



Bulletin

COP / RSVP program for the Burlington Police Department

Do you have extra time that you would like to volunteer to the City of Burlington? Do you want to donate that time by helping out the citizens in your city? Would you like to do that by working as a volunteer for the Burlington Police Department?

For the past several months the Burlington Police Community Resource Office has been working on a program to allow those individuals who qualify under the **Skagit County Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)** to apply at the Burlington Police Department for a **Citizen On Patrol (COP)** position.

This position will allow an individual to give back to their community through various tasks that assist in building a safer and more attractive city. From tracking graffiti on businesses and homes to checking homes during vacations; from patrolling the city to helping with traffic control; these citizens will play a vital role in working within their own community, making a difference for those they care about. They will help with building relationships between the police department and citizens of the city through the different programs that have been developed.

COP members will participate in an eight week training program provided by the Community Resource Office. The training will provide insight on the functions of the Police Department, allow the members to practice driving techniques used by police officers, learn how to proactively patrol, assist with building blockwatch programs, among many other very important functions.

To apply for a **COP** position, simply go to the Skagit County Retired Senior Volunteer Center in Mount Vernon located at 309 S. 3rd Street, Mount Vernon and apply to be a part of the RSVP program. Once you are accepted you can visit the Burlington Police Department and request an application for the **COP** program and begin the process of becoming a Citizen on Patrol for the City of Burlington.

Community Resource Officer Tim Van Dyken
Burlington Police Department
(360)755-0921 ▪ timv@ci.burlington.wa.us

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

As you know, 2010 has been a fiscal challenge for our City and staff due to the economy. However, I can honestly say everyone has pulled together to maintain our high standards of service to one and all.

Even though some City services have changed, some programs have been curtailed or eliminated, and hours have been reduced for most City staff, Burlington continues to provide a high level of service and support, and is still a wonderful place to live. This is because you, the citizens of Burlington, have collectively responded favorably to the City's issues and shortfalls.

The future looks positive in that building permits are up and sales tax is showing an upward trend. 2011 looks to be challenging as well, however, I feel we are heading in the right direction.

Remember, my door is always open.

Mayor Ed Brunz

WE NEED YOUR OPINION:

Please complete the enclosed survey on city services and drop off or mail to any of the following city locations:

- City Hall
- Library

Stormwater Update:



Stormwater runoff from streets, parking lots, construction sites, industrial properties, and residential areas is now recognized as one of the leading sources of pollution to our streams, lakes, wetlands, and Puget Sound. Since most of the stormwater generated within the City of Burlington drains into Gages Slough

and is eventually pumped into the Skagit River, it is our responsibility to make sure that water going into the Slough is clean.

In 2009, the City launched many efforts to improve the quality of our stormwater including code revisions, educational campaigns, and studies of the sources of pollution. Undertaking habitat restoration projects and maintaining our drainage system are additional ways in which the City is working toward cleaner stormwater runoff.

You can help by using the following tips to prevent pollution:

- Properly dispose of hazardous waste and recycle used motor oil
- Use fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides sparingly and follow the manufacturer's instructions
- Keep yard waste, trash, and dirt off the street and out of your gutters
- Clean up after your pets by bagging waste and disposing it in your garbage
- Wash your car at a car wash facility or park it on the grass before you wash it
- If you are planning a fundraising car wash for your youth group, church group or other organization, contact the Public Works Department at 360-755-9715. The City offers a free loan of their green car wash kit so that you can raise funds for your group while keeping the stormwater clean!

Thank you for respecting the signs that state **“No Dumping – Thank You”** at public access points to Gages Slough! **Each property owner along the Slough is responsible** for cleaning up any litter or trash that is on their property. The problem of illegal dumping of yard waste in Gages Slough and the problem of trash dumped at points of public access can only be solved if everyone helps out. It is illegal to dump or to fill along Gages Slough or the Skagit River. In addition, it is illegal to discharge polluted water into Gages Slough. You may report illegal discharges or dumping (this includes yard waste) in the Slough by calling the City at 755-9715 or 755-9717.

CITY CONTACTS

General Information755-0531
 Mayor (*home*)755-1406

CITY COUNCIL

Bill Aslett757-4539
 Tonya Bieche757-1020
 Edie Edmundson757-4575
 Chris Loving755-9245
 Ted Montgomery757-2786
 Steve Sexton755-9600
 Joanne Valentine755-0234

CITY DEPARTMENTS

Building755-0077
 Buildings & Grounds757-3450
 Finance755-0531
 Fire (*business*)755-0261
 Legal755-9473
 Library755-0760
 Municipal Court755-0492
 Parks & Recreation755-9649
 Planning/Permit Center755-9717
 Police (*business*)755-0921
 Public Works/Engineering755-9715
 Sewer757-4085
 Street757-4214

EMERGENCY 911

www.ci.burlington.wa.us

Don't FORGET!

DON'T FORGET...

your opinion matters to us!

Please COMPLETE the Community Survey on page 17

BURLINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY



Stay in the loop @ Your Library

Want to get the scoop about all the latest and greatest happening at BPL?

Go to <http://libraryhubhub.wordpress.com/> and enjoy our new blog!

Pictures, videos, book reviews, back-scene stories... we've got it all. Put your own two cents in by commenting.

Summer Reading

Kids will be “Making a Splash” this summer, while teenagers, aptly enough, will be “Making Waves” in this year’s summer reading program. As usual, great prizes will be available to motivate students to keep their reading skills up during the school break—grand prizes include a bicycle for children, a boogie board for teens, along with an array of other wonderful items for participants.

Adults are encouraged to relax with a book this summer, too. “Quench Your Thirst” participants will earn prize entries with book reviews and event attendance. Events include a *watercolor* art class and a water appreciation day (with a field trip!), and the grand prize is an orca-watching trip for two.



MUST READ: FLOOD & NATURAL HAZARD REDUCTION PUBLIC INFORMATION BULLETIN



@ your library®

..... we just bought 3,000 invisible books!

To learn more, go to www.burlington.lib.wa.us

and click on “Download Media” under our Quick Links to access downloadable audiobooks.

National Scenic Byways Program - Project Summary 2010

Burlington-Skagit County Regional Byway Visitor Center

Project is located in Washington State along a State scenic byway, and consists of Byway Facilities.

Burlington is located in Skagit County, in northwest Washington at the crossroads of State Route 20 and Interstate 5 and is 60 miles north of Seattle. The Burlington project is located on Chuckanut Drive Scenic Byway SR 11, the new Agricultural Scenic Corridor I-5 and gateway community for Whidbey Island Scenic Isle Way SR 20, Cascade Loop/North Cascades Scenic Byways SR 20 and Mt. Baker Scenic Byway SR 542.

Project Description

This project will build a Regional Byway Visitor Center providing byway travelers with: rest/picnic area, ADA accessible public restrooms, access to bicycle, pedestrian trails, rural transit and Burlington's historic downtown, auto and RV parking. Indoor and outdoor interpretative elements include kiosks, maps and a natural rain garden highlighting the many recreational opportunities along the region's four byways: Cascade Loop/North Cascades, Chuckanut Drive, Whidbey Island Scenic Isle Way, Mt. Baker, and the new Agricultural Scenic Corridor along I-5. Strategically located between two active rail lines the center could provide immediate infrastructure for future high-speed passenger rail, or alternatively, a tourist train heading north on the Sumas Line.

Byway Benefits

This project benefits the byway traveler by constructing a regional Visitor Center and rest area serving several Byways. Burlington, a transportation hub community, affords travelers 7 days a week access to amenities and Chamber staff for knowledgeable way finding. One block away, its historic downtown features restaurants, retail and antique shops, pedestrian and bike trails. Interpretation will highlight the amazing variety of byway attractions: viewable wildlife including bald eagles, salmon spawning, pristine farmland, tidewater, North Cascades National Park, and heritage tourism and unparalleled outdoor recreation opportunities: biking, climbing, fishing, rafting, and skiing.

Project Summary

Construction of a welcoming Visitor Center features ADA accessible public restrooms, reception/information area, offices, a multi-purpose class/conference room and covered rest area and stage. Indoor and outdoor interpretative areas and maps that highlight the several regional byways' intrinsic natural and cultural features will be presented, along with the Transportation History of the region, including kiosks and a plaza. A Rain Garden is planned featuring native byway plants with interpretation. This will provide stormwater quality treatment and on-site infiltration. Site utilities, fill and natural landscape elements feature byway trees. An outdoor amphitheater provides the setting for cultural and byway programs, community events, markets and festivals. Parking areas for autos, recreational vehicles and bicycles are provided. A significant link for nonmotorized travel will be added by extending the Cascade Trail east from the site two blocks to Lions Park and beginning the connection through town to the west through the Visitor Center site. The Burlington-Skagit County Scenic Byway Visitor Center located in Railroad Park is designed as a multiple function facility. It will be the central link for connecting people and places, with its prime location on three Scenic Byways including Chuckanut Drive, Cascade Loop and the new Agricultural Scenic Corridor and connections to three others, Whidbey Isle, Mount Baker and the North Cascades.

Benefit to Byway Traveler

The Burlington-Skagit County Regional Byway Center project represents the best in local cooperation and partnership. Located on one of Washington State's most popular scenic byways, Chuckanut Drive, very close to the nationally acclaimed Cascade Loop, and near the Mt. Baker Scenic Byway, North Cascade Scenic Byway, the Whidbey Island Scenic Isle Way the Center's unique setting affords the Byway traveler access to Burlington's historic downtown core. Its proximity to bike, pedestrian trails, Interstate 5 and State Highway 20 presents tourists and byway travelers with many route and conveyance options. With its public restrooms, an expansive visitor center interpreting the many natural and cultural features of the region's byways it combines a traditional cross roads with modern amenities. Located in an attractive park near many services its thoughtful landscaping, plaza and rain garden will provide respite, rest and inspiration to byway travelers and the region.

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NORTHWEST RENDERING

BURLINGTON - SKAGIT COUNTY REGIONAL BYWAY CENTER



The building itself consciously and effectively reflects the region's rail transportation heritage by featuring major architectural elements of the 1909 era Burlington train station. Located between two active Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway lines the Visitor Center combines form and function with convenient location to Byways and services.

Relationship between this project and previously funded projects

Burlington-Skagit County Regional Byway Visitor Center has been added to the Cascade Loop Corridor Management Plan which is being updated in 2010. The North Cascades National Park Complex fully supports the development of the Burlington-Skagit County Regional Byway Center as does the Friends of the Chuckanut Scenic Byway. Burlington is on the recently enacted Washington State Agricultural Corridor and in the Regional Transportation Planning Organization's Master Plan and located on both proposed Samish Farmland and Cascade Trail.

Transportation Enhancement Program Features Provision of facilities for pedestrians and bicycles.

The first leg of the Cascade Trail begins at this site, with the final two connecting blocks being completed as part of this project. Pedestrian/bike plans are being implemented and the connecting links improved and this facility will offer bike racks and both covered and uncovered picnic and rest areas outdoors, as well as restrooms. The bike racks are already funded by a memorial donation to the Burlington Parks Foundation. Options for mobility, including bicycles and pedestrians, in and through the city, are gradually improving as ways to make it under I-5 and along the publicly owned parks and levees open up. Linking the portion of the Cascade Trail that Burlington constructed on the abandoned Concrete RR (purchased ROW for \$75 many years ago) with Downtown Burlington, and planned routes through the city is very significant. This leaves only a short gap between Burlington and Sedro-Woolley, and then the path is open to Concrete.

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cont'd from page 5 - National Scenic Byways Program

The classroom/conference facility will be available for use by the public for a range of topics including safety and educational activities for pedestrians and bicyclists. The plaza area with convenient access to the paved trail segment will provide an outdoor practice area.

Scenic or historic highway programs (including the provision of tourist and welcome center facilities)

This will be a regional tourism promotion facility and staff will actively market this community and the region, encouraging people to stop, shop and stay in this area. The large Visitor Information Center will focus on the Scenic Byways and opportunities for visitors locally and around the

region. Public restrooms and ample parking will be provided for those stopping by on their travels or coming to local events. The building is modeled after the 1909 Burlington Train Station and will provide a prime location for events and activities. The covered platforms and amphitheater style seating will provide a site for a variety of events, including music, festivals and markets. The economic revitalization and redevelopment of the historic Downtown area will be greatly enhanced by creation of a public community gathering place.

Landscaping and other scenic beautification

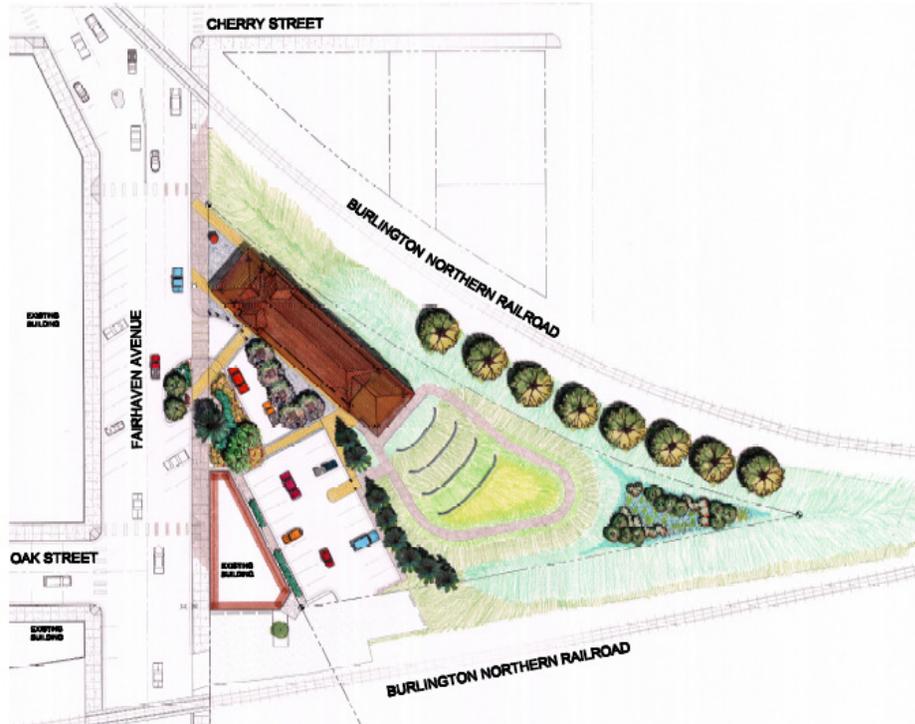
The site's stormwater runoff is all handled on site, designed using low impact design techniques including

a rain garden featuring native plants from the Scenic Byways, in coordination with the Skagit Conservation District. Native trees will be featured in the overall site landscaping.

Establishment of transportation museums

The Burlington Museum Board and the Parks Board strongly support establishing a transportation museum as a significant element of local and regional history at this site. At one time, 29 trains including the Interurban stopped each day in Burlington, and today it is the intersection of state and interstate highways and rail lines. Documenting the history of Burlington and Transportation is planned to include indoor and outdoor displays, a restored rail

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LANDSCAPE PLAN

SCALE 1" = 50'-0"

BURLINGTON - SKAGIT COUNTY REGIONAL BYWAY CENTER



Chamber of Commerce
and Visitor Center

Ravnik & Associates, Inc.
CIVIL, ENGINEERING & LAND-USE PLANNING
400 LINDSEY ROAD, SUITE 100
BURLINGTON, WA 98226
PH: 360-339-1100 FAX: 360-339-1108





PUBLIC SPACES

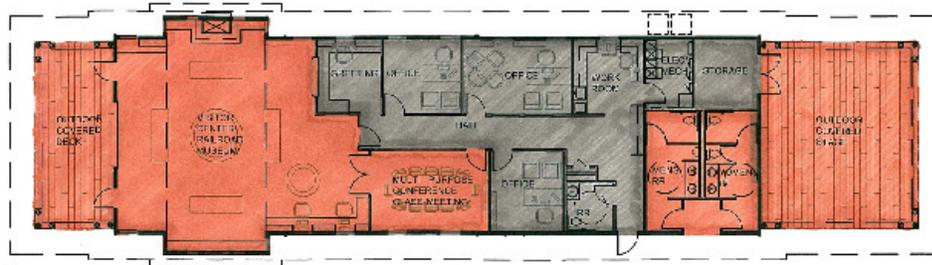
- VISITOR CENTER - RAILROAD MUSEUM	1,167 SF
- OUTDOOR COVERED DECK - INFORMATION CENTER	338 SF
- MULTI - PURPOSE - CONFERENCE - MEETING ROOM - CLASS ROOM	291 SF
- MENS AND WOMENS RESTROOMS	232 SF
- OUTDOOR COVERED STAGE	675 SF
- TOTAL PUBLIC SQUARE FOOTAGE	2,733 SF



PRIVATE SPACES

- CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OFFICES	1,204 SF
- STORAGE SPACE FOR PUBLIC EVENTS	112 SF
- TOTAL PRIVATE SQUARE FOOTAGE	1,316 SF

TOTAL BUILDING SF INCLUDING COVERED DECKS 4,049 SF



GRAPHIC FLOOR PLAN

SCALE 1/8"=1'-0"

BURLINGTON - SKAGIT COUNTY REGIONAL BYWAY CENTER



Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center



CARLETTI ARCHITECTS P.S.

car with rotating exhibits, access to historical documents, photos and stories, and a walking tour. It is intended that this museum will tell the story of the transportation history of this region, including steam boats on the Skagit River, Ferries, Trains and Automobiles.

Summary of Benefits:

Promotes tourism, local and regional, provides significant public space in Downtown to encourage sustainable redevelopment and bring the community together. Improves bike/ped access, circulation and safety with the trail link and provision of public restrooms and rest areas, at the same time promoting non-motorized transportation and healthy communities. Environmental protection consists of employing green building techniques and following Low Impact Development guidelines for onsite storm water quality treatment and landscaping/rain garden including trees. It is very timely to have a focal point for the history of transportation in the region, and a kickoff location for local historic walking tours. The site is located between two rail lines,

and adjacent to the Sumas Line that has very limited train traffic, so there could be a future time when that line may be available for a touring train. The planned replica of the 1909 Train Station is a great fit for the area and along with the site amenities, greatly enhances the aesthetic and visual character of the area.

With a Regional Byway Visitor Center serving several Byways, Burlington, a transportation hub community, affords travelers 7 days a week access to amenities and Chamber staff for knowledgeable wayfinding.

Readiness to Proceed

State Environmental Policy Act review is complete, along with consultation with Tribes and the State Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation under Executive Order 05-05. In addition, the Environmental Classification Summary Report has been submitted in draft with supporting documentation as part of the National Scenic Byway Grant application. Complete civil engineering and construction documents will be bid ready by June 2010, funded by a local Lodging Tax grant.

UPDATE: FEMA Flood Mapping, Skagit River Hydrology, and Levee Certification

Your city elected officials and staff and have been working in partnership with Skagit County, the Dike Districts, and other Cities and Towns to make progress toward reducing the flood risk in Burlington and the entire region.

In December 2009, FEMA Region X released its long-awaited preliminary flood maps; however, the maps were withdrawn after just a few days when it became apparent the maps contained numerous errors. This provided an opportunity for Burlington to work with other jurisdictions, including Skagit County, to set up a technical conference in Washington D.C. in March to discuss Skagit River hydrology with FEMA experts, along with the US Geological Survey and the US Army Corps of Engineers. We appreciate FEMA setting up this conference which enabled Burlington, Skagit County, and our technical consultants to brief the FEMA experts about the nature of our technical work. Follow-up assignments resulting from the technical conference are continuing. With regard to a new release date for the maps, it is our understanding that FEMA has put the release on hold indefinitely, until it can work through its review of the information we presented at the technical conference.

The reason the hydrology issue is so important is because overstated hydrology will cause every flood measure to be more expensive, and in Burlington's case, cause Dike District 12 to build the levees higher to achieve certification, which negatively impacts surrounding communities while increasing residual risk (higher levees = more damage if there is a catastrophic levee failure). We believe, as a practical matter, the incorrect Corps of Engineers hydrologic analysis will make a regional flood project impossible to achieve. Nevertheless, at this point, we have no choice but to proceed using the Corps' overstated hydrology, even while this overstated hydrology puts a regional flood project in serious doubt.

Here are two examples of how the overstated hydrology will make achieving a regional flood project more difficult, while precluding common-sense flood measures that otherwise would reduce flood risk:

- 1) In the case of additional upstream flood storage from the hydroelectric projects, the Corps hydrology will show that theoretically, additional flood storage is not warranted because it would be overwhelmed during a 100-year event. Our study shows otherwise: we believe additional upstream storage could make the critical difference. But the Corps continues to state that additional dam storage is unlikely to ever be authorized due to this conundrum.

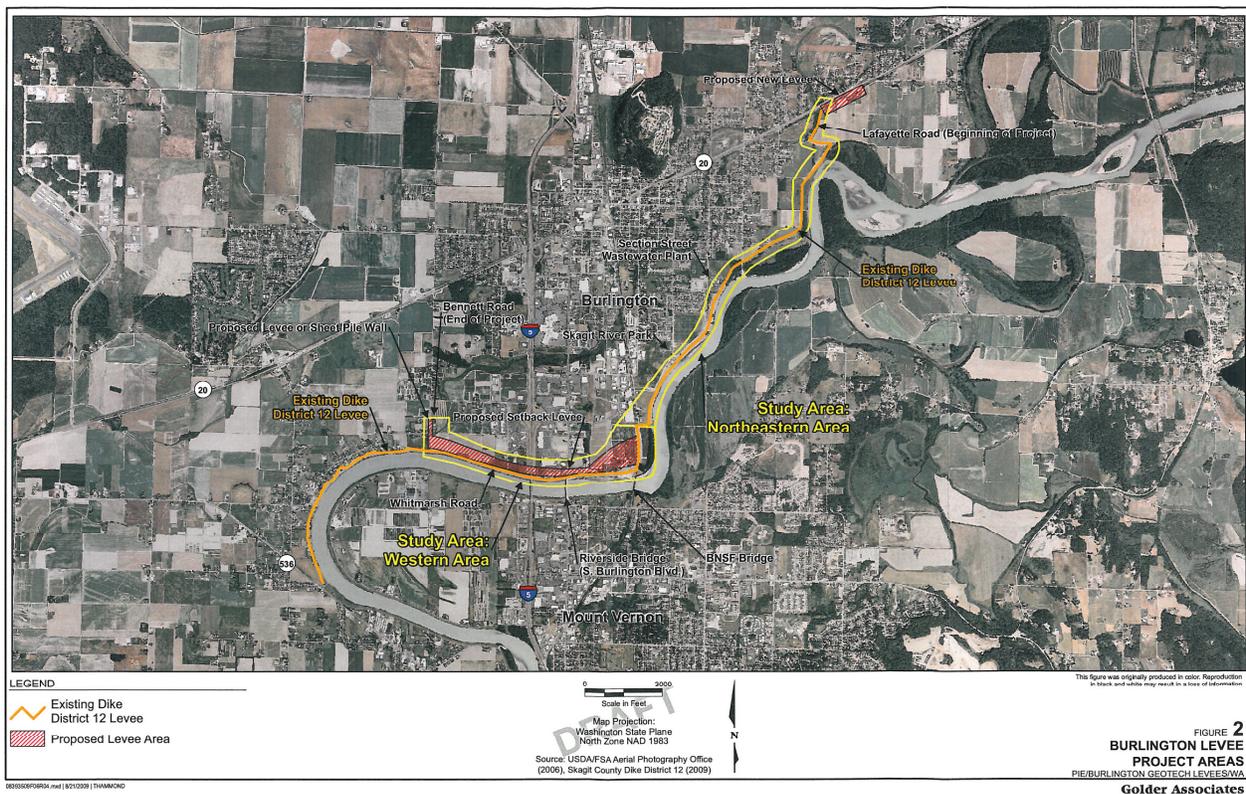


Burlington Northern Railroad Bridge after 1995 Flood

- 2) In the case of replacing the BNSF bridge, the Corps hydrology will require a massive project for complete bridge replacement, as well as reconstruction of the rail approaches on either side. Our study holds the possibility of modifying the bridge in addition to active debris management during floods.

Although we are hopeful that our technical information will be accepted by FEMA and the hydrologic basis of the flood maps will be reduced, [it is important to emphasize that even if the hydrology is corrected, base flood elevations will still increase substantially in the City and will stay at a higher level until the levee certification work can be completed and the levee work is accredited by FEMA.](#) This process is expected to take at least eight years; more likely, 10 – 15 years; and possibly longer than 20 years.

Still, we are making progress on the levee certification. In November 2009, Golder Associates completed the geotechnical report, which gave Dike 12's existing levees a good grade. What needs to be done is increase the size and height of the levees to withstand the theoretical 100-year flood event that the Corps of Engineers study (which the City believes is overstated) indicates. Dike 12 has been working to strengthen the levee system since the mid 1990's, and this work is continuing.



Dike District 12 Certified Levee Project Area

Speaking of the Corps of Engineers, there is also news to report regarding the progress of the General Investigation study. Unfortunately, it is not good news. Until recently, the Seattle District, Corps of Engineers had stated the completion date for this study would be 2012. That date has been moved back to 2015. Our city staff has analyzed the work schedule necessary to meet the 2015 deadline and it appears to us that the 2015 date is also not realistic – likely, the completion date will move beyond 2015. The problem this creates for not only Burlington, but for the entire county, is that many possible flood risk reduction measures, such as additional flood storage in the Baker system, cannot be finalized without a completed General Investigation study.

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cont'd from page 9 – Dike District 12 Certified Levee Project

The intent of the General Investigation study is to help the entire Skagit Valley develop a regional flood risk reduction strategy; however, continual delay in completing the study makes implementing any flood risk reduction measure, including Dike 12 levee certification, more administratively difficult and uncertain. But with regard to funding for the study, we are receiving very strong support from our federal delegation. Senator Murray and Congressman Larsen have both requested FY11 funding for the GI study, about \$1.2 million, to match the Seattle District's capacity to produce the work. Similar appropriations will be necessary for FY12 and FY13 in order to complete the bulk of the technical studies associated with the General Investigation; then, lesser amounts would be needed in FY14 and FY15. Funding remains uncertain and if full funding is not available, the schedule will slip more.

We are continuing to work in partnership with Sedro-oolley and Dike Districts 12 and 17 to eventually replace the BNSF Skagit River bridge. Our flood modeling, as well as our community experience, clearly indicates this bridge is a hazard to itself and the adjacent levee systems and will likely fail in a 100-year flood event. Our hydraulic modeling shows water surface elevations will be above the bottom chord of the bridge girders in a major flood. And since this will certainly cause debris buildup upstream of the bridge, we know this is a recipe for bridge failure. Since this is a private bridge, we need to make the case that it presents a hazard to public infrastructure. We will continue to make the argument that planning needs to get underway to replace or modify the bridge.



There is much more going on with this issue than we have room to print here. Please feel free to contact Public Works Director Chal Martin at cmartin@ci.burlington.wa.us any time you need the most recent information. Additionally, watch the City's web page.

◀ *1995 Skagit River Flood
BNSF Bridge failure*

*1995 Skagit River Flood
After the flood*



Buildings & Grounds Update



The City of Burlington was recently awarded a **Certificate of Recognition** by the Skagit Council of Governments, Resource Conservation Management Program for **2009 Largest Reduction of its Facilities-Related CO2 Emissions by a Jurisdiction**. Nine jurisdictions are part of the program, and the City of Burlington had a **reduction of 86.6 tons CO2** in 2009 vs. 2008! This was accomplished through energy conservation measures such as turning off unnecessary lights, adjusting thermostats for occupancy/vacancy, and other energy saving measures.



O' Christmas Tree...



You may have noticed the Christmas tree located in Downtown at Alpha Park was recently removed because of disease and a dangerous top. The City would like to purchase a new Christmas tree to place in the same location that will be 20 to 25 feet in height. The cost for a tree is approximately \$3,500. The **Burlington Parks Foundation** has graciously donated \$2,000 toward the purchase of the tree; however, \$1,500 is still needed to cover the cost.

Tax-deductible donations for the tree can be made to the **Burlington Parks Foundation, c/o Kathi Williams, 18155 Joy Place, Burlington, WA 98233**. The Burlington Parks Foundation is a 501.C.3 non-profit corporation. The tree size and type will depend on the amount of donations received. We hope to have a new tree in the ground this fall and a **Tree/Downtown Lighting Celebration in December!**



Municipal Court

The Municipal Court is still processing passports; the city gets a \$25 fee for each passport application. This works out to an average of \$1,000 a month, less mailing costs. The Department of State recently changed their mailing policy, and we now have to send passport applications certified mail, which is an additional cost.

Gross revenue for the first quarter of 2010 is \$108,597.15 with \$58,099.16 staying local. This is approximately 35% higher than this time last year. We have had 766 tickets filed in the first quarter, and this is 16% higher than the same time last year.

So far this year, the City Work Program (CWP) has logged in 272 days of work in lieu of jail. If these days had been spent in the Skagit County Jail, the city would have paid \$17,680. This also is a great resource for the City, and has cut down on paid summer part-time help, and is getting projects accomplished that the city staff do not have the time to complete.



Fire Department – Fire Safety Basics



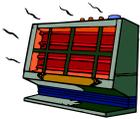
Taking a "back-to-basics" approach, the Fire Department would like to review with our community the fundamental fire safety facts that can keep you and your family safe from fire.

Smoke Detectors



Install smoke detectors on every level of your home. Place them near bedrooms, in the kitchen and in the garage. Test the batteries monthly and replace them at least once a year. Even most "hard-wired" detectors require a back-up battery.

Portable Heaters



Keep blankets, clothing, curtains, furniture and anything else that could get hot and catch fire away from portable heaters. Plug heaters directly into a wall socket, avoid using extension cords with heaters and unplug them when not in use.

Safe Cooking Practices



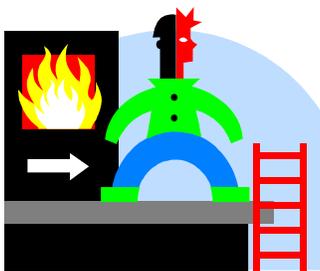
Keep items such as towels, loose clothing and curtains well away from the stove. Keep a fire extinguisher in the kitchen and know when and how to use it.

Electricity



Avoid overloading electrical outlets. Use caution when using extension cords – especially those that serve heat-producing appliances. Don't run electrical cords under carpets where they can be abused by foot traffic.

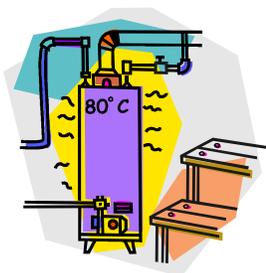
Fire Escape Drills



Plan and practice a fire escape route from every room and identify a place outside to meet. Know how to call for emergency assistance and don't hesitate to call for help.

The Fire Department is really the "all-emergency" department and we're waiting for your call. If you find yourself with a problem that doesn't quite seem like a fire or medical emergency – dial 911. We call those *citizen assists* and we respond to them all the time.

Earthquakes and Water Heaters



The one item in a home or business that can cause big problems in even a moderate earthquake is the gas-fired water heater. If that appliance falls it can spill hot water, injure persons or result in a natural gas or propane leak within the building. We suggest taking steps to secure your water heater against earthquake damage. A hand-out which details the instructions and materials needed to do so is available at the Burlington Fire Department. Of course, one of our friendly local plumbing companies can also make a water heater earthquake-safe.

CITY OF BURLINGTON EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION PROGRAM

REWARDS AND RECOGNITION - Program Objectives

- To involve members' employees appointed or elected officials in continuous improvement of City services by recognizing excellent work.
- To promote innovation that results in productivity and performance improvements.
- To promote team spirit and unity of purpose within the City based on shared achievement.
- To demonstrate commitment to the ideals of respect for individuals and honor of the public trust.
- To involve the community as a partner in the pursuit of excellence in customer service.

REWARDS AND RECOGNITION - Composition

The Mayor will receive the recognition nominations, and additionally, one employee the Mayor chooses may also sit on the committee.

REWARDS AND RECOGNITION - Selection Criteria

Award nominees must meet one or more of the following criteria:

Demonstrates a high level of service to the public.

For example, continuously displays tact and diplomacy in dealing with difficult situations or takes the extra step to achieve customer satisfaction.

Exhibits a leadership role.

For example, takes on additional duties when necessary so work will be completed in a timely, efficient manner.

Demonstrates a high level of service to the staff.

For example, willingness to work responsively with other employees, volunteers, appointed or elected official, or members of the community; looks for solutions to problems that help other City employees do their jobs more efficiently.

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Notes from the Finance Department

The City of Burlington has changed its office hours. We are now open **8:30 – 4:30, Monday through Friday**. We are happy to help you anytime during these hours.

The Sanitary Sewer rates are based upon water consumption as supplied to us by Skagit County PUD #1. The Summer Averaging period begins May 1, 2010 where the residential sewer bills will be an average of your previous sewer billings for the periods of November 2009 through April 2010. If you have any significant changes in usage, i.e. occupancy changes or a water leak, please notify the City Utility Department @ (360)755-0531 as these changes may affect your future bi-monthly bill. Also effective May 1, 2010, the City of Burlington will no longer offer a turn-off option for your sewer. Burlington Municipal Code Chapter 13, Section 08 outlines the sanitary sewer charges as set by the city council.

We still offer several payment options including the acceptance of payment by Visa and MasterCard credit and debit cards, accepted between 8:30 and 3:00 p.m. Monday - Friday either by phone or in person at City Hall. You may also set up direct debit from your checking or savings account. You receive your bill approximately ten days prior to the deduction and would not have to worry about due dates or late fees anymore. The application is simple. Please stop by City Hall to obtain an Autopay Agreement or contact us at (360) 755-0531 for more information.

Please remember, if you pay your bill by phone or utilize your bank's online payment service, you have the option to not receive a return envelope with your bill. Please let us know if you do not wish to receive a return envelope. Thank you to all who have already elected to forego the return envelope and to those who return their unused envelopes!

Cont'd from page 13 – REWARDS AND RECOGNITION - Selection Criteria

Acts to improve relations...

Between the public, employees, departments, other agencies, governmental bodies, or community groups. For example, shares information, ideas and resources with fellow employees.

Makes a substantial contribution to the City of Burlington that enhances the image of the City.

For example, performs significant volunteer service in the community.

Demonstrates creativity and inventiveness.

For example, explores alternative solutions to problems and comes up with answers that work; or looks at existing processes and devises ways to make them better.

Performs in an outstanding and courageous manner during an emergency situation.

Consideration should be given to the consequences that would have resulted if the act had not been performed.

Exceptional performance in a one-time specific project or situation.

Task was completed in a timely and thorough manner and the work was of superior quality.

REWARDS AND RECOGNITION - Process

Eligibility

All City employees

Who can make a nomination?

Any member of the public, City employee, volunteer, contract employee, appointed or elected official can make a nomination. Restrictions are that you cannot nominate yourself.

How do I make a nomination?

Nomination(s) must be submitted on the nomination form. Give detailed, factual information and be specific about what makes your nominee(s) outstanding. Explain how nominee meets the ideal(s) identified in the selection criteria. Nomination forms will be available in all departments and in the Administration Department at City Hall. Additionally, nomination forms are available in every edition of the City Newsletter. Nomination forms must be delivered or mailed to the Mayor in a sealed envelope. Nominations are kept confidential throughout the process and the nominators will not be made known to the Mayor. Deadline for submission is the end of each month. Awards presentations will be made at a regular meeting of City Council.

REWARDS AND RECOGNITION – Selection Process

- Nominations are made by any member of the public, employee, volunteer, contract employee, appointed, or elected official on the nomination form, for any employee, volunteer, contract employee, appointed or elected official – except themselves.
- Any nominations received after one deadline will automatically be carried over to the next period.
- The Mayor may conduct informal interviews with the nominator to gather information on the nature of the nomination.
- One recipient will be selected each month by the Mayor.
- Awards will be presented at a regular meeting of the City Council by the Mayor, or Department Head.

RECOGNITION

- Name(s) added to a perpetual plaque to be hung in a prominent place in City Hall.
- Notification to local newspaper and an insert made in the City Newsletter.
- Certificate of Appreciation from the City of Burlington, signed by the Mayor.
- Gift for the recipient.



EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION NOMINATION FORM

Any member of the public, City employee, volunteer, contract employee, appointed or elected official may nominate another City employee for consideration of this award. Nominations may be made for individuals or groups of individuals. Recipients will be selected by the end of each month.

Nominee Name/Position _____

Details regarding nomination including how nominee(s) meets City's ideals: (attach additional pages if necessary)

Your Name (and Dept. if applicable) _____

Signature _____

Address _____

FOR CONFIDENTIALITY, PLEASE SEAL NOMINATION IN AN ENVELOPE.

DROP OFF OR MAIL TO:

CITY OF BURLINGTON
ATTN: MAYOR
833 S. SPRUCE STREET
BURLINGTON WA 98233

OR

E-MAIL TO: ebrunz@ci.burlington.wa.us

Play
Adventure
Recreation
Kids playfields
Super fun place



Spring and summer will be very busy with a full tournament schedule at Skagit River Park. The **Berry Dairy Days Friday Night Fireworks Show** is slated for **June 18**. Please join us around **7:00 p.m.** for this fun and free event. There

will be plenty of food vendors including the Kiwanis Salmon BBQ and B-EHS Cheerleaders' Strawberry Shortcake booths as well as a country band on stage and the Wolverine West Fireworks presented by Skagit State Bank. Bring a blanket or lawn chairs and buy some glow-in-the-dark rings for the kids or some 3-D glasses to experience the fireworks show up close.

Berry Dairy Days events run **Thurs., June 17 - Sunday, June 20**. **Saturday - Parade downtown @ 11:00** and the **activities in Maiben Park**. **Sunday** check out the **Berry Cool Car Show**. Lots of free family fun!



833 S. Spruce Street
 Burlington WA 98233

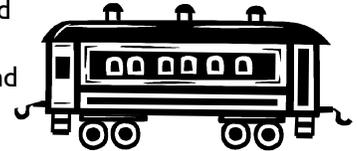
Phone: 360-755-0531
 Fax: 360-755-9565

E-mail: cityhall@ci.burlington.wa.us

Serving you with pride!



The planning of the Railroad Park Chamber and Visitors Center is in the works. The preliminary schematics are nearly complete which features an amphitheater style landscape, a visitor center that replicates the old train depot and a large courtyard with kiosks identifying the scenic byways that surround our city.



The Whitmarsh Restroom building is complete at the Skagit River Park Horseshoe Pit complex. The completion of this restroom brings together other amenities in this complex that includes a covered shelter, a barbeque pit and open area which is available to large or small gatherings. Call our office at (360) 755-9649 for reservations.

The Burlington Community Center will be getting new floor tile in the Community Hall Room, the largest of the rooms in the center. The contractor should be completing this project prior to publication of this newsletter. Also, Burlington-Edison Kiwanis will be donating a covered barbeque pit just east of the existing restroom complex and covered shelter at Skagit River Park. This project should be complete in mid May.

Find us on the web @:
www.ci.burlington.wa.us

2010 COMMUNITY SURVEY

Please send or drop off completed survey to address listed above



Your input and opinion matter greatly to us. The following survey encompasses shorelines, Gages Slough, quality of life, parks, sewer, storm drain, and flood issues. Please take a few minutes to fill out and return the following survey to help the City plan for the future.

1. When you think about Burlington's Shorelines along the Skagit River and Gages Slough, what do you care about? (check a box for each question)

WHAT DO YOU CARE ABOUT	MOST	A LITTLE	NOT
Leaving a legacy to future generations			
Public access to Skagit River shoreline			
Clean water in Gages Slough			
Wildlife habitat restoration in Gages Slough corridor			
Nonmotorized access (bike, walk) around and through the community			
Reducing our carbon footprint			
Organized Sports			
Recreation programs for youth			
Protection of Shoreline Ecological Functions			

2. There are many reasons why people live where they do. There are things people like about where they live and things they wish were better. (Please check whether each item is something you personally value Very Much about living here, Value Somewhat, or Not So Much)

Value about living here	Very Much	Somewhat	Not
Scenic Beauty			
Small Town Atmosphere			
Living Close to Nature			
Outdoor Recreation Opportunities			
Close to Family			
Close to Puget Sound			
Farmland			
Close to Rivers			
Business/Job Opportunities			

3. As you think about the next 5 or 10 years for the Skagit Valley and Burlington area, what do you see as the greatest challenges to things you care most about?

ISSUE	GREATEST CHALLENGE(S)
Growth and Sprawl	
Loss of Land	
Traffic/Transportation	
Quality of Life	
Jobs/Business	
Environment	
Government	
Fish/The River	
Other	
Don't Know	

4. As you think about Burlington and Skagit County, do you think the area is making progress or losing ground in the following areas: (check a box for each question)

Is Burlington & Skagit County making progress or losing ground in:	Making Progress	Losing Ground
Outdoor Recreation Opportunities		
Overall Quality of Life		
Local Economy		
Wildlife Habitat		
Health of Skagit River		
City/County Cooperation		
Farmland Preservation		
Flood Issues		
Salmon Runs		

5. Johnson's Bar is connected to the Gus Tjeerdsma Boat Launch Ramp. There is a proposal for a restoration project in that area that would restrict the use of the site for off-road and on-road vehicle use, limiting to foot traffic only.	YES	NO
a. Do you support this proposed project?		
b. Would you support the project if an area for off-road and on-road vehicles is retained?		

6. The proposal to build a set back levee along the River between the Railroad Bridge and Pulver Road will result in a large area that could be available for public use and access, including extending the public trail along the old levees, fishing and recreation access and other public uses.	YES	NO
a. Do you support this proposed project?		
b. What are your top priorities for uses in this area?		
___ Fishing	___ Walking/Biking	___ Picnicking
___ Other (please list)		

7. Gages Slough has a long history of being used as a dump. After six years of water quality monitoring, every citizen and business will have to help clean up the Slough because 90% of all storm water in Burlington ends up in the Slough, then in the Skagit River AND THE WATER IS STILL DIRTY.

ENVIRONMENTAL HABIT QUIZ	YES	NO
Do you use organic gardening and fertilizing techniques?		
If not, would you switch to organic fertilizers for your lawn and garden if you were convinced they work as well as chemical fertilizers?		
Do you wash your car in the driveway? Do you use biodegradable soap?		
If so, do you use biodegradable soap?		
If you work with cars, as a car dealer, detailer, mechanic, or as a hobby, do you wash vehicles outdoors, and do you use environmentally friendly products?		
If so, do you use environmentally friendly products?		

8. Here is a brief series of Y/N questions that are being asked by several different departments:	YES	NO
Are you interested in Burlington's new Retired Senior Volunteer Citizens On Patrol (RSVP)?		
Would you like to have a block watch program implemented in your part of town?		
Are you concerned about your identity being stolen?		
Do you own a business and are you concerned about shoplifting and employee theft?		
Are your flood insurance rates going up?		
Did the insurance agent come to your house and look at your crawlspace?		
Did the insurance agent state that rerating the house was required to renew the flood policy?		
Have you had problems with a home loan because of flood insurance?		
Do you keep an Emergency Kit ready in case of flood, earthquake or other disaster?		
Is it ok to: flush heavy duty hand/baby wipes or feminine products?		
Is it ok to: dump cooking grease down the drain?		
Is it ok to: flush household chemicals or old medications down the drain?		

9. Which of the following statements is most true to you and your household? (check only one answer)
<input type="checkbox"/> Members of our household use parks or recreation programs and facilities on a regular basis and believe that these services are important to quality of life.
<input type="checkbox"/> Although members of our household do not use parks and recreation programs frequently, I believe these programs are important to quality of life.
<input type="checkbox"/> Parks and recreation services do not currently play an important role in my life or the life of my immediate family members.

10. Please rate the following capital projects in order of importance to you. 1 being the lowest, 5 being the highest.	Lowest				Highest
Pave perimeter road and create RV spaces and more parking at Skagit River Park.	1	2	3	4	5
Develop Railroad Park, with Chamber offices, visitor center, restrooms, scenic byways kiosk, amphitheater, and courtyard.	1	2	3	4	5
Paved parking at Tjeerdsma Boat Launch.	1	2	3	4	5
Develop the old city hall building (900 E. Fairhaven Avenue) with meeting rooms, rental facilities, commercial kitchen, rooms for recreation programming and classes.	1	2	3	4	5
Convert site of Grafton House Museum to a public park.	1	2	3	4	5
Develop tennis courts in Northeast corner of Maiben Park and remove fencing from old courts to allow for special events.	1	2	3	4	5

11. What recreational activities do you or members of your household travel outside of Burlington to do?

12. Please tell us what you think the 3 most important improvements we could make in the Burlington park system.
1.
2.
3.

13. How important are parks and recreation services an open space to Burlington's quality of life? (check only one answer)

<input type="checkbox"/> Very Important <input type="checkbox"/> Important <input type="checkbox"/> Not Very Important	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Important <input type="checkbox"/> Don't Know
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------

14. Parks and Recreation services are effective in the following: (check all that apply)

<input type="checkbox"/> Improves quality of life <input type="checkbox"/> Reduces crime rate <input type="checkbox"/> Increases local economy <input type="checkbox"/> Improves health and wellness <input type="checkbox"/> Reduces municipal expenditures (police, fire, court, health costs, insurance) <input type="checkbox"/> Increases home values <input type="checkbox"/> Provides healthy choices <input type="checkbox"/> Provides opportunities to enjoy nature/outdoors <input type="checkbox"/> Protects the natural environment	<input type="checkbox"/> Connects people together, building stronger families and neighborhoods <input type="checkbox"/> Promotes youth development <input type="checkbox"/> Enhances community image and sense of place <input type="checkbox"/> Helps seniors and disabled people to remain active <input type="checkbox"/> Provides opportunities for lifelong learning <input type="checkbox"/> Provides cultural opportunities <input type="checkbox"/> Provides education and appreciation of the arts <input type="checkbox"/> None of the above
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Thank you for your participation



FLOOD & NATURAL HAZARD REDUCTION PUBLIC INFORMATION BULLETIN #35

Spring 2010



This Bulletin is being sent to you because your property has been determined to be in the floodplain.

El Niño, the periodic warming of central and eastern tropical Pacific waters, occurs on average every two to five years and typically lasts about 12 months. This past mild winter has also been a winter of relatively lower risk of flooding on the Skagit River. Everyone still needs to be prepared at all times for disaster, so keep your Emergency Kits current at all times!!!! ***El Niño is NOT an EXCUSE!!!!!!***

Burlington is in partnership with Dike District #12 and together, great progress is being made on local flood hazard mitigation planning. Detailed design work is in progress on the two key program components, levee enlargement and setback levees, along the Skagit River front. The work plan is in place for continued construction and monitoring on the levee enlargement segment this spring and summer, extending from the Railroad Bridge to the north-east. Land acquisition is still in process through the three-bridge corridor where the levees will be set back from the riverfront by several hundred feet.

With these major efforts in process to directly protect Burlington from the 100-year base flood event, there has been an important shift because of the united efforts of all the cities, towns and the county. Local efforts aimed at getting the key experts at the national level to review the in-depth research, data collection and analysis appear to be gaining ground. A recent technical workshop clearly demonstrated that there is a solid case being made by city and county consultants on the major issue of hydrology (how much water gets here in a 100 year flood event) and the federal experts are reviewing the data. This is a significant milestone.

A Final Environmental Impact Statement will be issued by Burlington and Dike District #12 when adequate information is available to clearly present the city's best options and answer the questions that have been raised to date.

The City of Burlington received a Flood Insurance Rate Reduction of 25%, effective on October 1, 2009, because of the extensive support and involvement from the community, the school district, the retirement community, and the Dike District. That being said, ***EVERY PERSON HOLDING A FLOOD INSURANCE POLICY NEEDS TO CAREFULLY REVIEW THE DOCUMENT AT THE ANNUAL RENEWAL. MANY CITIZENS ARE FACING SUBSTANTIAL FLOOD INSURANCE RATE INCREASES WITH NO JUSTIFICATION.*** The City will make every effort to provide assistance if you have issues with flood insurance rates.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has produced Regional Guidance and a model ordinance and checklist, intended to be their response to the Biological Opinion that states the National Flood Insurance Program is responsible for killing Orca Whales and Chinook Salmon. Burlington is fully prepared to take action to protect each and every applicant for a permit, as an analysis report has just been completed that reviews and documents best available science and options for this city. Controversy abounds regarding the extent of federal authority, and implementation will be on hold until the issues are resolved.

Map Determination & Library Information

A map determination is figuring out where the 100 year flood elevation is located relative to the first occupied floor of your home or business. This information is used to prepare an Elevation Certificate. A citywide system of elevation benchmarks is maintained in the Building Department. An average of an additional \$200 in savings is possible on your flood insurance policy if you have an elevation certificate, in addition to the 25% rate reduction available in Burlington on October 1, 2009, as a result of community participation in the federal Community Rating System program. There are issues with lenders and flood insurance providers, and if you feel that you are not getting good information, please contact the city and we will try to help.

Information on other flood improvements, such as elevating your building, filling the crawl space, or floodproofing the lower portion, is available from the City and in the Burlington Public Library. There is a flood reference area in the library and staff will assist in directing you to the information you need.

Every land use newsletter includes a flood and natural hazard mitigation topic. Call the Planning Department at 755-9717 to get on the mailing list! Take the time to participate because your ideas will be taken seriously and you will have a say in the future of your community.

Drainage System Maintenance

This is the seventh year of water quality studies in Gages Slough and wetland restoration projects to improve water quality are a high priority. The commitment to long term maintenance, monitoring and habitat improvement is beginning to show, with the success of the first two wetland restoration projects that are beginning to mature. Clean water, efficient flow of water when needed, and a quality environment are the goals. Gages Slough and the Skagit River are important amenities for the community. Burlington is fortunate to have the Skagit Conservation District as a partner in Gages Slough water quality sampling.

The drainage maintenance and inspection program is part of flood hazard mitigation. Every year, all detention ponds, pipes, catch basins and other drainage control structures are inspected and corrections required as needed to ensure that the capacity of the ponds is maintained and that the ability of the system to clean the storm water is retained, in addition to inspection and maintenance of the city street system. The public drainage system, including culverts, pipes and ditches is well maintained. Gages Slough is maintained at each street intersection and culvert location. A well maintained drainage system that functions in small storms will provide the best assistance possible in large storms and floods, by quickly and efficiently carrying the excess water out of town.

Thank you for respecting the signs that state “No Dumping – thank you” at public access points to Gages Slough! Each property owner along the Slough is responsible for cleaning up any litter or trash that is on their property. The problem of illegal dumping of yard waste in Gages Slough and the problem of trash dumped at points of public access to the River can only be solved if everyone helps out. It is illegal to dump or to fill along Gages Slough or the Skagit River. You may report illegal dumping (this includes yard waste) in the Slough, by calling the Planning Department at 755-9717, or in writing.

Flood Safety & Disaster Preparedness

Every home needs to be prepared and STAY PREPARED! Review your Flood procedure at home with your household and take the time to put your Emergency Preparedness Kit together, or check your flashlight batteries in your existing kit. Remember, a supply of drinking water, emergency food and first aid kit are the bare minimums, along with flashlights. In addition to the basic three day supply of food and water, consider having supplies for sheltering for up to two weeks. Keep a small “grab and go” kit for your place of work with food, water, first aid supplies. For the emergency kit in the car, add flares, jumper cables and seasonal supplies.

There is an excellent FEMA publication entitled “Are You Ready? An In-depth Guide to Citizen Preparedness” available. This publication offers disaster information for natural hazards, technological hazards and terrorism. It will guide you for preparation in advance and recovery from a disaster. If you want to order a free copy for your home, call 1-800-480-2520. On the internet, <http://www.fema.gov/areyouready/> is the website link. A copy is available in the Burlington Public Library. **THIS COVERS THE BASIC DISASTER SUPPLIES KIT IN DETAIL.**

Earthquakes are an example of a disaster that cannot be predicted and that is not seasonal. Be prepared at all times!

Local Flood Hazard Areas

There are three flood zones in the City Limits of Burlington, the Floodway (river side of the levee), the 100 Year Flood Zone and the Special Flood Risk Zone. Most of Burlington is in the 100 Year Flood Zone.

The Special Flood Risk Zone includes all land within 300 feet of the landward toe of the levee. All structures must be designed so that floodwaters can pass underneath and there is no occupied space below one foot above the 100 year flood elevation, unless the site is within 100 feet of the levee where nothing can be built. All property in Gages Slough that is three feet or more below the 100 year flood elevation was designated as Special Flood Risk in the mid-1980's as part of a negotiating process over the uniquely complex Skagit River delta area when the Flood Insurance Rate Maps were finalized. The status of Gages Slough will be revisited when new base flood elevation maps are released by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Burlington and Dike District #12 are implementing an Interlocal Agreement to move ahead with plans for Levee Certification, to get 100-year flood protection for Burlington. Engineering analysis is being done systematically to document the levee design. The levee enlargement work started in 1990 and earthwork is still underway. Land acquisition and environmental review are also moving ahead for setting the levees back through the three-bridge corridor (Railroad bridge, Old 99 bridge, and Interstate 5 bridge) to protect the urban areas of Burlington and Mount Vernon in a 100-year flood event.

Floodplain Development Permit Requirements

Before you build, add fill, or make changes to your property and structures, be sure to contact the Planning and Building Departments to determine if any permits or approvals are necessary. The Federal Emergency Management Agency and the insurance industry make frequent changes in the interpretation of floodplain standards, and you need to be sure you are using the most current information for any construction project.

Natural & Beneficial Functions of Floodplains

Filling property to increase elevation in the floodplain is allowed today, but the long term goal is to minimize fill to protect fish and wildlife habitat. Burlington supports habitat improvements in the floodplain, and the Gages Slough restoration projects are a major effort in the city. Storm water quality monitoring in Burlington clearly shows that better water quality treatment systems are needed and this is a major focus of the surface water utility. The focus on the environment will continue to grow.

The Gages Slough habitat management plan has identified locations for restoration and water quality improvement projects, and one new mitigation project is scheduled to begin this fall at the site of an old garbage dump, working towards the goal of clean water entering the Skagit River as the top priority, along with improving public access to habitat areas.

Protecting agricultural lands is part of protecting the Natural and Beneficial Functions of Floodplains. The city is working with a task force on implementing the Burlington Agricultural Heritage Credit program which is a density bonus credit option that will help raise funds for farmland preservation in exchange for increased residential density. Fees and identification of the target area for purchase of development rights are being discussed.

Key elements of the Skagit County Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan include giving the Skagit River more room by setting the dikes back in Burlington and looking at a variety of measures through the delta area to the mouth of the Skagit River, carefully coordinating and managing the hydroelectric power dams in the river system during a flood event, permanently moving homes and development rights out of the floodway, improving the environment for wildlife, and creating new public access opportunities to improve everyone's quality of life.

Flood Warning System

Each and every citizen has a role to play in the event of a flood. **BE PREPARED!!!** The Burlington Flood Emergency Team prepares and coordinates activities needed to be ready for any flood event with the involvement of all the responsible agencies.

The procedure for warning the public is coordinated through the Skagit County Department of Emergency Management. The Emergency Alert System is activated when necessary and includes the following local radio stations:

KBRC - 1430 AM ▪ KWLE - 1340 AM ▪ KAPS - 660 AM

If evacuation is necessary, there will also be door-to-door notification and loudspeakers broadcasting from public safety vehicles in the neighborhood. Flaggers will be stationed at key intersections along the Evacuation Route to direct traffic.

Today, there are three neighborhoods in the Neighbor-to-Neighbor notification plan for very early warning. Contact your neighbors to ask if they want to be part of taking responsibility for each other, through a simple Telephone Tree, and call the Planning Department to get on the list. Now is the perfect time to identify your block captains and work together to **BE PREPARED.**

Substantial Improvement/Damage Requirements

The National Flood Insurance Program requires that if the cost of reconstruction, rehabilitation, addition, or other improvements to a building equals or exceeds 50% of the building's market value, then the building must meet the construction requirements for a new building. Substantially damaged buildings must also be brought up to the same standard. The major issue is elevating the structure one foot above the 100 year flood elevation, along with all mechanical equipment, ductwork and electrical equipment, and installing properly located and sized vents. However, if you are located in the Gages Slough Special Flood Risk Zone, "breakaway walls" are required below the 100 year flood elevation, and they must be designed by a licensed structural engineer.

Flood Insurance

Any property owner in the City of Burlington is eligible to obtain Flood Hazard Insurance, since the city participates in the National Flood Insurance Program. Purchasing or refinancing a home will trigger a requirement for flood insurance by the lender. Coverage in the event of flooding is not included in typical homeowner's insurance policies. Flood insurance is available through your own agency or broker and includes flooding from ponding/drainage problems, snowmelt flooding, runoff on hillsides, or any flooding involving surface water. Contents of the building are a separate addition to the policy. There is limited coverage available for flood-related erosion and mudslide. Replacement cost coverage is available for principal residences. *Concerned about high Flood Insurance Rates?* You may qualify for a substantial reduction if you have an Elevation Certificate that shows your home or business is located at or above the 100 year flood elevation. You will have to retain the services of a Licensed Engineer to complete the paperwork, unless an Elevation Certificate is on file already with the Building Department, so please check here first.

Lowering flood insurance premiums: elevate, elevate, elevate... Not only should the low floor be elevated but make sure that the floor of the crawlspace meets Technical Bulletin 11-01. Flood insurance rates are higher for buildings with crawl spaces that are two feet or more below the lowest adjacent exterior grade. Also make sure that all mechanical equipment is elevated above the BFE. This includes ductwork, heat pumps, furnaces, and propane tanks or oil tanks. Make sure any garages that have the floor below BFE are also vented along with the crawlspace.

Property Protection Measures

Let's get started on improving flood protection in your home! Staff is available to provide site specific flood and flood-related data, make site visits to review flood, drainage and sewer problems and to advise and assist on retrofitting techniques.

Stop by the Permit Center or give the Building Department a call at 755-0077 and let the city provide you with technical assistance on improving flood protection in your home. A site visit will be scheduled at your convenience to put a checklist together for home flood protection improvements. Staff is also available from the Public Works Department if additional assistance is needed to assist with drainage and sewer problems.

If you want to do your own research, here are some of the recommended FEMA technical bulletins that you will find at the Burlington Public Library and the Building Department for your use:

- Homeowner's Guide to Retrofitting, FEMA-312
- Design Manual for Retrofitting Flood-prone Residential Structures, FEMA-114
- Protecting Building Utilities from Flood Damage, FEMA-348

Take a few minutes to look over the possible areas where you may need to floodproof important parts of your home. A good example is protecting utility systems. This is one of the easiest and least expensive retrofitting methods to accomplish. Whether it is elevating, relocating, or anchoring; items such as electrical panel boxes, furnaces, water heaters, washers/dryers and heating fuel tanks are typically very cost effective items to upgrade. There are also recommendations for drainage and crawl space improvements.

If you have a newer (post 1985) home, check to be sure these items have been taken care of when the home was constructed. Identify the potential for moving essential items and furniture to upper floors or the attic of your home. Materials like sandbags, plywood, plastic sheeting, and lumber handy for emergency waterproofing can already be on hand. This action will help minimize the amount of damage caused by floodwaters and requires minimal storage space.

DO NOT DRIVE THROUGH FLOODED AREAS.