Re-imagining the Deschutes Estuary

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Map of Olympia 1853
Map of Olympia 1865
Map of Olympia 1876
Sea-level Rise: Area of Olympia due to be inundated by 2100 shown in blue. Existing structures are shown in black while historic buildings are shown highlighted.

Shoreline Shift: Olympia's shoreline grew progressively outward as the port developed. The historic district is boundary is shown with a black outline.

Man-made Land: Fill acquired from dredging for a ship turning basin was used to create more land, filling the estuaries of Moxie creek as well as the Deschutes.

Underutilized Land: Surface parking lots take up significant area outlying the historic district, and offer opportunity for future urban infill.

Areas of underutilized land (surface parking lots), open space (parks) right of ways (alley ways) and extent of subterranean infrastructure were mapped, forming the base analysis.

When connected these underutilized plots and open spaces suggested a protective edge could be established around the historic core, connected at either end to existing topography.

Outlying this protective edge (zone 4) development would overtime adapt to allow regular tidal flux, while the interior (historic district) would be protected.
Earth Moving: Over time as tides rise significant cut and fill takes place. New islands of port property are established and a wide protective buffer forms around the historic core.

Habitat Establishment: Zones outside the protective buffer are designed to accommodate a dynamic composition of vegetated marsh and tidal mud flat.

High Tide: Much of the existing port peninsula is allowed to be inundated by tides, while islands are created for important maritime industry.

Storm Surge: During a storm surge combined with high tide event areas within the protected core are able to accommodate large amounts of storm water.

Master Plan: The final master plan proposes significant establishment of marsh habitat while establishing a new active urban shoreline, and retaining function of the port.
Zone 1: The Tidelands

- **Port Island** - retains port activities
- **Cascade Island** - retains dry land maritime business
- **Mud Flats and Low Marsh** - provide critical habitat and ecosystem services
- **Inundation-friendly Use** - including oyster aquaculture and tourism
- **Low Impact Development** - small footprint elevated structures and piers allow for needed sunlight

Zone 2 & 3: Capitol Crest Parkway

- **High Marsh Habitat** - provides critical habitat and tourism interest
- **Low Impact Pier Development** - allows for a sensitive populating of the tidal zone
- **Upland Habitat** - provides public open space and allows for critical habitat exchange
- **Water Treatment Wetland & Overflow Storage** - LOTT treatment facility decentralizes waste treatment and original facility is retrofit for a treatment wetland and public park
Zone 4: Capitol Crest Promenade

- **Active Urban Edge** - maintaining strong connections to the shoreline, the urban edge is alive with open space as well as commercial activities.
- **Amenity driven real-estate** - adjacent to shoreline, expansive views, lively commercial/open space.
- **Park Corridors & Multi-use Trail** - allow pedestrians to traverse the length of the shoreline, from capitol campus to the east edge of east bay.
- **High Speed Pedestrian Ferry**

Zone 5: Historic Core

- **Aqua Blocks** - accommodate storm water which would otherwise flood the city during a high tide storm event.
- **Creek Street** - surface channel for Moxie creek creates urban riparian zone attractive to pedestrians and businesses, while the culvert below allows for water storage during storm events.
- **Urban Infill** - Olympias fine grain urban fabric is left intact and is enhanced by future urban infill.