



# LOWER COAL CREEK FLOOD HAZARD REDUCTION PROJECT FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

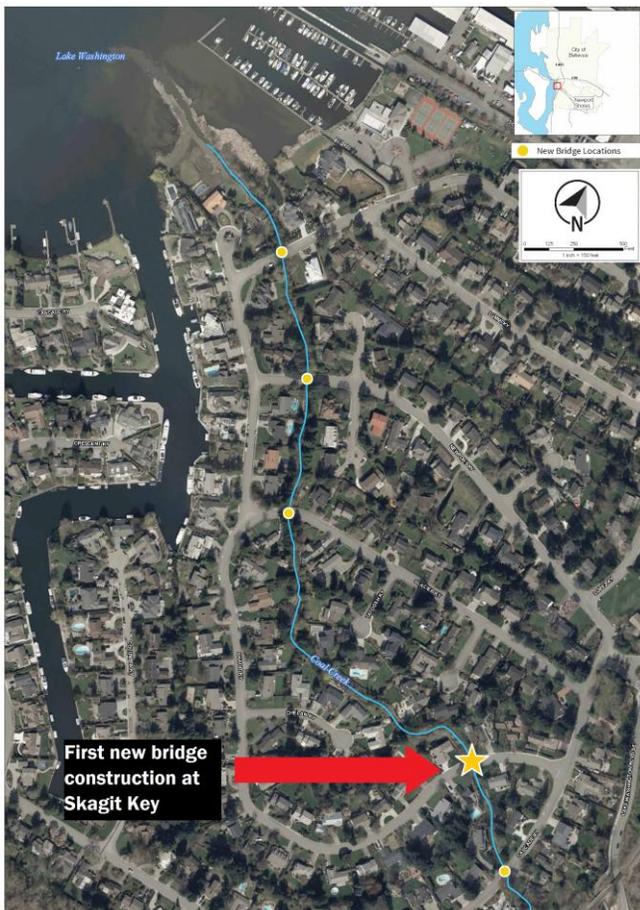
## General Project Overview

### What is the Lower Coal Creek Flood Hazard Reduction Project?

The City of Bellevue (Bellevue) is seeking to reduce the risk of flooding in the Newport Shores neighborhood. To reduce the possibility of flooding from Lower Coal Creek, Bellevue will construct new bridges (culverts) at five creek crossings in the neighborhood. These bridges will better allow the passage of creek water, reduce the chance of debris blockages, and eliminate the partial fish passage barrier that currently exists at Cascade Key. To help reduce flooding in the streets during heavy rains, Bellevue is planning on rerouting stormwater away from Lower Coal Creek to Lake Washington by constructing new stormwater outfalls.



Previous flooding in Newport Shores



Newport Shores and the locations of the planned new bridges

### Where is the project located?

The project is located in Newport Shores, which is where Coal Creek flows into Lake Washington. See map at left.

### Why did Bellevue choose to focus on the Newport Shores neighborhood?

Over the last two decades, Bellevue has received and responded to numerous flooding complaints associated with a range of causes, including backup of storm drains, bridge blockages, and creek overflows during large storms.

### Who is funding this project?

The King County Flood Control District is funding this project. This District collects a tax on all properties in King County for flood control planning and projects.

### What is the project schedule?

The anticipated project schedule is:

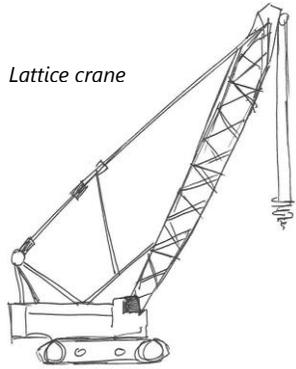
- 2015-2018: Final design and permit acquisition
- 2017-2019: Construction of new bridges and stormwater outfalls

The first bridge will be constructed in 2017 at upper Skagit Key, and the next two bridges at Cascade Key and Newport Key are planned for construction in 2018.

## Impacts of Bridge Construction on the Neighborhood

### How will the construction of these bridges affect traffic routes in the neighborhood?

Except for the Cascade Key crossing, the roads in the vicinity of each bridge will be closed to all through traffic during construction. A detour route will be posted indicating an alternative route for drivers. Cascade Key is the only access to the southern half of the neighborhood, so the bridge at that crossing will be constructed in halves, leaving a single lane open to traffic throughout construction.



Lattice crane



Drill rig

### What kind of construction equipment will be used?

The construction crew will use a variety of equipment to build new bridges, including lattice cranes and drill rigs (see images at left). Bellevue will work with residents to minimize the impact of having construction equipment in the neighborhood.

### When can I expect to hear noise from construction?

Noise from construction is only allowed from 7 am to 6 pm Monday-Friday, and 9 am to 6 pm on Saturdays, except for federal holidays. Construction noise is prohibited on Sundays or legal holidays unless expanded hours of operation are specifically authorized in advance. A Construction Inspector, Brian James, will be at the site every day and residents can contact him with any concerns or complaints (206-423-9451 or [bjames@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:bjames@bellevuewa.gov)).

## Newport Shores' New Bridges



Draft illustration of the future bridge at upper Skagit Key

### What will the new bridges look like?

The new bridges will not be as flat as the old bridges. Instead, there will be slight inclines as you ascend the bridges and slight declines as you descend. This will allow the bridges to be taller to help prevent debris from getting clogged, and will improve fish passage into Lake Washington. As requested by Newport Shores residents, the bridge railings will be slotted to maintain views of the creek.

**Will Bellevue be done with construction of the upper Skagit Key bridge in fall 2017?**

After construction, Bellevue expects that the approaches to the bridge may slightly “settle” into the ground. Bellevue will continue to monitor and if necessary repave the approaches to the bridge in the fall of 2018 to minimize any “bumps in the road” as a result of the settling process.

**But won't widening the bridge at upper Skagit Key increase the water flows downstream to the bridge at lower Skagit Key, causing more flooding issues?**

The new bridge will not change the amount of water flowing in the creek and an engineering analysis indicated that any one of the upstream culverts does not block water for sufficient time to provide significant water storage. In general, the analysis showed that the culverts are far enough apart that hydraulic conditions at one culvert should not significantly affect the hydraulic conditions at any other culvert.

**Will construction affect any of the trees or vegetation?**

The trees and vegetation on all four sides of the upper Skagit Key culvert will need to be removed to build the new bridge. New native trees and vegetation will be installed at the end of the project and maintained for a short period of time by the City until they become established.

**How can I learn more?**

Please visit the project's webpage for updates (<http://www.bellevuewa.gov/lower-coal-creek-flood-reduction.htm>). Or, contact Debbie Harris, Project Manager, at 425-452-4367 or [DHarris@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:DHarris@bellevuewa.gov) with any other questions and/or concerns.