

**Qwuloolt Restoration Project**  
**Summary of Public Comments from April 25 -June 8, 2006**

**What We Heard:**

*General Comments about Project and Planning Process:*

- Most people are supportive of project
- Most people have questions and concerns
- A few people are not in favor of project
- Most people want another chance to review more detailed plans and provide comments

*Restoration and Alternatives:*

- What will the site look like after restoration? And for how long? Will it smell?
- Will woody debris and logs pile up on the site?

*Impacts to Wildlife and Natural Resources:*

- How will restoration affect coyotes, deer and other wildlife?
- Actions should be taken not to displace wildlife
- Concerns that when the site initially floods rats and rodents will become a problem for surrounding properties. This is already occurring during winter flooding.

*Saltwater Intrusion, Flooding, and Erosion:*

- Concerns about potential impacts to wells located in lowlands
- Concerns about erosion of steep banks and properties surrounding the site
- Concerns about the potential for additional flooding of surrounding properties from tides and from Allen and Jones Creeks
- Concerns about potential revisions of flood maps and flood insurance requirements
- What will be the level of flood protection provided by the new levees?
- Levees must be built high enough to protect surrounding properties
- Maintenance of levees is an issue

*Aesthetics, Views, and Property Values:*

- Questions and concerns about mudflat versus open water on the site
- Will restoration create waterfront property? Will there be enough water for docks and boats?
- Levees, trails and vegetation should not block views

*Trails and Public Access:*

- Opposed to new trails or trailheads
- Major concerns about privacy, views, safety, and parking
- Neutral opinions on new trails but are concerned about privacy, maintaining views, crime and safety
- Supportive of new trails
- Supportive of trails around periphery and not along levee
- Concern about trails where levees are not needed and that these trails will unnecessarily fill in the wetland areas
- Bridges are a waste of money
- Will hunting be allowed on the site?
- Hunting should be prohibited for safety reasons. It is already an issue in this location.

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**What People Wrote:**

*Which of the restoration alternatives presented do you prefer?*

- Option 2
  - Most trails.
- Option 3
  - A good compromise – completely removing the levee is a little drastic.
- Option 3A
  - Will cause future problems with erosion from water flow through the small breaches.
- Option 4
  - Best water movement and most water.
  - Most effective for the creation of wildlife habitat.
  - Speeds return to natural conditions and wildlife return.
  - Most ecologically sound choice.
  - Removing the dike makes the most sense rather than just a portion of it.
  - Minimizes costs to taxpayers because small breaches would cause erosion and require continual maintenance.
- Undecided
  - Whichever alternative would allow the deepest water and stay the longest on the site between the tides.
  - Whichever option avoids a muddy mess.

*What do you suggest for improving the project?*

- More walking, biking trails.
- No trails – safety, privacy concerns.
- Adequate parking and facilities at access points.
- Plant more trees.
- Dig down the site to increase the depth to allow for a little deeper water.
- Use volunteers to help – planting, trail construction, monitoring changes.
- Keep residents informed.
- More information and meetings with detailed plans during the various design stages of the project in particular trail and walkway plans and timelines.
- Start the project immediately, too many delays has been the problem.

*Are there things we should consider to avoid, minimize or eliminate impacts from the Qwuloolt?*

- Avoid delays and do it as quickly as possible to get the changes going so that it will look decent.
- Contingency plans and/or process to control rodents and insects and protect wildlife during initial flooding in the weeks and months following the flooding.
- Existing ditch channels in the western portion of the project area currently have cutthroat fish living in them. Will dikes cover up the channels? Killing one type of fish to save another?
- Purchase more property next to site, it's too costly to work around it.
- No more levees – too much build up already and do not build any unnecessary dikes for the purpose of trails.

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- Instead of trails money could be better spent on other improvements for the benefit of the public such as canoe launches, picnic areas, and other recreation areas.
- Consider the potential increased crime rates and solutions to prevent this from happening.
- Avoid obstructing the views of current residents with sparser native plantings.

*What are your concerns about the project?*

- Rat and rodent population
- Mosquitos and bugs
- Impacts on existing wildlife in the project area
- Trails – route, costs, privacy, safety, changes to neighborhood and properties after homes have been built – What is the route? How high will it be? How close to neighboring properties? Will it be policed? Where are the access points and trailheads? What about parking?
- Erosion to surrounding properties where no levees will be built
- Saltwater in wells and damages to well pumps that are located in the lowlands
- Elevations of dikes – will they be as high as the developments?
- Hunting – safety and proximity to surrounding homes
- Concerns that it will look like the mess at Steamboat
- Lack of communication with neighbors and other residents
- Timeline – it should happen quickly, there have been too many delays, and the current state is unsightly, 10 years in planning is excessive and wastes time and money, pick a plan and start, just do it.

*Some General Positive Comments:*

- Take one back for mother nature. I love it.
- Go for it, do your best.
- What with the frantic pace of development in the Marysville area, the plants and animals will certainly have a better chance of long-term survival with this new habitat. Plus, the community will get a great experience if they are able to get out on the levees to view this wonderful world. I have canoed and kayaked out there in the past and we were all so excited about what we saw and the great diversity of life. Plus, there should also be benefits as concerns flooding and pollution cleanup since wetlands are great for that. Good job and good luck with the project.
- We appreciate the efforts you are doing to preserve the wildlife and restore the natural resources in the Qwuloolt Restoration Project.
- I'm all for breaching the dikes and creating more wetlands. I think it's a good idea to build a trail where it's reasonable. That is an essential educational component that can help build support for the project. Best of luck.
- I'm all for it.