



Lower Coal Creek Flood Reduction Project Frequently Asked Questions

June 2014

Project-Related Questions

What is the Lower Coal Creek Flood Reduction Project?

The City of Bellevue (Bellevue) is seeking to reduce the risk of flooding in the Newport Shores neighborhood. An engineering study evaluated the watershed's existing hydrological conditions, and this information, along with initial public input, was used to identify potential projects that could be implemented in the neighborhood to reduce flooding and improve fish habitat. Ultimately, a strategy will be developed and implemented as the most effective way to reduce flood risk.

Why did the City choose to focus on the Newport Shores neighborhood?

Flooding is a concern in Newport Shores. Over the last two decades, Bellevue has received and responded to numerous flooding complaints associated with a range of causes, including backup of storm drains, culvert blockages, and channel overflows during large storms.

In 2007, the Metropolitan King County Council created the King County Flood Control District (the District) to address chronic flooding problems throughout the County. The District collects an excise tax on all parcels in King County, including Bellevue, for flood control planning and projects.

When the District was forming, Bellevue requested that the District prioritize a flood risk reduction project for Lower Coal Creek within the Newport Shores neighborhood. Bellevue recommended Newport Shores over other areas in the City with flooding because it met the Flood District's project selection criteria.

Where is the project located?

The project is located in Newport Shores, which is where Coal Creek approaches its delta at Lake Washington. **Figure 1** shows the project area outlined in red.

What will happen if Bellevue doesn't address the flooding?

If this issue is not addressed, residents will continue to see occasional flooding on their properties and roadways. Bellevue's goal is to implement an alternative(s) that will help reduce flooding throughout the neighborhood.

What is the solution?

Bellevue is in the process of identifying the most effective and efficient flood reduction strategy. A series of proposed solutions have been developed, and Bellevue will narrow this list by hearing input from the public on the proposed projects and measuring each project against a set of evaluation criteria.

Will the City consider implementing more than one alternative?

Yes, the City may choose to pursue a suite of alternatives.

How will any solutions proposed relate to the sediment ponds upstream?

This study and resulting project are independent from the sediment ponds upstream. The upstream sediment ponds were designed to trap sediments before entering the Newport Shores neighborhood.



Figure 1. Project Area

Through this project, will the City restore stream banks to combat erosion?

Replacing the culverts will require some stream bank restoration work in the vicinity of the new culverts. Otherwise, there are no other plans to stabilize stream banks as part of this project.

What is the project schedule?

Bellevue is currently in the process of selecting the preferred alternative(s). The anticipated project schedule is:

Fall/Winter 2013	Engineering study of existing conditions; initial contact with public
Winter/Spring 2014	Alternatives analysis; public involvement
Spring/Summer 2014	Select preferred alternative(s); finalize pre-design and details of preferred alternative(s)
Fall/Winter 2014	Community meeting to discuss preferred alternatives.
2015	Preferred alternative(s) design and permit acquisition
2016—2017	Construction

How is this project being funded?

The project is funded through the King County Flood Control District and implemented by the City of Bellevue.

Potential Impacts to Neighborhoods and Residents

How will I be impacted? Will there be any construction projects in my neighborhood?

Construction is scheduled to begin in 2016. The City will have a better sense of how the neighborhood will be affected once a preferred alternative(s) is selected.

I don't have any flooding on my property. How will this help me?

Storm drain back-ups and street flooding often coincide with and are caused by creek flooding. Some flood reduction alternatives reduce street flooding and improve overall pedestrian and auto access during large storms.

Public Process

How will the public be consulted?

Bellevue hosted a booth at the City's Spring Forward Expo in April 2013 and had meetings with the Newport Shores Homeowners Association in October 2013 and March 2014. Bellevue hosted a Public Forum on May 12, 2014 at the Newport Shores Yacht Club to hear the public's thoughts on potential alternatives. Additional public outreach will be planned for future stages of the project.

How will the public's input be used?

Bellevue wants to obtain input and local knowledge from residents as it develops strategies for reducing flooding. Based on the results of the engineering study and the public's input, Bellevue will select a strategy this summer to move a set of alternatives into the design phase of the project. There will be additional opportunities for the community to provide input during the design phase.

How can I help?

The City wants to hear from you regarding the proposed alternative(s). We are interested in hearing if we have missed an issue which will inform or change the alternatives being considered. You can attend submit comments via email (bward@Bellevuewa.gov), preferably before July 1, 2014.

Where can I find more information?

To learn more about the Lower Coal Creek Flood Reduction Project, please visit the project's website at: <http://www.bellevuewa.gov/lower-coal-creek-flood-reduction.htm>.

Who can I contact with questions or comments?

Please contact the project manager, Brian Ward – City of Bellevue Stormwater Systems Hydrologist, at 425-452-5206 or bward@Bellevuewa.gov.

Other Questions

Though not a part of the Lower Coal Creek Flood Reduction project, we understand that the following topics are important to residents living in the study area:

How should residents dispose of sandbags after flood events?

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.

What resources are available to residents to help with stream bank stabilization?

The City's internet site is packed with valuable information about work in critical areas like along stream banks. Visit www.bellevuewa.gov/critical-areas.htm

In summary, the typical approach is to hire a qualified professional to draw up a plan based on the characteristics of your property and the stream on your site. Typical installations include biotechnical measures, bank enhancement and regrading, anchor trees, gravel placement, stepped back rockeries, vegetative plantings and similar measures that use natural materials engineered to provide stabilization while mimicking natural habitat conditions of the critical area. Avoidance of major engineering efforts is preferred. Once the plan is in hand and you have talked with City staff about its characteristics and likely success, you will need to apply for permits. The City's permitting staff at the Service First counter in City Hall can assist you with that effort.

Who can residents contact with questions or concerns related to vegetation management, such as the steps to remove trees to prevent debris from entering the creek?

Contact the Land Use Desk at 425-452-4188. More information is available at: <http://www.bellevuewa.gov/critical-areas.htm>