

# Olympia Sea Level Rise Walking Tour Map



## Walking Tour Stops

⊕ All Sandbag Staging Areas

- |                             |                        |                   |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| ① Historic Shoreline Marker | ★ Billy Frank Jr. Park | ⑤ Sandbag Staging |
| ★ LOTT WET Science Center   | ③ Farmer's Market      | ⑥ Kissing Statue  |
| ② Swantown Marina           | ④ Percival Landing     | ⑦ 5th Ave Bridge  |
|                             |                        | ⑧ Heritage Park   |

Learn more at [olympiawa.gov/slr](http://olympiawa.gov/slr)

# Olympia Sea Level Rise Walking Tour Stops



**Welcome to Olympia's beautiful downtown and waterfront.** The sea level rise walking tour will take you on a journey through the history of Olympia's waterfront, our current actions to adapt to sea level rise, and future impacts. The tour will take you to some of downtown Olympia's most famous sites and introduce you to where and how we are preparing for sea level rise.

Find your way to the historic shoreline marker at 509 4<sup>th</sup> Ave between Jefferson and Cherry to start the walking tour.

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## A Historic Shoreline, Filled: The Port Peninsula

From as early as 1870s, dredge and fill projects by the US Army Corps of Engineers and others have added over 430 acres and two miles of shoreline to downtown, extending the historic shoreline into what we now know as the Port peninsula. If it was 1890, you would be swimming in Budd Inlet at this spot! The fill material underneath your feet is slowly compressing and sinking, accelerating rates of sea level. As part of the Sea Level Rise Response Plan, the Port is monitoring erosion on the shoreline and plans to install "living shorelines" for public access and enjoyment.

As you walk towards the shoreline, take a pitstop at the LOTT WET Science Center to learn about the water cycle, LOTT's state-of-the-art wastewater treatment, reclaimed water and clean water careers.

After, continue walking north along the Billy Frank Jr. Trail, stop at the signs to learn more about Billy Frank Jr. – a local hero and member of the Nisqually Tribe who advocated fiercely for native treaty rights.

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## Protecting Critical Infrastructure: Budd Inlet Treatment Plant

As you approach the marina, turn to your left to see the LOTT Clean Water Alliance's Budd Inlet Treatment Plant. The facility treats wastewater for over 130,000 people in north Thurston County. This critical infrastructure is at risk of sea level rise. The LOTT Clean Water Alliance, as supported by its jurisdictional partners and the Port of Olympia, is working to raise critical components of the Treatment Plant to ensure services are maintained no matter what the future holds.

From here, you can continue to the tip of the Peninsula to Billy Frank Jr. Park or cut over on Market St to the next stop.

*The tour continues!*



# Olympia Sea Level Rise Walking Tour Stops



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## A Community Treasure: Olympia Farmer's Market

On your short walk along Market Street, near the Port's headquarters, turn to your right to see the entrance to the Port of Olympia. This is the main shipping terminal for the region. Continue down the road until you hit the Farmer's Market. If it is open, pick up a treat, browse the crafts, and chat with a local producer before continuing!

During the December 2022 king tide event, the highest tide recorded in Olympia, sea water overtopped the shoreline just down the street along Corky Ave. The roundabout in front of the Farmer's Market was flooded to just under the curb height. Although only the street flooded, as sea levels rise, we expect to see more frequent and deeper flooding in this area.

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## Percival Landing

As you approach Percival Landing, look over the edge into the water. How close is the water line to the boardwalk you are standing on? During the December 2022 event, sea water overtopped the shoreline at the intersection near Columbia St and A Ave and raised the Percival Landing boardwalk about 2 inches. Although there was flooding in this area, tide gates installed by the City of Olympia prevented more severe damage from occurring.

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## Preparing for our New Reality: Sandbagging Staging Locations

To prepare for our current and future risks, the Olympia Sea Level Rise Response Collaborative is implementing a variety of strategies. These strategies include: 1) changing the physical environment to better withstand the impacts of sea level rise and, 2) creating new operating procedures to quickly respond to future events.

Pause to take in the view at the covered structure along the boardwalk. At this spot, the City provides sandbags to residents before potential king tides to protect their property from flooding. As you walk to the next stop, notice the raised finish floor elevations on newer buildings. The City passed an ordinance requiring all new construction downtown to have raised finished floor elevations to minimize flood impacts from sea level rise.

*The tour continues!*



# Olympia Sea Level Rise Walking Tour Stops



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## A Selfie at The Kissing Statue

As you round the corner onto 4th Ave, stop at the kissing statue and take a selfie. The street section in front of you along 4th Ave experienced significant flooding during the December 2022 king tide event. The road was closed for a few hours until the tides retreated. While you have your phone out, sign up for Budd Inlet Flood Advisory at Thurston County Community Alerts. The alerts will provide updates and warnings about street closures, detours, and re-openings during future tidal flooding events.

Visit: [www.thurstoncountywa.gov/departments/emergency-management/emergency-information/alert-and-notification](http://www.thurstoncountywa.gov/departments/emergency-management/emergency-information/alert-and-notification)

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## A Lake Transforms to an Estuary: Capitol Lake and 5th Ave Dam

Continue along the boardwalk until you reach 4<sup>th</sup> Ave again. Cross through Isthmus Park and walk along 5th Ave until you reach the lookout point on the bridge. Underneath you is the 5th Ave dam that currently separates Capitol Lake from Budd Inlet.

Look out over Capitol Lake and imagine the future restored Deschutes Estuary. The dam will be removed, and tidal waters will reconnect Budd Inlet waters behind you to the lake in front of you. Tidal marshes, birds, and mudflats will stretch before you. The natural tides will fluctuate water levels within the area and will reduce the risk of flooding in this area. Check out the images to see what the future could look like.

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## Heritage Park... Elevated

Turning around to head back to Heritage Park, walk along the lakeside trail and round the Arc of Statehood. Read the inscriptions about each Washington County. As you walk, imagine being on an elevated path; the future of Heritage Park includes a 3-foot raised berm to provide an additional layer of protection against rising water levels.

## END!

Want to learn more about the future of the waterfront and sea level rise adaptation plans? Visit [olympiawa.gov/slr](http://olympiawa.gov/slr) and explore the full Olympia Sea Level Rise Response Plan, story maps, and our annual work plan.

# Olympia Sea Level Rise Walking Tour Pictures



These photos were taken during December 2022 king tide event; the highest recorded tide measured in Olympia. Compare the water location as you visit the tour stops.

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## Olympia Farmer's Market



4

## Percival Landing Park



6

## The Kissing Statue



# Olympia Sea Level Rise Walking Tour Pictures



These are illustrative images of what the restored Deschutes Estuary may look like at mean sea level and mean lower low water after the 5<sup>th</sup> Ave dam is removed.

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## Future Deschutes Estuary Restoration



Images courtesy of Washington State Department of Enterprise Services.  
For more information about DES's restoration project, visit  
<https://deschutesestuaryproject.org/>