

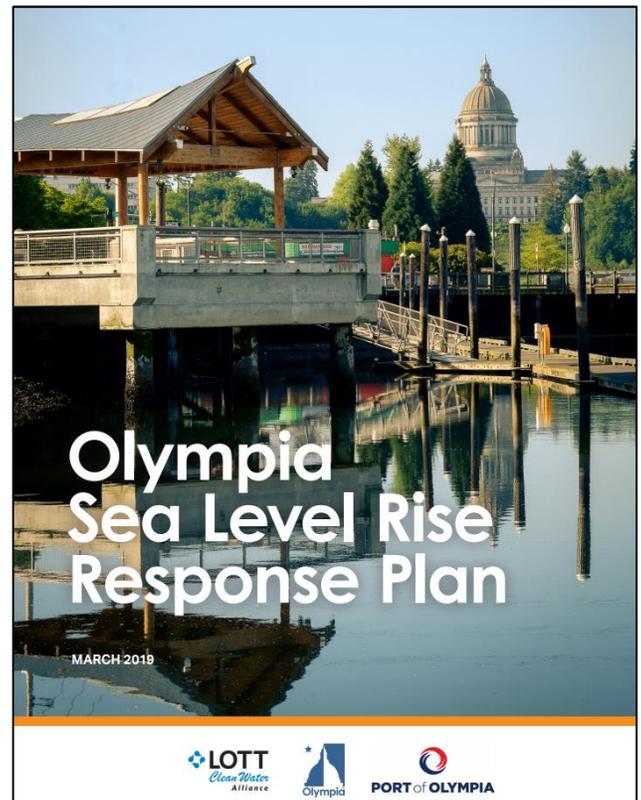
Sea Level Rise Response Plan: City of Olympia, Washington

A joint planning effort to protect a city's unique character and downtown from rising seas.

Working Together to Protect the City

AECOM led a collaborative and jointly-funded planning effort with the City of Olympia, Port of Olympia, and LOTT Clean Water Alliance to develop a Sea Level Rise Response Plan to protect the capitol city's downtown area. Olympia (population 52,490) already experiences flooding from the Deschutes River and Puget Sound several times a year and sea level rise will dramatically increase Olympia's flood risk. The downtown area is the social, cultural, historic, and economic core of the city and also contains a regional wastewater treatment facility and the Port of Olympia.

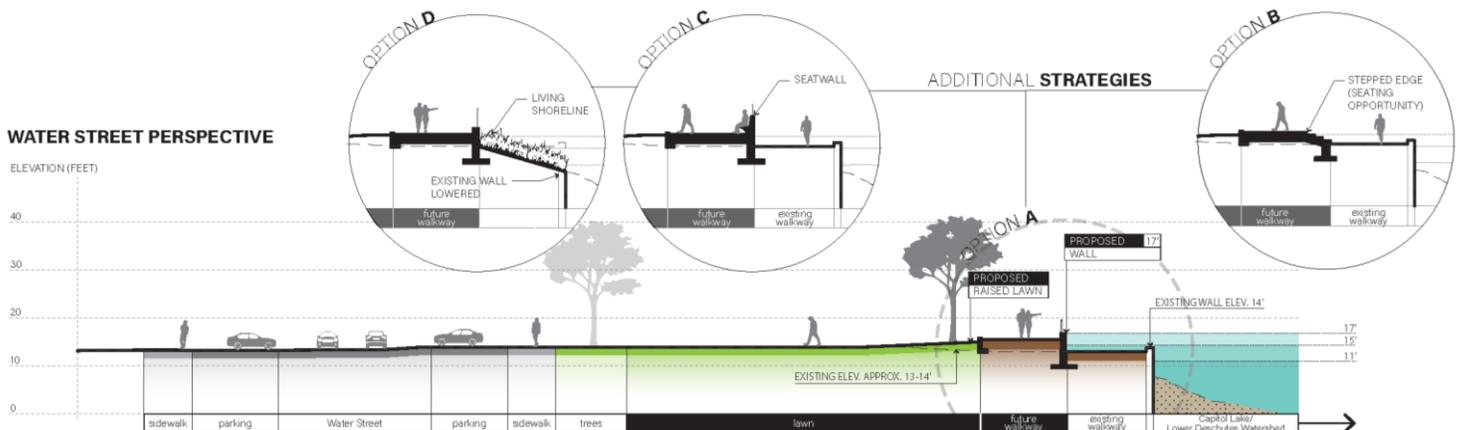
The Plan identifies near-term, mid-term, and long-term strategies to protect and adapt to rising sea levels. To ensure continuous protection through the coming century, the plan advocates for a phased approach, using adaptable infrastructure solutions and identifies a range of key operational, governance, and informational strategies to provide holistic flood protection.



Business Achievement



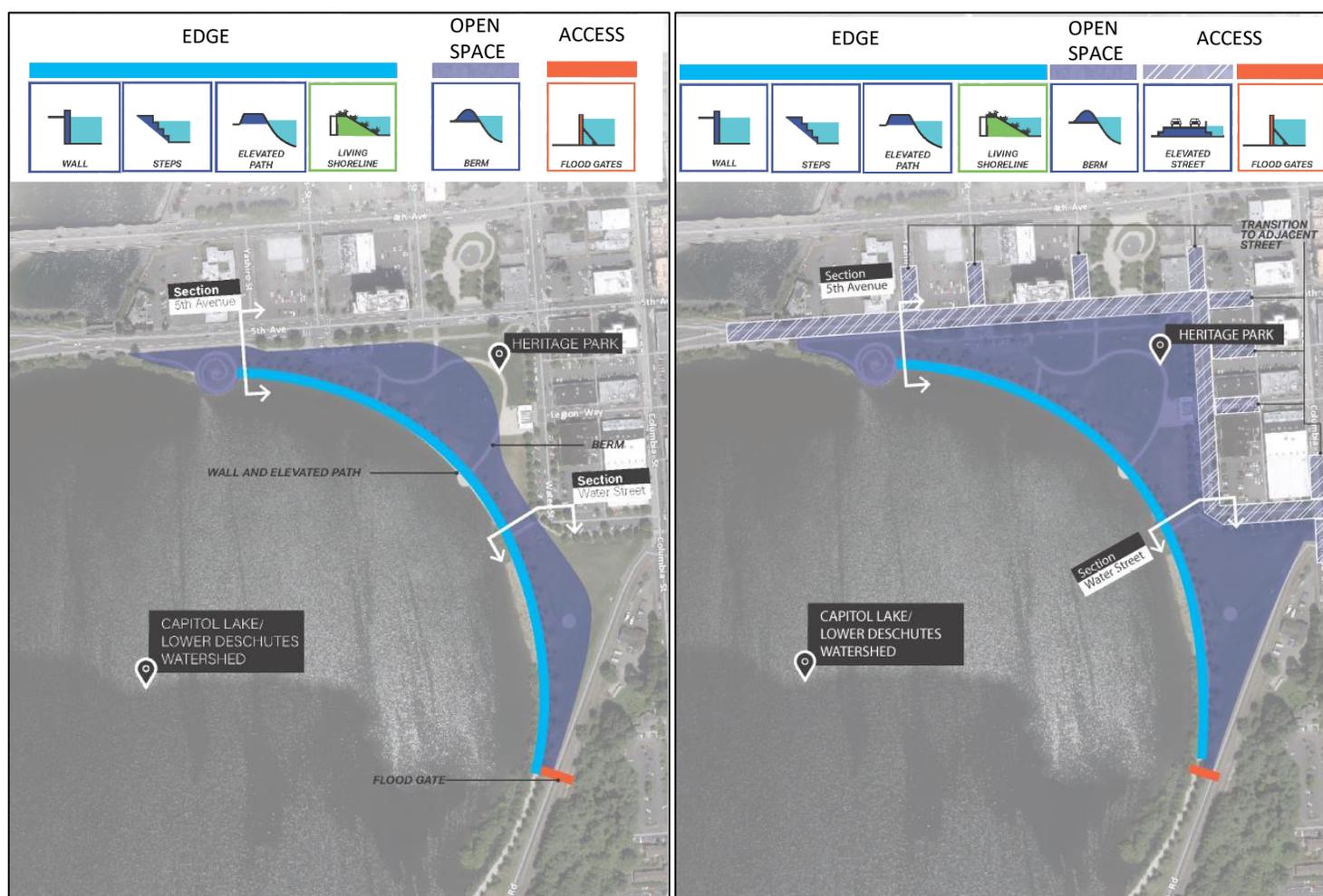
Winner of the 2018 Climate Change Business Journal Business Achievement Award for Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience



Example mid-term sea level rise (24") flood protection alternatives considered in the Plan

Key Features of the Plan

- Collaborative, inter-local effort to ensure coordinated strategy for protection of downtown
- Supported by sea level rise vulnerability assessment to identify susceptibility of key assets
- Stakeholder and community engagement was critical throughout Plan development using a variety of tools and activities, including sea level rise walking tours, to maximize participation
- Identification of effects to social equity by accounting for potential impacts to social services, such as meals (food bank), medical devices, clothing banks, daytime shelters, and promoting protection/creation of public space along the waterfront
- Includes suite of adaptation strategies including infrastructure improvements and governance/policy-related strategies to ensure sea level rise is considered at the most appropriate time in a project
- Considers adaptive strategies phased by established action triggers identified before severity of flooding reaches an intolerable level
- Promotes a combination of traditional armoring and nature-based solutions to create ecological and aesthetic benefits



Phased strategy implementation for mid-term (left) and long-term (right) sea level rise flood protection

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