

ST. HELENS CENTRAL WATERFRONT PROJECT

The City of St. Helens is engaged in a thoughtful, thorough community conversation about how to redevelop its waterfront. The City is working to provide increased waterfront access and more public amenities as part of the future development of the former Boise Veneer Mill site.

WHAT WE'VE HEARD SO FAR

Over the past two years, the community has asked for an active waterfront, with improved access and expanded public uses, including:

- Youth activities / sports complex
- Waterfront trail
- Beach access
- Land and water-based recreation

The former mill site represents opportunities for expanded public access to the waterfront and new public amenities. However, it is not large enough to accommodate all of these requests.

CONSIDERING OPPORTUNITIES AT THE LAGOON SITE

South of the former Veneer Mill site sits a 39-acre wastewater treatment facility and lagoon. The centrally-located lagoon discourages development and occupies space that could be used for community amenities. Building on the site is possible, but it requires filling the lagoon and potentially relocating the wastewater treatment facilities.

Filling the lagoon in a way that's environmentally-safe and cost-effective might be possible with soils from commercial development sites and sediment from river dredging efforts in Portland Harbor, Multnomah Channel or elsewhere in the region. Only non-hazardous sediment and soil would be considered as fill and the site would be fully lined on the bottom and capped on top, with materials completely confined.





WHAT COMES NEXT

The City is evaluating options for developing the lagoon site. Community input will be sought throughout this process, which includes the following steps:

- Complete site feasibility analysis (e.g. geotechnical, seismic, groundwater conditions and traffic analysis)
- Pursue solid waste permit through Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
 - Supplemental site characterization
 - Permitting/design
- Complete impacts analysis for wastewater treatment system

These steps are expected to take between two and four years. A more detailed schedule will be developed as the analysis gets underway.

Example project: Although not a lagoon, the City of Astoria capped a waste disposal site and developed the land as a sports complex for community use.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

City of St. Helens website: www.ci.st-helens.or.us/waterfront-redevelopment-project
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