next to the stream.

How long will the habitat assessment of my property take?

Answer: Assessment of a typical property will take approximately 30 to 45 minutes.

Will there be flagging or surveying of the property?

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<sup>1</sup> Riffle section is a shallow portion of the stream where the water is moving fast enough to create small riffles in the surface of the water

Answer: Some of the streamside properties south of I-90 may be surveyed. The city will obtain rights of entry from these properties owners before entering to survey the creek. On some properties there may be survey stakes installed on a temporary basis.

What is a Letter of Map Amendment?

Answer: A Letter of Map Amendment (LOMA) is the process required to modify the currently effective Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) map which establishes that a property is not located in a Special Flood Hazard Area. A LOMA is issued only by FEMA. For additional information on Letters of Map Amendments, visit FEMA's web site at [FEMA.gov | Federal Emergency Management Agency](https://www.fema.gov/federal-emergency-management-agency).

Will a formal Letter of Map Amendment be pursued on behalf of property owners?

Answer: No Letter of Map Amendments will be pursued on behalf of individual property owners.

What is a Letter of Map Revision?

Answer: An official amendment to the currently effective FEMA map. It is issued by FEMA and changes flood zones, delineations, and elevations. For additional information on Letter of Map Revision, visit FEMA's Web site at [www.fema.gov](https://www.fema.gov).

Will a Letter of Map Revision be pursued?

Answer: A Letter of Map Revision will be processed for those properties in a zone A or AE. For those properties currently in a zone A floodplain a base flood elevation will be determined. This will more clearly define the flood risk than a floodplain zone A area. For those properties in a floodplain zone AE the base flood elevations will be re-evaluated based upon better hydrologic data so the risk of flooding will be more accurate.