



News Release

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King County Flood District, City of Kent celebrate start of levee rehabilitation project

Briscoe-Desimone system to receive upgrades to protect lives, businesses

The levee system that protects a vital regional manufacturing hub was the scene of a celebration today as representatives of the King County Flood Control District, city of Kent and the state of Washington gathered for the start of work on the Briscoe-Desimone levee system.

The Briscoe Levee is located along the right bank of the Green River in Kent. The Desimone Levee is located on the right bank of the Green River in Tukwila. Together these levee segments are approximately 2.7 miles long and protect properties within Kent, Tukwila and Renton. The levee system protects approximately two-thirds of the Kent Valley from flooding.

Resources

[Project Map](#)

[Design Cross-section](#)

[Trail Detour Map](#)

[Project Handout](#)

"This project is another great example of why the Flood District was created," said Chair of the Flood Control District Reagan Dunn, whose district includes portions of Kent and Renton "In conjunction with our partners, the Flood District is making strategic investments in the Green River Valley to help protect thousands of residents and a key regional economic hub."

"I am happy to work with the King County Flood Control District and city of Tukwila on the Briscoe-Desimone Levee Project and am very pleased construction is starting," said Kent Mayor Suzette Cooke. "These improvements will increase the level of flood protection for the commercial heart of the Kent Valley and are a great step towards building a better levee system for the entire area."

The project is being funded with \$18 million from the Flood Control District, including a \$7 million grant the District received from the state. Through an agreement with the Flood Control District, Kent is the lead agency for the construction work along the levee system, which will include:

- Conducting geotechnical inspections to identify areas needing repair,
- Constructing setback flood walls along four sections, or reaches, of the levee that do not meet federal stability criteria,
- Removing large trees and roots that could cause damage to the levees,
- Removing ivy and other ground cover that can prevent routine inspections.

"The Kent Valley is an important economic engine in our state. We need to do everything we can to protect its residents and businesses from dangerous floods," said Flood District Supervisor Dave Upthegrove, whose district includes portions of Kent, Tukwila, and Renton. "This levee project is an important step forward in doing that."

State Senators Joe Fain and Karen Keiser both represent Kent in the Legislature. They worked together to secure \$7 million in the state's 2012 capital construction budget for the project.

"The levees are incredibly important to homeowners and businesses threatened by flooding throughout the Kent valley," said Senator Fain. "A well designed and constructed levee improves the quality of life and saves money for valley residents. It also moves us toward certification by the Army Corps of Engineers, which would lower flood-insurance premiums in the area and keep the valley's economic engine strong."

"I am so relieved that the Green River flood hazard has been mitigated by the strong action and cooperation of city, county and state authorities," said Senator Keiser. "The citizens and businesses of Kent can rest assured their safety and flood protection will be achieved with this levee project."

The initial work being done in 2014 will be the construction of two of four setback levee floodwalls on the landward side of the existing Briscoe levee between South 188th Street and South 194th Street. Construction will reinforce the existing levees and will be built to meet the Federal Emergency Management Agency's standards for 100-year flood accreditation. The floodwall will consist of driven sheet piles and reinforced concrete and will be approximately 3,177 feet long.

This project will also include excavation on the riverside of the levee to construct a vegetated bench, landscaping, paving of the new levee trail, parking lot reconstruction and two cement concrete retaining walls.

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The King County Flood Control District is a special purpose government created to provide funding and policy oversight for flood protection projects and programs in King County. The Flood Control District's Board is composed of the members of the King County Council. The Water and Land Resources Division of the King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks develops and implements the approved flood protection projects and programs. Information is available at www.kingcountyfloodcontrol.org.