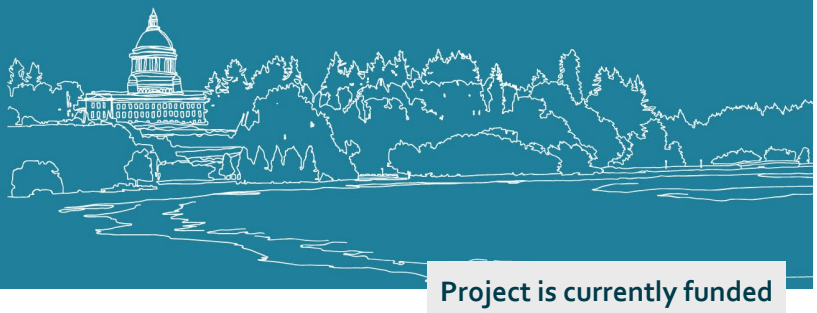
Restoration of Historic Estuarine Habitat with Regional Benefits

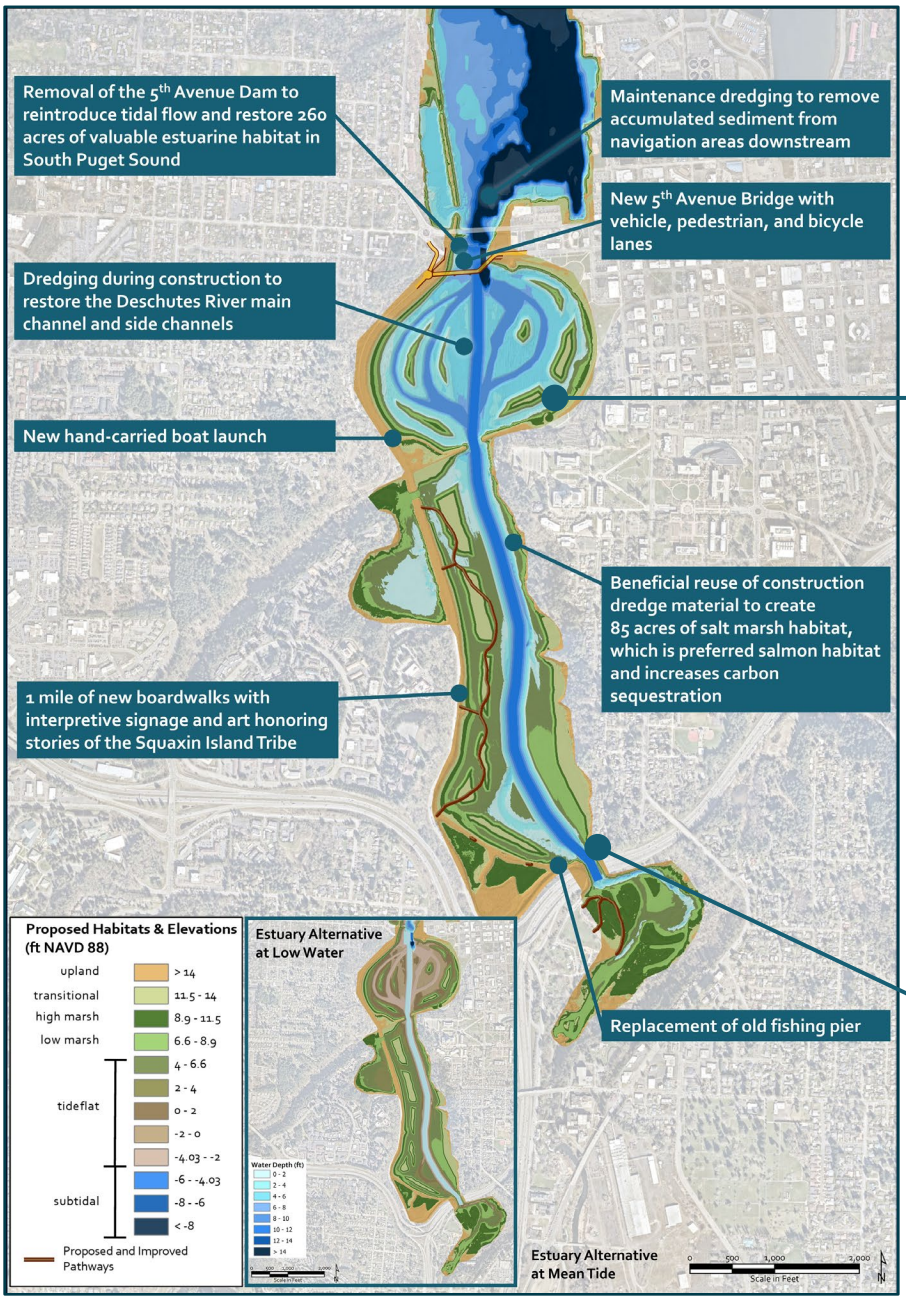
DEPARTMENT OF ENTERPRISE SERVICES
DESCHUTES ESTUARY Restoration Project

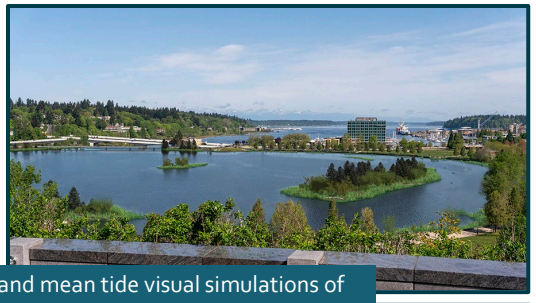
Deschutes Estuary Restoration Project



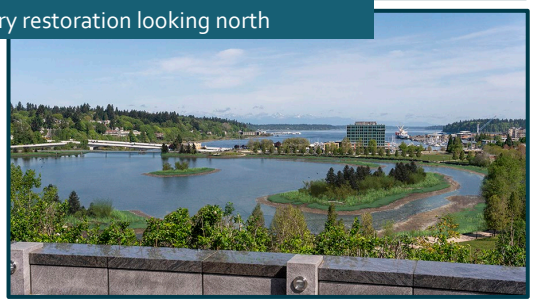
Project is currently funded through mid-2024. More funding is needed to advance restoration design and complete construction.

The Department of Enterprise Services (DES) is undertaking a monumental estuary restoration project in the heart of the Washington State capitol. The Deschutes Estuary Restoration Project will restore 260 acres of estuarine and salt marsh habitat at the mouth of the Deschutes River.

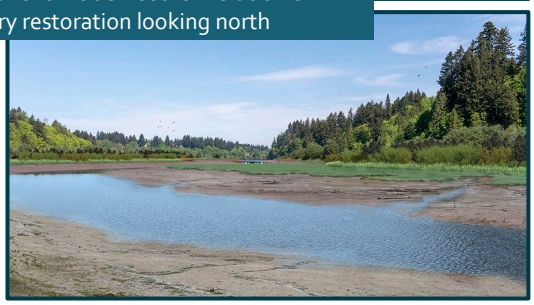




High and mean tide visual simulations of estuary restoration looking north



High and low tide visual simulation of estuary restoration looking north



Learn More https://DeschutesEstuaryProject.org

Project Partners and Primary Stakeholders

- Squaxin Island Tribe
- City of Olympia
- City of Tumwater
- Thurston County
- Port of Olympia
- LOTT Clean Water Alliance
- Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife
- Washington Department of Natural Resources
- Community and Community Sounding Board

Benefits to Olympia and a healthy Puget Sound

FISH & WILDLIFE

Restores the natural transition between fresh and saltwater favorable to salmon and **advances recovery for Orca and Chinook salmon**

WETLANDS

Establishes over 85 acres of salt marsh habitat and 100 acres of estuarine habitat, which is rare and **preferred forage/rearing habitat for salmon**

CLIMATE RESILIENCY

Increases climate resiliency across the City of Olympia by reducing maximum flood elevations by up to 1 foot

WATER QUALITY

Addresses chronic water quality violations by improving dissolved oxygen conditions in Budd Inlet, which is important for fish and aquatic life

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

Makes significant progress toward restoring a landscape that has **cultural and spiritual significance to the Squaxin Island Tribe**

ECONOMICS

Results in greater economic benefit to downtown Olympia through increased development with attractive and accessible estuary design

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Potentially reduces cost of cleanup led by the Port of Olympia by depositing "good" quality sediment over areas of low contamination downstream

CARBON SEQUESTRATION

Increases carbon sequestration through restoration of salt marsh habitat, which sequesters more than the existing freshwater habitat

TRANSPORTATION

Constructs a new 5th Avenue Bridge with separated vehicle, bike, and pedestrian lanes and increases non-vehicular mobility in the corridor

PUBLIC SERVICES & UTILITIES

Avoids increased regulatory burden and associated costs for **LOTT Clean Water Alliance** and other treatment plants and replaces stormwater outfalls

AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

Eradicates more than 10 known aquatic invasive species in the waterbody and installs decontamination stations

AESTHETICS

Improves visual aesthetics through creation of expansive shoreline habitat and **incorporates tribal art into the boardwalks and bridge structures**

Design Schedule and Process

DES and the multi-disciplinary consultant team are advancing conceptual design with project partners and primary stakeholders.