

GOOD NEWS Grays Harbor

issue 1 ~ volume 1 ~ winter 2010

The Course Is Charted!



Grays Harbor 2020 is a road map to the future; a vision for and by the people who call Grays Harbor home. Between 2007 and 2009, thousands of residents from every corner of the county shared their ideas for making Grays Harbor a better place to live, work, play and learn.

Community members identified 25 strategies and 120 actions for:



Developing state-of-the-art infrastructure and governance systems



Improving and connecting signature spaces and places



Preserving and promoting environmental assets



Fostering and nurturing a diverse and prosperous local economy



Expanding and enhancing social networks and cultural opportunities



All Hands on Deck

More than two dozen community organizations have agreed to help implement Grays Harbor 2020's 120 actions over the next decade.

The full impact of implementation may not be appreciated for years to come. Yet considerable progress has already occurred in the months since the action plan was completed this past summer.

This newsletter highlights just a few of those early success stories.

Looking Forward

Over the next several months, volunteers will continue reaching out to community partners and creating a vision-wide inventory of Grays Harbor 2020 progress. Results will be shared with the broader community online, in a Town Hall meeting and through publications like this one.

We will also continue to recruit new partners to help with implementation and provide support for existing action partners whenever feasible.

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Nearly \$2 million secured for Hoquiam sidewalks, lighting and trees. ~ Family donates \$20,000 for painting beautification project.

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Farmers embrace opportunity to network with each other. ~ Port receives \$1.7 million to keep waterways open for commerce.

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Alder Creek, Lake Sylvia and Shafer State Park all see enhancements from volunteer efforts.

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Be a part of Grays Harbor's future. Learn about events and activities via website and Facebook.

Improving and Connecting Signature Spaces and Places



The City of Hoquiam has secured \$1.8 million in grant funding to install downtown sidewalks, energy-efficient decorative street lighting and urban street trees.



- About 30 volunteers participated in an **invasive species removal project** at Elton Bennett Park. Subsequently, Washington Conservation Corps decided to do its Martin Luther King Community Service Project at the park, resulting in newly graveled trails, a new information kiosk and stairs on steep slopes.
- Building on the excellent volunteer work of Aberdeen resident Marc Bell, a Bishop Trail Committee has been formed to complete an environmentally-friendly “**rails to trail**” project. This will provide an Aberdeen-to-Westport connection along the scenic Grays Harbor waterfront. Dozens of Grays Harbor 2020 volunteers have participated in trail clearing activities.
- The Stritmatter Family, in partnership with Kelley-Moore, has graciously donated \$20,000 for a **beautification project** along the Aberdeen-Hoquiam corridor. The first repainting projects, including of homes, are expected to be underway this spring under the leadership of NeighborWorks Grays Harbor.
- The City of Hoquiam received a \$10,000 grant to complete a Downtown **Historic Preservation Plan** and identify potential tax credits for preservation and restoration of historic structures. City staff is reaching out to leaders in other Grays Harbor communities to share findings and opportunities.
- The Grays Harbor Community Foundation formed a task force to **inventory historical assets** and develop a historical tour program. The final product will be posted on-line for public access.

Seabrook Home Named Coastal Living's Ultimate Beach House

Coastal Living has selected a Seabrook home as its 2010 Ultimate Beach House. The magazine's Idea Houses are built in communities selected for their environmental consciousness and sensitivity to shoreline preservation.

This new beach town just south of Pacific Beach employs a modern urbanism concept that focuses on community: everything is within a five minute walk and the best land is dedicated to public space. The approximately 3,000 square foot home will include a private spa, internal courtyard complete with outdoor fireplace and room for casual entertaining, separate guest cottage, and oceanfront balcony.



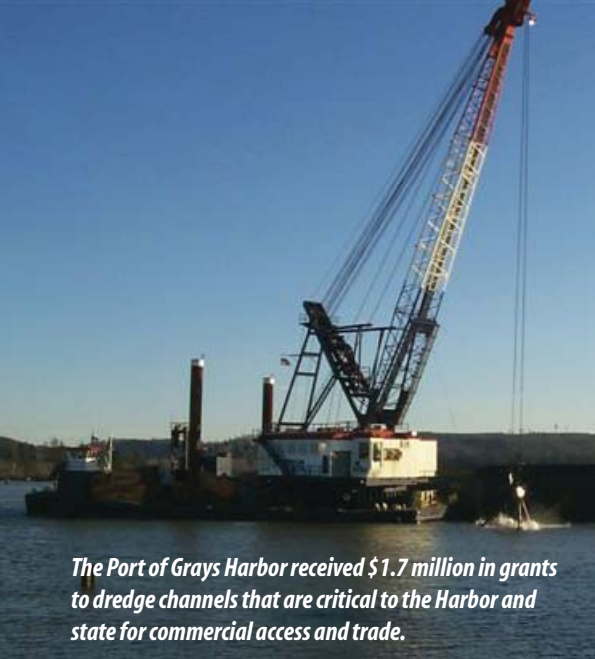
Developing State-of-the-Art Infrastructure and Governance Systems



- The City of Hoquiam is hosting a February **finance workshop** for all local municipalities to explore the range of tools available for funding redevelopment projects.
- The Grays Harbor PUD has initiated steps to ensure at least 15% of **local energy comes from green sources** by 2020. Already underway is the Radar Ridge Wind Farm, creating and distributing electricity close to home. The project is expected to generate up to 50 construction jobs and at least a dozen permanent jobs for area workers.
- The Grays Harbor Council of Governments and Grays Harbor Public Development Authority are pursuing a \$3 million dollar grant for “**middle mile**” **fiber optics** infrastructure, bringing high speed Internet connectivity one-step closer for home owners.
- Council of Governments completed the **Highway 109 master plan** which makes Grays Harbor eligible for scenic byway grants. Future projects could include advertising and marketing, kiosks and signage, scenic overlooks, trails and other improvements that enhance visitor opportunities and economic impact.

Grays Harbor 2020 Task Force: Al Carter – Grays Harbor County Commissioner; Alissa Thurman – City of Hoquiam; David Quigg – Grays Harbor Paper; Delroy Cox – Lemay Inc.; Don Tapio – WSU Agricultural Extension Program; Doug Smith – Grays Harbor PUD; Drew Hooper – East Grays Harbor Rotary; Fawn Sharp – Quinalt Nation; Jeff Myers – Hoquiam Police Department; Jim Daly – Grays Harbor Community Foundation; Josh Steele – National City Mortgage; Leonard Barnes – Port of Grays Harbor; LeRoy Tipton – Grays Harbor Chamber of Commerce; Linda Brown – Grays Harbor Community Hospital; Linda Orgel – Friends of Grays Harbor; Lisa Scott – City of Aberdeen; Lisa Smith – Imperium Grays Harbor; Mark Reisman – Grays Harbor College; Marty Kay – Aberdeen School District; Mike Dickerson – Sendar Corporation; Mike Wilson – Grays Harbor County Commissioner; Pastor Richard Peterson – Association of Pastors; Roger Milliman – Grays Harbor EDC; Scott Reynvaan – In the Works; Stan Pinnick – Port of Grays Harbor; Tami Garrow – Satsop Public Development Authority; Vicki Cummings – Grays Harbor Council of Governments; Vickie Raines – City of Cosmopolis.

Fostering and Nurturing a Diverse and Prosperous Local Economy



The Port of Grays Harbor received \$1.7 million in grants to dredge channels that are critical to the Harbor and state for commercial access and trade.

- The Port of Grays Harbor continues to create economic opportunity, most recently by expanding liquid bulk **receiving and storage capacity** through its newest tenant, Westway Terminal Company – Grays Harbor Division.
- On a similar front, the Port secured new **auto export business** by recruiting the Pasha Group, a diversified global transportation services and logistics company. The deal is expected to generate loading, transloading and storage of 25,000 vehicles annually – great news for area longshore workers, truck drivers, barge and tug pilots, railroad operators and many others.
- The Grays Harbor Economic Development Council is developing an **industrial lands database** to easily share information with investors inquiring about business opportunities.

Port Dredging Enhances Economic Advantage

The Port recently secured \$1.7 million in grants to dredge entry channels and enhance the community's position as a primary port of entry for international trade.

The Port is also upgrading Marine Terminal 1 which will ultimately enable the Port to handle deep-water ocean going vessels.

A partnership between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Port of Grays Harbor keeps the Chehalis River channel maintained to sustain business on the Harbor through major dredging.

Without the annual dredging, shoaling would lead to a shallow channel and threaten safety and efficiency.

Maintaining a regular and strategic marine corridor dredging program through the Port is part of Vision 2020's plan to sustain commercial services on the Harbor.

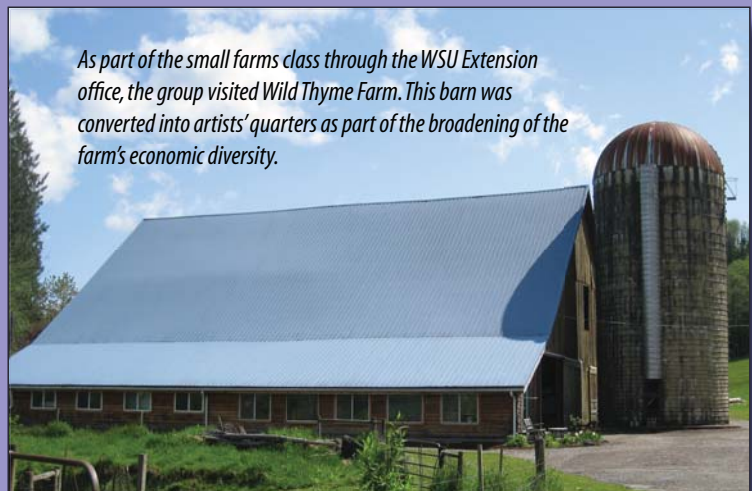
Using federal money, the corps uses an open bucket hopper on a ship to pick up underwater sediments, focusing only on spots where the corps has identified significant sediment.

The channel is constantly being monitored and maintained because of its importance to the Harbor and state. for commercial access and trade.

Networking Program for Farmers Proves Popular

WSU Extension provided a 13 week *Sustainable Small Acreage Farming and Ranching* course to 28 small-acreage land owners. The program was designed to build networking opportunities for local farmers and ranchers, while also teaching them to be excellent long-range stewards of their land.

Participants, representing 18 farms and 465 acres, asked for more...more time together, more networking and more opportunities to contribute to the local agricultural community. Based on the popularity of the program, WSU Extension Agent Don Tapio and others have launched regular "Farm Walks" and are now developing a website where land owners can network and market their products.



As part of the small farms class through the WSU Extension office, the group visited Wild Thyme Farm. This barn was converted into artists' quarters as part of the broadening of the farm's economic diversity.

Cascade Land Conservancy
Chehalis Basin Partnership
City of Hoquiam
Coastal Community Action Program
Friends of Grays Harbor
Grays Harbor 2020 Implementation Comm.
Grays Harbor Chamber of Commerce

Grays Harbor 2020 Implementation Partners

Grays Harbor Chiefs of Police
Grays Harbor College
Grays Harbor Community Foundation
Grays Harbor Community Hospital
Grays Harbor Council of Governments

Grays Harbor County
Grays Harbor County Health Department
Grays Harbor Economic Develop. Council
Grays Harbor Historical Seaport Authority
Grays Harbor Ministerial Association

Grays Harbor Public Development Authority
Grays Harbor PUD
Grays Harbor School Districts
Grays Harbor Tourism
Grays Harbor Transit
Housing Authority of Grays Harbor
Mark Reed Hospital
NeighborWorks of Grays Harbor

Preserving and Promoting Our Unparalleled Environmental Assets



- A new **Grays Harbor Stream Team** has taken shape under leadership from Janel Spaulding. Grays Harbor 2020 Environmental Education Coordinator, The inaugural clean-up event included nearly 25 people at Alder Creek located on Grays Harbor College campus. The Stream Team involves school students and community members in projects like garbage clean-ups, tree planting, water quality monitoring, storm drain stenciling, education and outreach.
- The Chehalis Basin Partnership has coordinated two **tree planting projects** at the Off Road Vehicle Park near McCleary as part of its overall effort to improve riparian habitat and prevent flooding.
- Grays Harbor 2020 partners, including Cascade Land Conservancy, Friends of Grays Harbor and others, have begun **mapping environmental assets** located throughout the County. The resulting inventory will be used to link and market these assets as visitor attractions.
- The Friends of Schafer & Lake Sylvia State Parks (FOSLS) have collected over 10,000 signatures from citizens to **keep our parks open**, the largest grass-root effort ever in WA State history.
- A new **Recycling Committee** has been formed under the Grays Harbor Solid Waste Advisory Board. It is researching ways to expand recycling opportunities from material reuse to recycling and converting food waste to energy. A new newsletter, *Talkin' Trash*, is in the works and Committee Chair Mike Meyers has published several educational articles through local media sources.
- Over the past 18 months, the **Cascade Land Conservancy** has been working as conveners, bridge builders and project managers on issues surrounding the economy and ecology of the peninsula at the local and regional level.



Above, a team coordinated by Friends of Schafer & Lake Sylvia State Parks (FOSLS) works on repairing a bridge at Lake Sylvia. Grays Harbor Stream Team events at Alder Creek and Lake Sylvia provided fun activities for all ages.

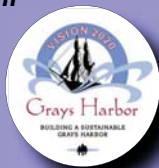


Get Involved!

To learn more about Grays Harbor 2020 Vision and Action Plan...

1. Visit www.graysharbor2020.com
2. Friend us on Facebook at **Grays Harbor 2020**
3. Contact our Grays Harbor 2020 Community Coordinator **Ron Pinnick, 360.538.5604** rpinnick@ghpaper.com

Watch for announcements of volunteer opportunities and special events!



Expanding and Enhancing Social Networks and Cultural Opportunities



- Mark Reed and Grays Harbor Community Hospitals will soon **expand health services** available to local residents by joining a regional alliance including neighboring Thurston, Pacific and Lewis counties.
- Coastal Community Action is developing a **centralized community volunteer database** to link interested volunteers with opportunities. The website link will be announced in coming months.

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