

February 2013

Flood Control Management

by Peter Rimbos, Corresponding Secretary

On Monday, February 4, the Greater Maple Valley Unincorporated Area Council (Area Council) held its regular monthly meeting. Two major topics discussed were: (1) Flood Control and (2) Ravensdale Park.

Flood Control

Priscilla Kaufmann, King County River and Floodplain Management Project Manager, discussed the 2013 update to the Flood Hazard Management Plan last revised in 2006. The Plan update will address several needs dictated by the King County Comprehensive Plan, the King County Flood Control District (established in January 2008), the State Growth Management Act, and requirements of the Federal flood insurance program.

The Plan update will include new flood data and area needs, including the goals and inter-jurisdictional scope of the King County Flood Control District, a \$35 million per year program. Those goals are to reduce flood risks, minimize environmental impacts, and manage costs. One tool used to reduce flood risks is an acquisition and relocation program for both commercial and residential properties.

Nancy Faegenburg, King County Cedar/Sammamish/Issaquah Watershed Project Manager, discussed specific details of the Cedar River Watershed and past flood events. Flood risk focus includes the city of Renton, local area roads and bridges, Cedar River Trail and the co-located fiber optic cable along its easement, and threatened rural and residential properties. Many of the Cedar River flood control measures, such as rock revetments, were built in the '60s and '70s and are in need of repair or replacement. Needs exceed revenues available.

The Flood Hazard Management Plan update will be released for Public Comment this Spring. For information on flood control management and the Plan update, [please visit the King County site](#). The Area Council's Natural Resources/Parks Committee will conduct a detailed review of the Plan update and prepare comments for full Area Council review, approval, and submittal to King County.

Ravensdale Park

Gordon Moorman, former Area Council member and Rob Nist, Rock Creek Sports, gave an update on Ravensdale Park. The non-profit Ravensdale Park Foundation, founded by Rock Creek Sports and Maple Valley Soccer, has been working with King County Parks to design and facilitate upgrades and enhancements to Ravensdale Park through a multi-phase multi-year plan.

The Area Council and local stakeholder groups have actively participated with King County Parks to achieve a neighborhood friendly plan that maintains a connection to the rural community. Phase 1, completed in January 2012, upgraded two fields. Phase 2, underway since mid-2012, will add two multi-purpose fields on the west side of the park. Further progress depends on additional funding in 2013. [For more detailed information, click here.](#)

The Ravensdale Park Foundation is looking for volunteers and tax-deductible donations. If you would like to assist with building the community park, please send an email to: info@ravensdalepark.org.

Ballot and Citizens' Survey

The 2013 Ballot and Citizens' Survey will be mailed later this month to all rural unincorporated area registered voters within the Area Council's coverage area — the Tahoma School District minus the City of Maple Valley. The one-page Survey includes questions on King County services, transportation, land-use and permitting, and levies and taxes. Space is available for written comments. Also included is a brief ballot section for Area Council elections.

The Area Council expresses its thanks to all who take a moment to fill out and mail back their Ballot and Citizens' Survey. [Find our 2009 Citizens' Survey results here.](#)

Next Area Council Meeting

Meetings are held the first Monday of each month. A Public Comment period at the beginning of each meeting provides citizens an opportunity to voice issues of concern to Area Council members and government officials in attendance. Next monthly meeting: Monday, March 4, from 7:00 - 9:00 PM at the Fire Station at 231st St & SR-169.

*** NOTE: If you live in the Tahoma School District outside the City of Maple Valley, you are eligible to apply to become a member of the Area Council. Interested Rural Area citizens can send a brief letter of interest to GMVUAC, P.O. Box 101, Maple Valley, WA 98038 [or an e-mail](#).