

## APPENDIX D

### RESOURCES

This Shoreline Master Program (SMP) relies substantially on existing information that has been developed since the year 2000. Information has been collected from a variety of sources including City plans and studies, Skagit River watershed plans and studies from DOE and local planning groups, private plans, and aerial photographs. Following is a list of the primary sources used in this inventory and characterization, and a brief description of the information provided.

- **River Basin Analysis of the Skagit and Samish Basins: Tools for Salmon Habitat Restoration and Protection**

This February 2000 study was undertaken by the Skagit Watershed Council to meet two major objectives: 1) identify where and to what extent the landscape processes that form and sustain salmon habitat are degraded in the Skagit and Samish River basins; and 2) identify specific actions to restore and protect salmon habitat in these basins, focusing on efforts to address the causes of habitat degradation. It contains information regarding the system of levees and ecosystem functions provided by the river and associated floodplains.

- **Skagit River Shoreline Inventory & Restoration Plan**

The Skagit River Shoreline Inventory & Restoration Plan, June 2003, by Graham Bunting & Associates, was part of the overall program to rehabilitate Skagit River basin habitats and increase fish production. It provides a detailed analysis of environmental conditions of the Skagit River shoreline, including shorelines within Mount Vernon's jurisdiction, particularly as those conditions may affect or relate to fish population recovery. The inventory divides the shoreline into six geographic "survey units" and rates each unit based on variables relating to physical features, biological features, and land use/man-made features.

- **Edgewater Park Restoration Project – Phase I**

Edgewater Park is located in West Mount Vernon across the Skagit River from Downtown Mount Vernon. A restoration project was completed in 2005 at the south end of the Park that restored an historic off-channel habitat and associated riparian vegetation.

- **Skagit River Big Bend Reach Habitat Restoration Feasibility Study**

The primary goal of this December 2004 study was to identify opportunities for improving the quality and quantity of rearing habitat available to juvenile salmon at various opportunity sites located between the Skagit River and the levees in the Big Bend Reach. The study was intended to help implement the Skagit Watershed Council's (SWC) Restoration and Protection Strategy by following the guiding principles outlined in the SWC's Strategic Approach. The study identifies several sites within Mount Vernon that may be suitable for restoration actions.

- **Biological Assessment of the Nookachamps Wetland Mitigation Bank Preserve**  
Fairbanks Environmental Services, Inc. July 2004; as Amended March 2005 and June 2006.
- **Assessment of Waters/Wetland Ecosystem Conditions & Functions**  
City of Mount Vernon, January 2007. Dr. L. C. Lee, Ph.D., PWS.
- **Lower Skagit Tributaries Riparian Vegetation Change: Analysis Results**  
Washington Department of Ecology, Publication #07-03-050, November 2007 (Revised April 2008).
- **Skagit Chinook Recovery Plan – 2005**  
Skagit River System Cooperative and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.
- **Draft EIS: Mount Vernon Downtown Flood Protection Alternatives**  
The Draft EIS (January 2007) was prepared to compare alternatives for permanent flood risk reduction as part of the City’s Downtown and Waterfront Revitalization Master Plan. Included are discussions of land use and identification of opportunities for increasing public access to the Skagit River shoreline.
- **Final EIS: Mount Vernon Downtown Flood Protection Alternatives**  
The Final EIS (July 2007) included the preferred alternative, responses to Draft EIS comments, and proposed mitigation for potential impacts from the flood risk reduction project.
- **Mount Vernon Downtown Flood Protection Biological Assessment**  
This biological assessment was conducted under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), which requires federal agencies to ensure that their actions, including providing funding, do not jeopardize listed species or their habitat. The December 2007 assessment provides descriptions of the Skagit River reach immediately adjacent to Downtown Mount Vernon.
- **Master Plan: Downtown and Waterfront Master Plan Project**  
This Master Plan, completed in July 2008, is the third of three phases that commenced in 2005. It follows the preparation of an EIS (noted above) and focuses on redevelopment and flood risk reduction opportunities for the City’s downtown and waterfront area. It outlines future actions, provides targets and actions for redevelopment, and contains discussions regarding land use and downtown characterization.

- **City of Mount Vernon 2005 Comprehensive Plan (as amended)**

The City of Mount Vernon Comprehensive Plan, 2005, is the comprehensive plan for the city and contains policies and recommendations to direct public and private decisions affecting future growth and development. The purpose of a comprehensive plan is to translate community values and goals into a framework for decisions on growth and land use, housing, transportation, utilities, public facilities and services, and parks and open space. It expresses a long-range, twenty-year vision of how citizens want Mount Vernon to look and function in the future. It also provides a strategy for achieving that vision. Mount Vernon's Comprehensive Plan is revisited annually.

- **City of Mount Vernon Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan**

The Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan, adopted in 2008, is based on analysis of supply, demand, and need for public and private park and recreation facilities and services within the Mount Vernon corporate limits and urban growth area. It includes goals and objectives, plan and program elements, and implementation measures. The Plan is Chapter 4 of the City of Mount Vernon Comprehensive Plan.

- **Aerial Photographs**

City has multiple sets of high resolution aerial photographs containing oblique and orthographic images of most of Skagit County, including the main stem of the Skagit River, taken April of 2007, April of 2009, and August of 2009.

There has been little change in the conditions of the Skagit shoreline or in the level of development and land use mix in adjacent upland areas during the time these sources of information were being developed. This has been confirmed by a comparative review of the aerial photographs and discussions with staff and consultants familiar with the city's development. As a result, the assumption in this SMP is that these information sources remain valid for shoreline planning purposes.

In addition to the above-referenced sources, specific to the Skagit River and Mount Vernon, the Shoreline Master Program is based on the guidelines within Chapter 173-26 Washington Administrative Code.