

Mount Vernon

Downtown Flood Protection Project

Hazard

Downtown Mount Vernon in Washington State lies within the Skagit River delta, an area famous for its tulip production made possible by the fertile soil brought to the valley by regular flooding. The Skagit River has flooded numerous times since 1897 causing a great deal of damage to the downtown area.

Solution

The City of Mount Vernon assembled an advisory group consisting of a diverse selection of community members. This group, charged with creating a long-term solution to the flooding problem in the downtown area, ultimately determined that a floodwall would be the best solution. In the end, 12 sources of funding from local, state, and federal sources were used to build the floodwall.

Result

The flood protection project brought about a **40% reduction** in flood insurance premiums and removed **223 buildings** from the regulatory floodplain, increasing community safety and improving the economic vitality of the downtown business district.



The new floodwall is an integral part of the downtown promenade so it not only provides flood protection, but public recreation space as well.

-  Floodwall
-  Earthen Levee
-  Area Protected by Floodwall

This map is for illustrative purposes only. For more precise mapping information consult the adopted FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map.

1984: FEMA publishes the Skagit River Flood Insurance Rate Maps.

2010: FEMA approves proposed downtown flood protection project. Flood and river trail from Division Street Bridge north to Lions Park completed.

2016: Floodwall built to protect historic downtown; 1650 feet of floodwall, 24-ft wide riverwalk and trail connection to regional trail system, 30,000 sq ft Riverfront Park.

2018: 1.4 miles of floodwall and earthen levee and 0.9 mile of riverwalk and trail connection to regional trail system is completed.

2019: Flood Insurance Rate Maps are updated identifying flood protection downtown.



FEMA



Mount Vernon Flood Project Video
<https://youtu.be/-09IWDDeAkiw>

Floodplain Mapping Video
https://youtu.be/CZMG6c1ZG_w

City of Mount Vernon Website
www.mountvernonwa.gov