

CULTURAL RESOURCES REPORT COVER SHEET

DAHP Project Number: 2023-09-05486

Authors: Meghan Johnson, Alexandra Williams-Larson, and Andrea Blaser

Title of Report: Cultural Resource Survey for the Cathlamet Waterfront Park Project, Cathlamet, Washington

Date of Report: November 18, 2024

County: Wahkiakum Section: 2 Township: 8 North Range: 6 West

Quad: Cathlamet, WA-OR, 7.5-minute, 2017 Acres: 4.04

PDF of report submitted (REQUIRED) Yes

Historic Property Inventory Forms to be Approved Online? Yes No

Archaeological Site(s)/Isolate(s) Found or Amended? Yes No

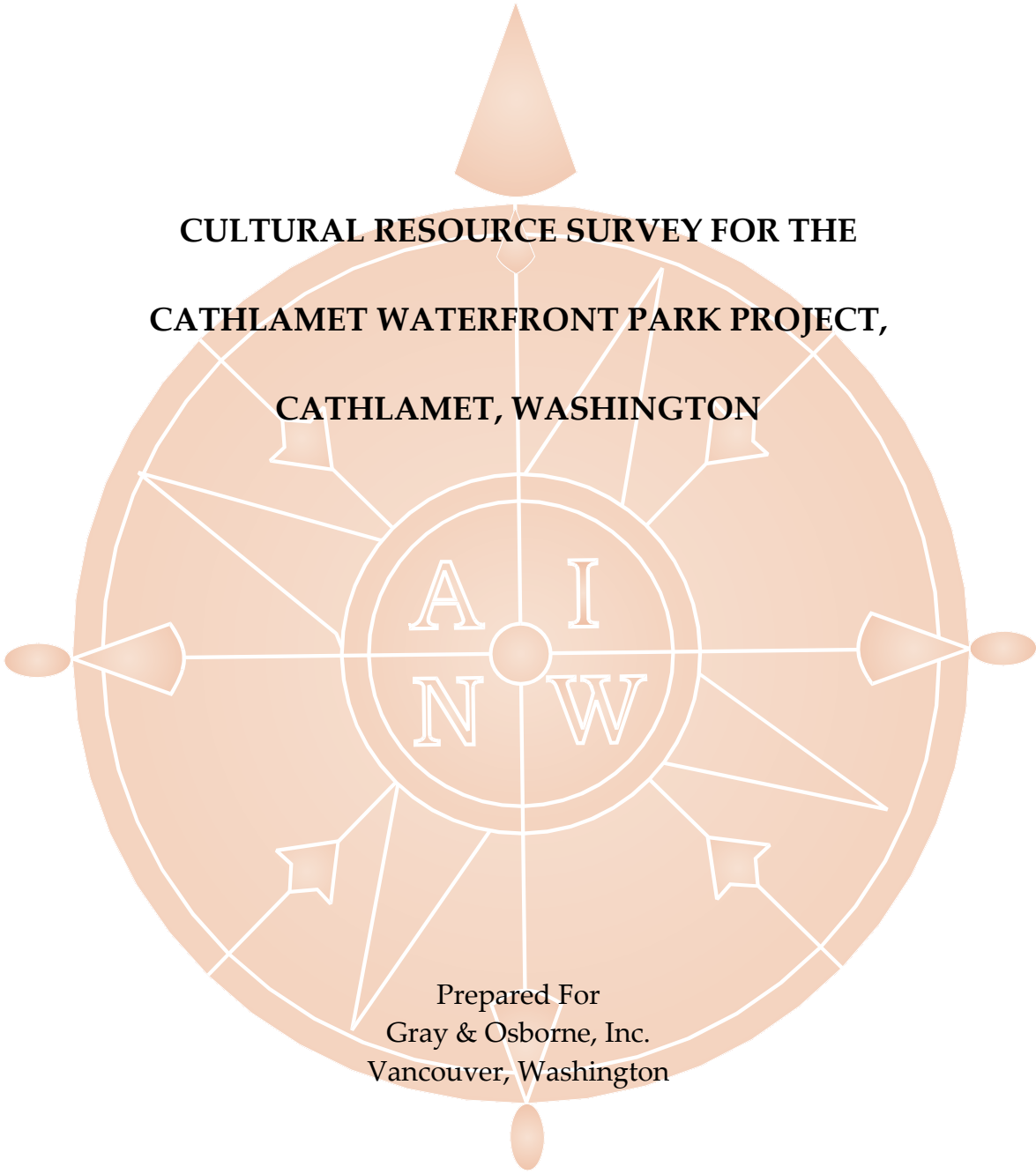
TCP(s) found? Yes No

Replace a draft? Yes No

Satisfy a DAHP Archaeological Excavation Permit requirement? Yes # No

Were Human Remains Found? Yes DAHP Case # No

DAHP Archaeological Site #:



**CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY FOR THE
CATHLAMET WATERFRONT PARK PROJECT,
CATHLAMET, WASHINGTON**

Prepared For
Gray & Osborne, Inc.
Vancouver, Washington

November 18, 2024

REPORT NO. 5144

Archaeological Investigations Northwest, Inc.

**CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY FOR THE
CATHLAMET WATERFRONT PARK PROJECT,
CATHLAMET, WASHINGTON**

PROJECT:	Development of a waterfront park
LOCATION:	Section 2, Township 8 North, Range 6 West, Willamette Meridian
USGS QUAD:	<i>Cathlamet, WA-OR, 7.5-minute, 2017</i>
CITY:	Cathlamet
COUNTY:	Wahkiakum
PROJECT AREA:	4.04 acres
AREA SURVEYED:	4.04 acres
FINDINGS/RESULTS:	Archaeological Resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No archaeological resources were identified. Historic Resource survey: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No historic resources were identified.
RECOMMENDATIONS	AINW recommends no further cultural resource investigations.
PREPARED BY:	Meghan Johnson, M.A., R.P.A., Alexandra Williams-Larson, M.A., R.P.A., and Andrea Blaser, M.S.

INTRODUCTION

The Town of Cathlamet (Town) in Wahkiakum County, Washington, is proposing to develop a waterfront park at 413 2nd Street (Figure 1), where the Town’s former sewer lagoons were located. The 4.04-acre project area consists of portions of two Town-owned parcels (3964 and 3962) and a small portion of parcel 4067 overlapping with Strong Park, which is owned by the Wahkiakum County Historical Society. The Wahkiakum County Historical Society Museum and its associated structures are southeast and outside of the project area and will not be impacted by the project (Figure 2).

Project plans include the removal of existing dikes, remnant drains and pipes, and a modern structure within and immediately adjacent to the former sewer lagoons (Figure 3). Approximately 3 meters (m) (10 feet [ft]) of dredge spoils were used to partially fill the lagoons. Additional fill will be imported to the lagoons before the proposed improvements. As such, all construction excavation within

the former lagoons will be confined to fill. The deepest impacts will be along Path B, an east-west oriented path crossing the former west lagoon, where excavation will extend as deep as 2 m (6.6 ft) below the surface (Figure 4). Other proposed park improvements include the addition of a covered pavilion, picnic and seating areas, flex spaces, new or renovated Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) walking paths, solar lighting, park signage, a possible amphitheater, and habitat restoration (Figures 3 and 4). Trenching for the lighting is anticipated to reach a maximum depth of 1 m (3.3 ft). The light poles will require the installation of a concrete pier, which will extend approximately 1.4 m (4.5 ft) below the surface.

On the terrace south of Birnie Creek, plans call for the vegetation removal and the replacement of a segment of the G. Alan Johnson Waterfront Trail, an asphalt walking path connecting Strong Park to the Elochoman Slough Marina north of the project area. Excavation for these tasks is anticipated to be shallow, less than 0.3 m (1 ft) below the surface. Construction for the replaced path will have a maximum cut of 1.4 m (4.5 ft) below the surface.

The project is receiving funding from the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO); as such, the project requires compliance with Governor's Executive Order 21-02 and the Washington State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA). To meet this compliance, Archaeological Investigations Northwest, Inc. (AINW), conducted a cultural resource survey for the project. The study was managed and directed by AINW staff who meet the professional qualifications of the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archaeology and Historic Preservation. The study was also conducted to meet Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) standards.

AINW's cultural resource survey included background research, an archaeological survey, and a historic resource survey. A records review revealed that an archaeological site (45WK86) with potential Native American burials was reported in the project area vicinity, potentially where the former sewer lagoons were located. No other records of the burials were identified. Before conducting fieldwork, AINW coordinated with Gray & Osborne, Inc., the Town, and RCO about proposed archaeological fieldwork methodology given the potential cultural sensitivity of the project (Johnson and Williams-Larson 2024).

During the archaeological survey, AINW conducted a pedestrian survey and excavated four shovel tests in a high probability area for encountering archaeological resources, south of Birnie Creek, where previous ground disturbances appeared to have been minimal. No archaeological resources were identified. A separate survey conducted by AINW architectural historians identified no historic resources in the project area. Based on these findings, AINW recommends no further cultural resource investigations for the project.

RCO will provide an Inadvertent Discovery Plan for the project that provides procedures to follow if unforeseen archaeological materials or human remains are encountered during construction.

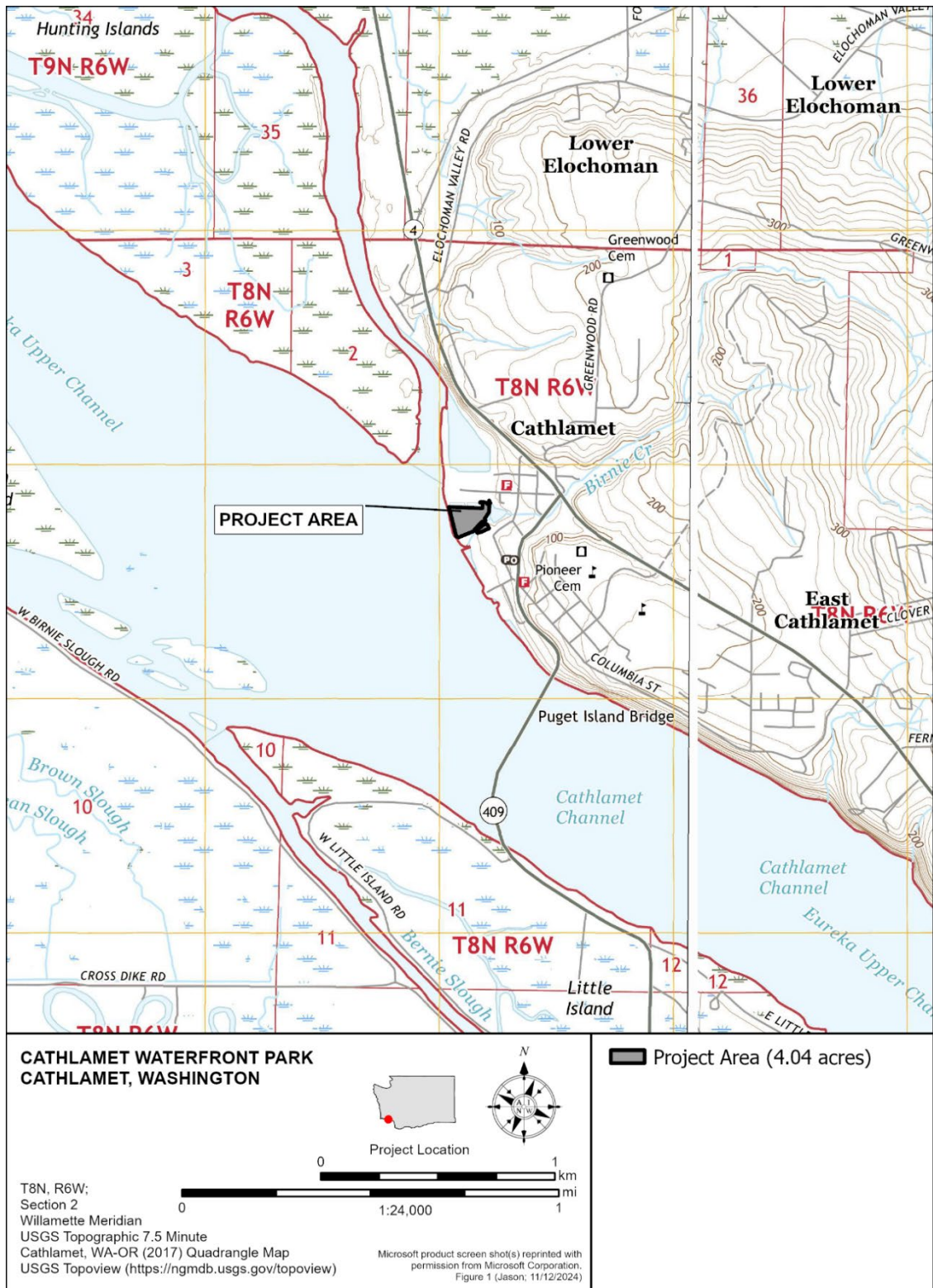


Figure 1. The Cathlamet Waterfront Park project is in Cathlamet, Washington.



Figure 2. Aerial overview of the Cathlamet Waterfront Park project area. Most of the project area consists of former sewer lagoons that were infilled between 2014 and 2020. The buildings outside the project area, to the immediate north and southeast of the project area, will not be impacted by the proposed project.

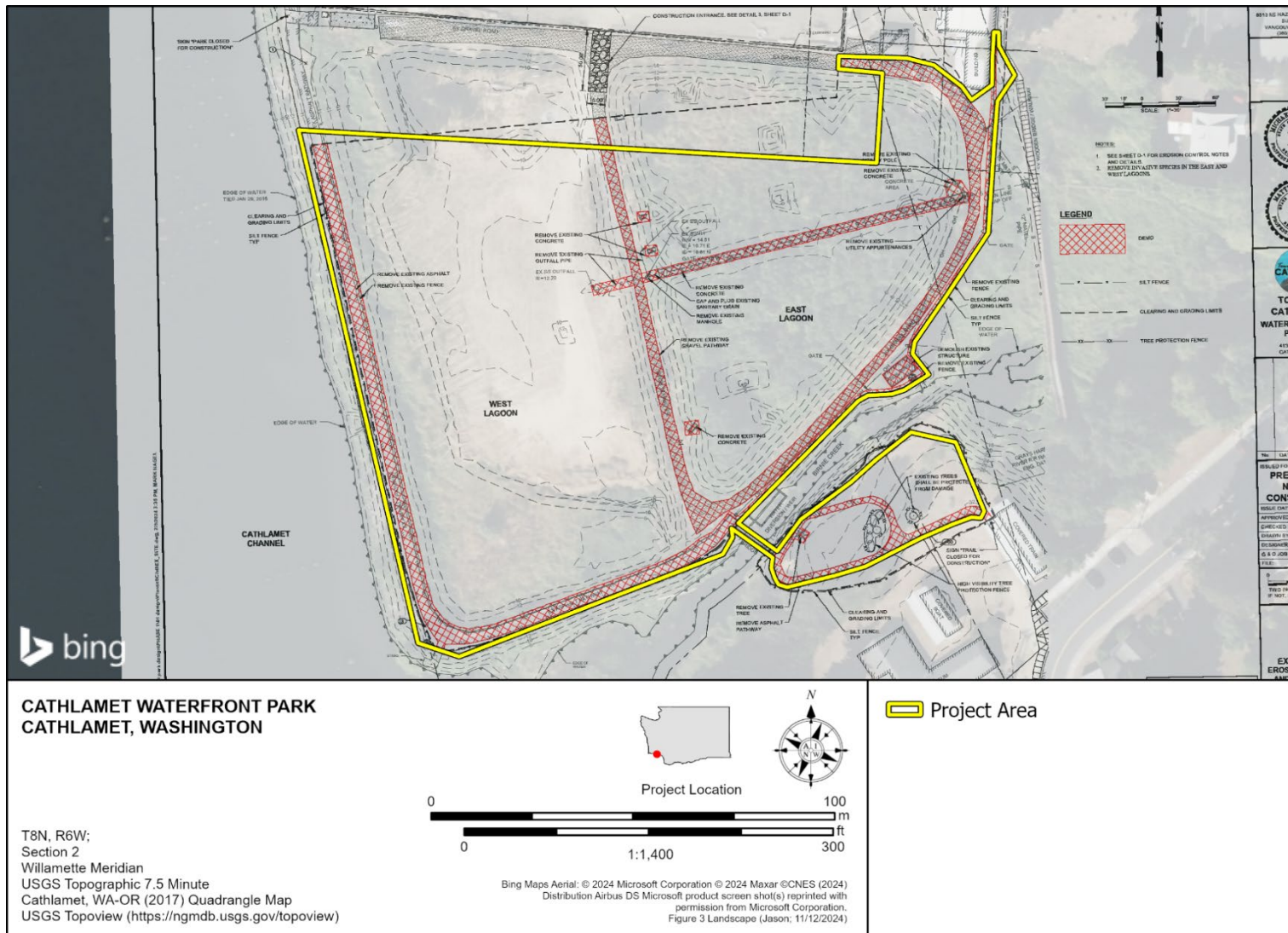


Figure 3. Construction plans for the Cathlamet Waterfront Park project showing structures and other features that will be removed. Additional offsite soils will be brought to the project area to fill and level the former lagoons.

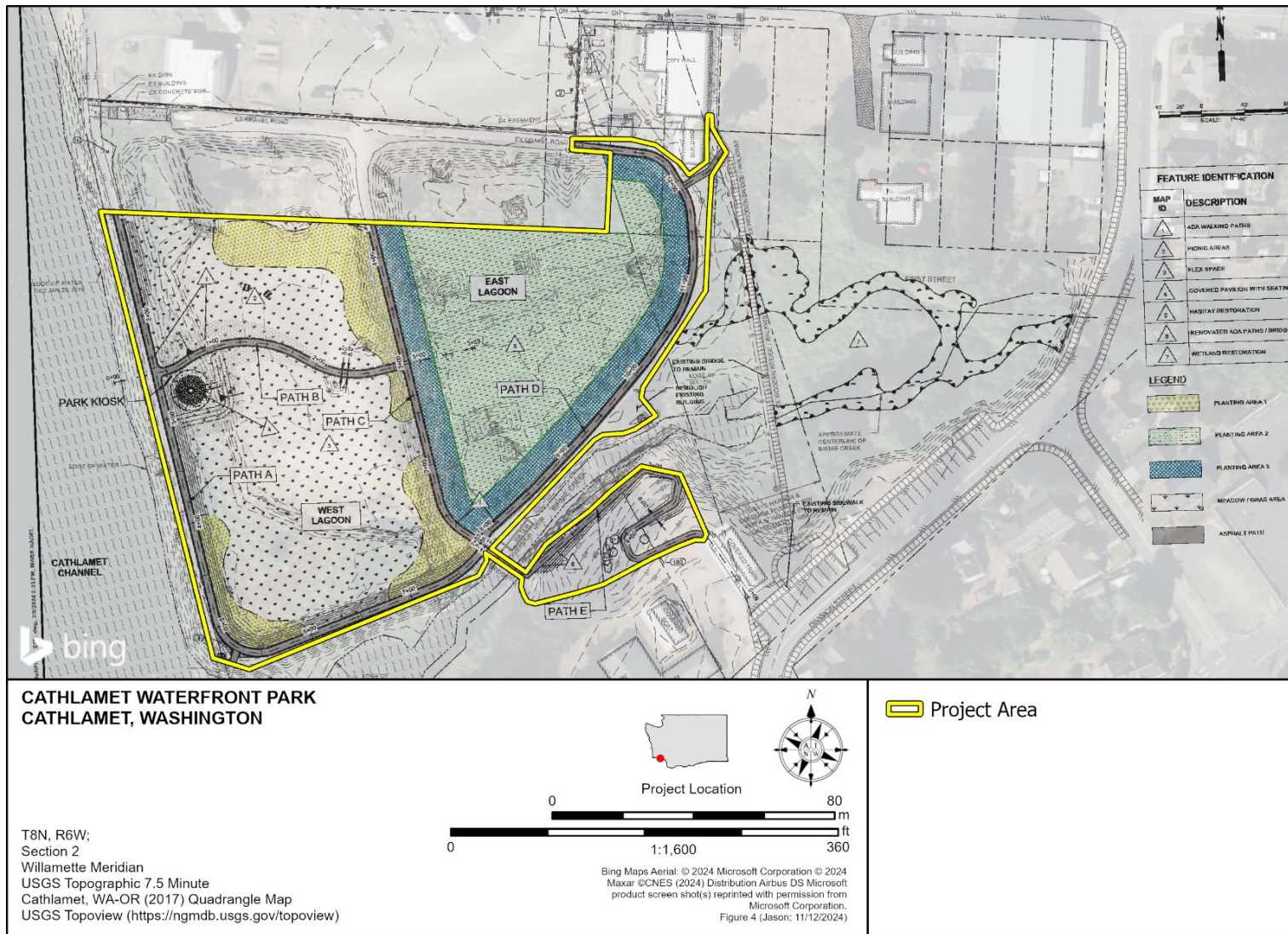


Figure 4. Construction plans for the Cathlamet Waterfront Park project showing features and plantings proposed for the project. The deepest impacts will be along Path B, an east-west oriented path crossing the former west lagoon, where excavation will extend as deep as 2 m (6.3 ft) below the surface. All work within the former lagoons will be confined to fill.

LOCATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The project area is in Section 2 of Township 8 North, Range 6 West, Willamette Meridian (see Figure 1). The 4.04-acre project area is on the north bank of the Cathlamet Chanel, a segment of the Columbia River that separates Puget Island from the mainland. The project area is at the base of the Willipa Hills, south of the Elochoman Valley. The Elochoman Slough Marina is north of the project area. Birnie Creek bisects the southeastern portion of the project area. The project area ranges from 4 to 9 m (12 to 30 ft) above mean sea level. Until recently, the project area was the site of three sewer lagoons that were divided by earthen dikes, separating the lagoons from the creek and marshes.

The project area is in the northern portion of the Coast Range physiographic province (Franklin and Dyrness 1973:11-12). The Coast Range is characterized by a narrow belt of moderately high mountains and coastal headlands extending south from the Columbia River to the Middle Fork of the Coquille River. Uplift of the Coast Range began during the Miocene, a period characterized by prolific vulcanism that produced the lava flows of eastern Oregon as the ocean retreated to the west (Orr et al. 1992:169). In the subsequent Plio-Pleistocene period that followed, streams in this region cut their present channels and valleys as the Coast Range continued to uplift (Franklin and Dyrness 1988:11-12).

Udipsamments (sand) is mapped for most of the project area. Cathlamet silt loam is mapped in the southeastern portion of the project area, south of Birnie Creek (U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service [USDA-NRCS] 2024). The Cathlamet series consists of very deep, well-drained soils that formed in deeply weathered sandstone (USDA-NRCS 2000). Offsite soils dredged from the Elochoman Slough Marina were used to fill the lagoons when they were decommissioned (Elliott 2016; Schaefer 2018; Washington State Department of Ecology 2022). Afterwards, the dredge spoils were capped with gravel (Elliott 2016).

The project area is within the *Tsuga heterophylla* (western hemlock) vegetation zone (Franklin and Dyrness 1973:45). Forests in this region typically have Douglas-fir, western hemlock, western redcedar, red alder, and Oregon ash trees, with an understory of salal, Oregon grape, vine maple, red huckleberry, and salmonberry. Tideland communities of the Lower Columbia River, including the project area, consist of marshland vegetation dominated by Sitka spruce, red alder, black cottonwood, willow, with dense shrubs along tidal flats and channels (Franklin and Dyrness 1973:294-295). The presence of native vegetation in the project area has been impacted by the development and decommission of the former sewer treatment lagoons. Young deciduous trees, salal, western sword fern, wild rose, and sedge grasses grow within the dredge spoils used to fill the former lagoons. Invasive Himalayan blackberry, scotch broom, and English ivy were also observed. The portion of the project area overlapping with Strong Park on the southern terrace of Birnie Creek has been landscaped with a grass lawn.

CULTURAL SETTING

Ethnographic Background

The project area is within the traditional territory of Lower Chinookan people, who spoke a dialect of the Chinook language family (Ray 1938; Ruby and Brown 1976; Silverstein 1990). The Cathlamet people spoke a dialect of Lower Chinook, and they inhabited the north shore of the Columbia River near the mouth of the Elochoman River, from about 16 kilometers (km) (10 miles [mi]) upstream from Tongue Point to around the Kalama River (Silverstein 1990:533-534).

Chinookan-speaking peoples were closely tied to waterways, living in winter villages located along the Columbia River and its major tributaries. The nearest ethnographically documented village, *galámat* (45WK7), was located south of Puget Island, approximately 0.45 km (0.28 mi) southeast of the project area (Hudziak and Smith and 1948; Silverstein 1990). Several ethnographic locations were at the mouth of the Elochoman River, between 2.9 and 4 km (4.6 and 6.4 mi) north-northwest of the project area. The village *iló xumun* (site 45WK11) eventually lent its name to the Elochoman River and surrounding valley (Ray 1938; Smith and Hudziak 1948a). Another location, *wa'qaiyaqam* (site 45WK10), was described as a good place to hunt and fish (Ray 1938; Smith and Hudziak 1948b). *Galiásgnmaxix*, meaning “those of the place of cedar trees,” was north of the river near Indian Jack Slough (Silverstein 1990).

Winter villages consisted of one or more large, cedar plank houses with gabled roofs. During the winter, families subsisted on supplies gathered and processed during the previous seasons. Beginning in the spring, households dispersed to fish, gather, and hunt for seasonally available resources (Ellis 2013; Silverstein 1990; Strong 1906). At field camps, people built small, temporary structures made of cattail mats laid that were over a light framework (Silverstein 1990:537-538).

Riverine ecosystems supported an abundance of resources and enabled efficient canoe travel, facilitating a widespread trade network along the Columbia River. Chinookan-speaking peoples' diet was predominately fish. Salmon, sturgeon, steelhead trout, eulachon, and herring were eaten fresh or smoked-dried to be stored for trade or consumption during the winter. Land and sea mammals including sea lions, porpoises, deer, elk, and bear were hunted for food, skins, furs, bone and antler for tools, and blubber for oil. Important plant foods included wapato and camas roots, bracken fern, and various berries. Roots and berries were often processed into cakes that could be traded or eaten later (Ellis 2013; Ray 1938; Silverstein 1990).

Economic and political ties between villages were maintained through trade and intermarriage (Ruby and Brown 1976). Lower Chinookan people were renowned for building and paddling canoes, which helped them establish their reputation as traders well before the arrival of Europeans (Ruby and Brown 1976; Silverstein 1990). Trade goods included dried and smoked salmon, wapato, obsidian, and dentalium shells, among many other items, and later included imported goods from Europe, Asia, and the United States following contact with Europeans and Americans.

Canoes played an important role in burial ceremonies, when the dead and their grave goods were placed in richly decorated canoes. These canoes were then elevated on posts, platforms, or in trees (Boyd 2013; Silverstein 1990). High-ranking individuals were sometimes reburied several years later in cedar boxes (Boyd 2013). Islands and remote hillsides were common burial locations (Ellis 2013).

Thomas Nelson Strong, the son of an early Euroamerican settler of Cathlamet, noted: “Between the Elokomon and the Skamokawa the sloughs were lined with the burial canoes of the dead” (Strong 1906). Strong (1906) also described earthen burials that were disturbed during Euroamerican settlement. Although Native American burials have been reported in the project area vicinity, Strong (1906) did not mention the presence of burials within his family’s Donation Land Claim (DLC), where the project area is located.

Historical Context

The Lewis and Clark Expedition camped and traded at the present-day location of Cathlamet, at the time a Wahkiakum village, on their journey to and from the Pacific Ocean in 1805 and 1806 (Elliott 2009). Wahkiakum villagers continued to interact with other Euroamerican traders as the Fur Trade intensified after the Hudson’s Bay Company (HBC) established Fort Vancouver in the winter of 1824-1825.

In 1846, James Birnie, a former HBC employee, and his wife Charlotte settled near the Wahkiakum village with their children (Elliott 2009; Goodfellow 1969a; Strong 1906; Town of Cathlamet 2024). Their residence, which was built in circa 1867 and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), is 120 m (394 ft) southeast of the project area (Darby 2024; Goodfellow 1969a). The Birnie family established a trading post by the river called Birnie’s Retreat, where furs, fish, and other supplies were exchanged with travelers heading downriver to Astoria (Elliott 2009; Goodfellow 1969a; Town of Cathlamet 2024). The area was later renamed Cathlamet, a Chinookan name meaning “rocky shore” (Elliott 2009). Cathlamet became the Wahkiakum County seat in 1854, and it was incorporated in 1907 (Elliott 2009; Town of Cathlamet 2024).

The project area is within the DLC granted to Lucretia and William Strong, Washington’s first territorial judge, in 1877 (Anonymous 1975; Bureau of Land Management 1877; Elliott 2009). General Land Office (GLO) maps of the area do not show the locations of buildings on Strong’s claim (GLO 1858, 1863, 1871, 1872). A later 1941 U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) map of Cathlamet depicts the project area as undeveloped and marshy. Based on these marshy conditions, it is unlikely that the Strong family constructed buildings within the project area (USGS 1941). The Strong family lived in Cathlamet until they moved to Portland in 1862 (Elliott 2009).

Early industries in Cathlamet included fishing, logging, and farming, drawing immigrants from Great Britain, Sweden, Norway, Finland, and China (Elliott 2009; Wahkiakum County 2024). Beginning in the 1860s, numerous salmon canneries were constructed throughout the region, supporting many employees (Elliott 2009). In 1929, a sawmill was built in Cathlamet by Crown Willamette Paper Company; the company would later finalize a merger with the Zellerbach Paper Company to form the Crown Zellerbach Corporation (Elliott 2009). Lumber and paper-pulp companies dominated the Cathlamet economy until the late twentieth century.

The project area is within the former location of the Town’s first sewer collection and disposal system, which was established in the 1940s. In 1964, a single-cell, 3.45-acre lagoon treatment system was constructed within the project area. At completion, the lagoon’s interior floor had an elevation of 1.7 m (5.5 ft) above mean sea level (Green and Boirum 2003). The steep, surrounding earthen dikes were constructed with gravelly clay excavated from near State Route 4 and alluvial sands and silt from on-site excavation. Sections of the dikes along the Columbia River and Birnie Creek were protected with riprap

from 3 m (10 ft) below mean sea level to 0.3 m (1 ft) above mean sea level. Afterwards, the dikes were capped with 2.4-m (8-ft) wide berms to a finished grade of approximately 3.5 m (11.5 ft) above mean sea level (Green and Boirum 2003). This construction altered the natural landform by reshaping the Columbia River shoreline and channelizing a section of Birnie Creek (Figure 5; Historic Aerials 2024a, 2024b; Washington State Department of Ecology 2022; Washington State Department of Natural Resources 2024).

Development north of the project area began following the construction of the Elochoman Slough Marina in 1971 (Elliott 2009). The buildings immediately north and outside of the project area were built between 1975 and 1980 (USGS 1975, 1980).

By 1982, the Town modified the existing single-cell lagoon to a three-cell lagoon system by building additional earthen dikes between the pools (Washington State Department of Ecology 2022). Construction of the dikes included the installation of 1.8-m (6-ft) long steel sheet piles 0.6 m (2 ft) below the bottom of the lagoons. The sheet piles were then covered with locally derived soils so that the berm reached an elevation of 3.5 m (11.5 ft) above mean sea level. Sand excavated from the eastern lagoon was used to fill and flatten the side slopes before riprap was laid on both the interior and exterior slopes of the dikes (Green and Boirum 2003).

All three lagoons were decommissioned in 2013 after the construction of an offsite wastewater treatment facility. The lagoons' biosolids were removed between 2014 and 2015, exposing underlying sand (Alexander 2015). The lagoons were partially infilled with 3 m (10 ft) of dredge spoils from the nearby Elochoman Slough Marina between 2014 and 2020 (Elliott 2016; Schaefer 2018; Washington State Department of Ecology 2022). Afterwards, the dredge spoils were capped with gravel (Elliott 2016). The earthen dikes remain and are deteriorating, partly because of burrowing rodents and other small mammals (Arambul 2023).

The Wahkiakum County Historical Society Museum was constructed after 1951. Its associated structures are southeast and outside of the project area (Historic Aerials 2024a). The extent of prior ground disturbances in the area surrounding the museum is unknown and is suspected to have been limited. In 1989, funds were raised to create a bridge, trail, and a small park, Strong Park, overlooking Birnie Creek and the lagoons. The park became the home of the last existing Crown Zellerbach logging locomotive (*Longview Daily News* 1989). The *Totem*, a historic-period fishing boat, was moved to the museum between 1994 and 2000 (Google Earth 1994, 2000)

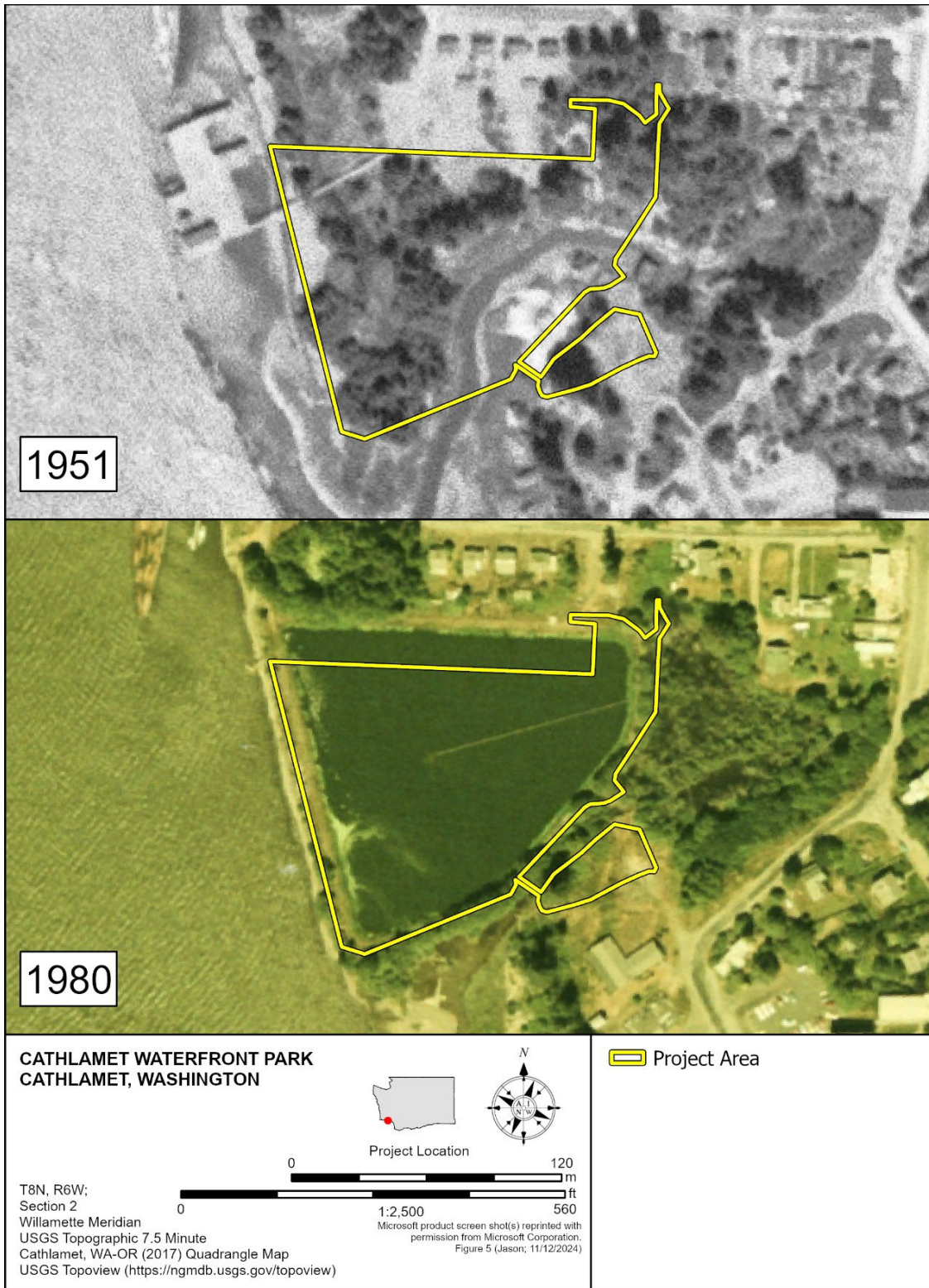


Figure 5. Aerial photographs showing the project area before and after the construction of the original 3.45-acre, single-cell lagoon. By 1982, the Town converted the lagoon to a three-cell lagoon system by building additional earthen dikes.

PREVIOUS CULTURAL RESOURCE STUDIES

Archaeological Resources

To assess the potential for finding cultural resources within the project area, AINW reviewed records available through DAHP's Washington Information System for Architectural and Archaeological Records Data (WISAARD). Reports, maps, and other documents in AINW's library were also examined to review known cultural resource studies and information about archaeological and historic resources that have been documented near the project vicinity. WISAARD's statewide archaeological predictive model classifies the project area as "Survey Highly Advised: Very High Risk" for pre-contact archaeological resources.

No archaeological resources have been previously documented within the project area. However, an archaeological site (45WK86) is reported to be within the project area. A 1975 Wahkiakum County Inventory of Historic Places form describes site 45WK86 as the homesite of Judge William Strong, and it notes that site 45WK86 reputedly was once a Native American burial ground. The brief inventory form states, "...an Indian burial ground is just beyond the present Wahkiakum County Museum..." (Anonymous 1975). No other descriptions or location information are included in the form (Anonymous 1975). In his historic account of Cathlamet, Thomas Nelson Strong, the son of Judge Strong, does not describe the presence of burials within his family's DLC (Strong 1906).

If formerly present, burials may have been relocated to the Birnie and West Cemetery (45WK58), also known as the Cathlamet Pioneer Cemetery, during the historic period (Kari Kandoll, Wahkiakum County Historical Society Curator and Genealogist, personal communication 2023). The Birnie and West Cemetery is located approximately 350 m (1,150 ft) southeast of the project area. It was established in 1846 by the Town of Cathlamet's founder, James Birnie (Goodfellow 1969b). Chief Wakaiyakam, the namesake for Wahkiakum County, is buried in the Pioneer Cemetery (Wahkiakum County 2024). The site has been nominated for listing in the NRHP (Goodfellow 1969b).

Another reported burial site area, the Cathlamet Village site (45WK7), is 450 m (1,475 ft) south of the project area, between the Cathlamet dock and the Puget Island Bridge (Smith and Hudziak 1948a). Detailed observations were not recorded on the form. The present-day town of Cathlamet now occupies this location.

A review of WISAARD records shows that six archaeological studies have been conducted within 1.6 km (1 mi) of the project area. Descriptions of these studies are below, in order of their proximity to the current project area.

- In 2008, an archaeological investigation was conducted prior to the replacement of the wastewater treatment plant formerly located adjacent to the current project area (Freed 2008). The study included a pedestrian survey along 2nd Street. No subsurface investigations were conducted near the current project area. No archaeological resources were found.
- An archaeological assessment was conducted approximately 150 m (492 ft) north of the current project area, along 3rd Street, prior to road improvements (Freed 2011). The study included a

pedestrian survey and monitoring of three geotechnical trench excavations. No archaeological resources were found.

- Approximately 220 m (720 ft) south of the current project area, an archaeological investigation was conducted prior to road improvements and upgrades to an existing stormwater line along Broadway Street (Freed 2006). The investigation included a background review and pedestrian survey. No archaeological resources were found.
- In 2022, a cultural resource survey was carried out for a planned subdivision approximately 0.4 km (0.25 mi) north-northeast of the current project area, on a terrace above Elochoman Slough (Gall 2022). The survey consisted of background research, pedestrian survey, and the excavation of 47 shovel tests. One pre-contact archaeological site (45WK119) was identified during the study. Site 45WK119 consists of six cryptocrystalline silicate flakes found in the upper 60 centimeters (cm) (24 inches [in]) of the shovel tests. The site was recommended to be avoided, and it has not been evaluated for listing in the NRHP.
- Approximately 1.4 km (0.9 mi) south-southeast of the current project area, two studies were conducted prior to the expansion of a substation (Brannan and Schmidt 2012; Thomas 2009). Both studies included a background review and pedestrian survey. No archaeological resources were identified during either study.

The likelihood of encountering archaeological resources within most of the project area is low due to the extent of previous ground disturbances associated with the construction, expansion, and decommission of the former sewer lagoons. There is a higher archaeological probability for the southern terrace of Birnie Creek, where previous development has been limited.

HISTORIC RESOURCES

A search of the WISAARD database reveals that no historic resources have been previously documented in the project area. Immediately south of the project area, the Wahkiakum County Historical Society Museum (Property ID 901) and a one-room schoolhouse moved from Eagle Cliff to the museum (Property ID 887) are documented and unevaluated for eligibility to be listed in the NRHP (Karnofski 1979). The nearest NRHP-listed property to the project area is the Hansen, Julia Butler House at 35 Butler Street (Property ID 863) (Darby 2024). The circa 1867 house is located approximately 160 m (530 feet) southeast of the project area.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD SURVEY METHODS AND FINDINGS

The archaeological pedestrian survey and shovel testing were conducted on November 5, 2024, by AINW Assistant Project Manager/Supervising Archaeologist Meghan Johnson, M.A., R.P.A., and AINW staff archaeologist Ryan Murphy, B.A. The project was under the overall supervision of Senior Project Manager/Senior Archaeologist Alexandra Williams-Larson, M.A., R.P.A.

Pedestrian Survey

AINW completed the pedestrian survey by walking parallel transects spaced no more than 10 m (33 ft) apart over the entire project area. Survey personnel were equipped with a Trimble Geo R1 Global Positioning System (GPS) unit with an integrated antenna and submeter accuracy for mapping shovel tests, resources, and features.

The project area includes a portion of Strong Park located northeast of the Wahkiakum County Historical Society Museum and south of Birnie Creek. Structures covering the historic Crown Zellerback logging locomotive and the fishing boat *Totem* are outside of the project area. Within the project area, the park has several picnic tables and benches that are surrounded by grass lawns (Photos 1 and 2). The lawns and other landscaping have limited surface visibility within this portion of the project area to less than 5%. The park also serves as the trailhead for the G. Alan Johnson Waterfront Trail, an asphalt walking path that leads to the Elochoman Slough Marina north of the project area. South of Birnie Creek, the walking path cuts into the natural slope of the terrace and is partially built on fill (Photo 2).

The G. Alan Johnson Waterfront Trail continues across Birnie Creek via a wooden pedestrian bridge. Northeast of the bridge, a concrete water diversion and weir was constructed within Birnie Creek in 2001 (Photo 3). North of the creek, the trail continues southwest and north-northwest along the sewer lagoon's former berms (Photo 4).

Numerous piles of gravelly dredge spoils have been deposited across the western portion of the former sewer lagoons, creating a hummocky surface (Photo 5). In this portion of the project area, surface visibility was between 80% and 90%. Large piles of concrete, asphalt, and wood debris were also noted in the central portion of the former lagoons (Photo 6). Dense Himalayan blackberry and scotch broom were along the western and southern margins of the former sewer lagoons.

The eastern portion of the former lagoons has been filled and graded with dredge spoils to create a level surface. It was densely vegetated with young deciduous trees, salal, western sword fern, wild rose, and sedge grasses. Invasive scotch broom and Himalayan blackberry thickets were also present. This thick vegetation prevented surface visibility. A circa 1979 shed was in the southeast portion of the former sewer lagoons.

No archaeological resources were identified during the pedestrian survey. Most of the project area has been impacted by the construction, expansion, and decommission of the sewer lagoons. Less ground disturbance was noted on the southern terrace of Birnie Creek; previous development in this area has been limited to the construction of park facilities and landscaping, increasing the possibility of encountering native soils and archaeological deposits.



Figure 6. Overview of the Cathlamet Waterfront Park project area showing the archaeological pedestrian survey transects and shovel test locations. The one building within the project area, a modern shed, is proposed for removal. The shed was likely constructed after 1982.



Photo 1. Overview of the southern terrace of Birnie Creek, which has been developed as a small park with picnic tables and benches. The G. Alan Johnson Riverfront Trail is at left (to the northwest). The Crown Zellerbach logging locomotive, at the upper right (to the southeast), is outside the project area. The view is towards the northeast.



Photo 2. South of Birnie Creek, the G. Alan Johnson Waterfront Trail cuts into the natural landform and is partially built on fill. The trail segment will be replaced during the proposed project. The view is towards the northeast.



Photo 3. Birnie Creek, showing the concrete water diversion and weir constructed in 2001. The view is towards the northeast.



Photo 4. North of Birnie Creek, the G. Alan Johnson Waterfront Trail was built on berms of the former sewer lagoons. The view is towards the south-southeast.



Photo 5. Overview of the former sewer lagoons, showing piles of dredge spoils used to fill low lying areas. The Columbia River is in the background. The view is towards the northwest.



Photo 6. Piles of concrete, asphalt, and wood debris were present in the central portion of the former sewer lagoons. The view is towards the north.

Shovel Test Excavations

AINW excavated four shovel tests (ST-1 through ST-4) on the southern terrace of Birnie Creek, a landform with a high probability for encountering archaeological resources and where project construction may impact native soils (see Figure 2; Photo 7 and 8). Improvements within this portion of the project area include removing vegetation and replacing a segment of the G. Alan Johnson Walking Trail. The shovel tests were cylindrical, 30 cm (12 in) in diameter, and excavated to a depth of at least 50 cm (20 in) below the surface, unless obstructed (Table 1). Excavated sediments were manually screened through nested 6.4- and 3.2-millimeter (¼- and ⅛-in) mesh hardware cloth.

Fill or displaced native soils were noted in shovel tests ST-1, ST-2, and ST-3 to ending depths between 13 and 36 cm (5 and 14 in) below the surface. In shovel test ST-1, a yellowish-brown silt loam capped a layer of impenetrable asphalt at 36 cm (14 in) below the surface. In shovel tests ST-2 and ST-3, layers of yellowish-brown silt loam and coarse-grained sand continued to respective depths of 23 cm (9 in) and 13 cm (5 in). Abrupt transitions between these layers indicate multiple fill events occurred.

In shovel test ST-4, the upper stratum consisted of a dark brown silt loam consistent with the Cathlamet series' A horizon (USDA-NRCS 2000). The soil had a granular structure and was slightly sticky, non-plastic, and friable. A reddish-brown silt loam that appeared burnt underlaid the A horizon in shovel test ST-4 and underlaid the fill deposits in shovel tests ST-2 and ST-3. Beginning between 13 and 23 cm (5 and 9 in), the stratum extended to depths between 30 and 49 cm (12 and 19 in) below the surface. In shovel test ST-2, the soil contained charcoal and nondiagnostic debris, including glass and a metal fragment, suggesting previous ground disturbance. In shovel test ST-3, this was the final stratum before reaching bedrock at 30 cm (12 in) below the surface. In shovel tests ST-2 and ST-4, a yellowish-brown silt loam consistent with the Cathlamet series' B horizon began between 20 and 49 cm (16 and 19 in) below the surface and continued to the base of the excavations (USDA-NRCS 2000). The soil had a fine to medium subangular blocky structure and was slightly sticky, non-plastic, and friable.

No archaeological resources were identified. The soil stratigraphies noted during the shovel test excavations indicate that most of this portion of the project area has been impacted by previous grading and filling, likely during the construction of the nearby Strong Park in the 1990s (*Longview Daily News* 1989).

TABLE 1
SHOVEL TEST EXCAVATION RESULTS

Shovel Test No.	Depth	Previous Disturbances (Depth)	Artifacts Found
ST-1	36 cm*	Fill soils (0-36 cm) Asphalt pad (36 cm)	None
ST-2	73 cm	Fill soils (0-23 cm) Nondiagnostic debris (23-49 cm)	None
ST-3	30 cm*	Fill soils (0-13 cm)	None
ST-4	70 cm	N/A	None

*Shovel test terminated upon encountering an impasse.



Photo 7. Shovel test ST-1 was excavated on the southern terrace of Birnie Creek where ground disturbances are planned. The Crown Zellerbach logging locomotive (at right) is outside the project area. The view is towards the north.



Photo 8. Shovel test ST-3 was excavated on the southern terrace of Birnie Creek where ground disturbances are planned. The Columbia River and the southern extent of the former sewer lagoons are in the background. The view is towards the southwest.

HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY METHODS AND FINDINGS

AINW architectural historians Tara Seaver, M.S., and Julia Flauaus, B.A., B.S., completed a survey of historic resources for the Cathlamet Waterfront Park on January 22, 2024. For this project, historic resources are defined as buildings, structures, sites, objects, and districts that were constructed over 45 years ago (i.e., 1979 or earlier). No such resources were identified during the survey.

Although the project area encompasses a former treatment plant constructed over 45 years ago, the plant is no longer in use and has been decommissioned. Therefore, the plant and components thereof were not documented as historic resources for the project.

At the perimeter of the former treatment lagoons are sheds and workspaces that appear to have been constructed during the late 1970s through the early 1990s (Historic Aerials 2024a, 2024b, 2024c). At least one shed or shop building located immediately north and outside of the project area at 375 2nd Street was likely constructed in 1980 (Historic Aerials 2024b; USGS 1980). It will be avoided by the project.

One shed located within the eastern portion of the project area near Birnie Creek is proposed for removal (Figure 6; Photo 9). The shed is clearly visible in a 1994 aerial photograph, but its location is obscured by vegetation in earlier aerial photographs; this is likely due to earthwork and vegetation removal that occurred at the shed's location when an existing single-cell lagoon was changed to a three-cell lagoon system in 1982 (Historic Aerials 2024b, 2024c; USGS 1980; Washington State Department of Ecology 2022). It is therefore likely that the shed was constructed sometime after 1982, and that it does not meet the age threshold for consideration as a historic resource for the project. Regardless of age, the shed is unlikely to be eligible for listing in the NRHP due to its utilitarian design and the decommissioning of associated treatment lagoons.



Photo 9. The post-1982 shed, located on the northern terrace of Birnie Creek, is proposed for removal. The view is towards the east.

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

AINW has completed a cultural resource survey for the Cathlamet Waterfront Park project to meet Executive Order 21-02 and SEPA compliance. AINW's cultural resource survey included background research, an archaeological survey, and a historic resource survey. A records review revealed that an archaeological site (45WK86) may be in the project area vicinity, potentially where the former sewer lagoons were located. Site 45WK86 is associated with DLC of Judge Strong, and the site reputedly once served as a Native American burial ground. The brief inventory form does not include additional information (Anonymous 1975), and no other descriptions of the burials were found during background research.

During the archaeological survey, AINW conducted a pedestrian survey of the entire project area to document current conditions. Afterwards, AINW excavated four shovel tests in a high probability area for encountering archaeological resources, south of Birnie Creek, where previous ground disturbances appeared to have been minimal. No archaeological resources were identified. Soil profiles of the shovel tests indicate that this portion of the project area has been disturbed by previous construction, filling, and grading, likely during the development of Strong Park in the 1990s. Construction within this portion of the project area entails replacing a segment of the G. Alan Johnson Waterfront Trail and removing vegetation. Most of the planned excavation will be limited to the upper 0.3 m (1 ft). Given the previous ground disturbances and the shallow depth of impacts, there is a low potential for archaeological resources within this portion of the project area.

Most of the project area has been disturbed by the previous construction, expansion, and decommission of the sewer lagoons. Their initial construction included extensive excavation, removing the upper strata of native soils where archaeological resources would be most likely. After the decommission of the lagoons, approximately 3 m (10 ft) of dredge spoils were used to partially fill the lagoons (see Figures 2 and 5). Additional fill will be imported prior to construction. As the deepest impacts within this portion of the project area will extend no deeper than 2 m (6.6 ft) below the surface, all excavation will occur within confirmed fill.

A separate survey conducted by AINW architectural historians identified no historic resources in the project area. Based on these findings, AINW recommends no further cultural resource investigations for the project. RCO will provide an Inadvertent Discovery Plan for the project that provides procedures to follow if unforeseen archaeological materials or human remains are encountered during construction.

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