



Cedar Mill Creek Flood Remediation Collaborative

Shared Understanding Statement

The Cedar Mill Creek Flood Remediation Collaborative will develop a Declaration of Cooperation to guide future flood remediation actions in the Cedar Mill / North Johnson Creek watershed for years to come. It will not be possible to solve all flooding concerns, but future actions in this watershed will be directed toward minimizing and/or mitigating flooding impacts. The Project Team agrees any approach to flood remediation in the Cedar Mill / North Johnson Creek watershed should be based upon these values, process principles, and key approaches.

VALUES TO GUIDE OUTCOMES

The values outlined below are derived from the community that live, work, and do business in the Cedar Mill Creek / North Johnson Creek project area. These values direct our collective work through the Oregon Solutions project and beyond. The Cedar Mill Creek Flood Remediation Collaborative will consult these values in striving to reach a consensus on how best to balance and optimize outcomes for the community.

- 1. COMPREHENSIVE WATERSHED PERSPECTIVE.** Flood remediation strategies should have a long-term watershed-wide approach and perspective in addressing infrastructure, healthy ecosystems, governance, community, and watershed management.
- 2. LONG-TERM RESILIENCE.** Retain, enhance, and sustain a watershed and community that is economically and environmentally resilient year-round. This effort should consider potential impacts from increased frequency and severity of flooding that could come from climate change, and plan for flood storage and/or other flood mitigation options. Be forward-thinking and develop progressive approaches to implementation and maintenance.
- 3. FINANCIAL SECURITY.** Address cost of flooding impact by reducing flood risks and related insurance costs to the extent possible. Seek to improve conditions for area businesses by promoting economic growth in balance with residential quality of life. Strive to be fiscally prudent when building and maintaining infrastructure in the watershed to minimize financial impacts.
- 4. CONNECTED HABITATS FOR HEALTHY ECOSYSTEMS AND COMMUNITY WELLBEING.** Build on a legacy of habitat enhancement efforts in the Cedar Mill Creek / North Johnson Creek watershed to create an interconnected network of stream, wetland, and upland natural areas that support sustainable populations of native species, and places for people to enjoy and learn from nature.
- 5. SAFE, EFFECTIVE, EFFICIENT INFRASTRUCTURE SYSTEMS.** Improve and maintain the community's ability to access urban amenities, jobs, recreation, and school, by providing cost-effective and hazard-resilient public and private facilities and infrastructure, and safe and efficient connections for multiple modes of travel. Continue to improve and maintain public infrastructure and protect natural systems. Manage floodplain so the many risks associated with flooding are reduced or minimized where possible—for homes, businesses, and primary evacuation routes.

PROCESS PRINCIPLES

Oregon Solutions will add critical value by facilitating and engaging stakeholders' interests in developing strategies and projects to mitigate flooding impacts and enhance floodplains along Cedar Mill Creek / North Johnson Creek. These principles direct the way the Collaborative will go about its business, building interest and striving toward consensus with diverse stakeholders.

- 1. COLLABORATIVE DECISION-MAKING.** Residents, employers, employees, property owners, agencies, and organizations work cooperatively and share responsibility for developing, implementing, and monitoring a comprehensive approach to flood remediation. Participants respectfully challenge ideas and decisions when they disagree, and actively work to balance individual interests and strive for consensus on common goals. The project outcomes reflect a blending of perspectives, mandates, and resources.
- 2. URGENCY, FOCUS, AND ACTION.** Timeliness and a predisposition for action are critical to capture opportunities and help mitigate immediate flooding threats to the watershed community and natural habitat. Now is the time to map the future of the area and develop a coordinated strategy for future action that fosters greater engagement of the community within the watershed for their collective future. The effort builds on decades of investigation, planning, action, and monitoring a comprehensive and resilient approach.
- 3. OPEN AND TRANSPARENT PROCESS.** All who lead and participate in the effort to bring about equitable and positive change in the watershed are committed to honest and open dialogue with their neighbors and with the public agencies that serve them. The partnering public agencies acknowledge and accept their special responsibility for ensuring the diverse people who live, work, and own property in the watershed know about the effort, have adequate information to advocate for their community, make decisions about their property, and have access to impact and influence public decisions.
- 4. INCLUSIVITY.** Those who live, [recreate/play](#), do business, and own property in the watershed are engaged to identify opportunities, needs, and issues to enhance life and business in the future. Public agency partners acquire and provide necessary information, technical support, an array of possible solutions, and resources to seize opportunities and address community-identified problems. We will draw upon the community's diverse perspectives to develop approaches and guide changes in the area. The process and resulting strategies, policies, and plans identify, build on, and enhance the capabilities, knowledge, skills, and assets of the community.
- 5. EQUITABLE ACCESS.** Proposed changes and programs will be evaluated based on their potential impacts to existing and future residents and businesses. Together, Collaborative participants share a commitment to advancing actions that sustain or improve conditions for community members, with particular focus on contributing to neighborhood stability and the ability of community members to continue to thrive in the area.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS AND APPROACHES

The Cedar Mill Creek Flood Remediation Collaborative will seek to incorporate the following considerations and approaches, within the context of the project's values, in developing a basin-wide watershed flood remediation strategy. While there can be no single solution, a range of potential strategies or approaches will be used to the extent possible within available time and resources of this project.

1. **THE “GLIDE PATH.”** Identify, to the extent possible, the projected severity and impact of flooding in the watershed if no further remediation is taken. Factors to consider include changes in weather patterns, ecological trends, development patterns, and regulatory frameworks.
2. **CURRENT AND PLANNED INFRASTRUCTURE & DEVELOPMENT.** The collective flood remediation approach should incorporate consideration of any existing or planned public infrastructure and private development that may impact flooding in the watershed.
3. **HYDROLOGY.** Any flood remediation approach should consider how water is distributed and moves across the watershed, taking into account the water cycle, water quality, and natural and constructed drainage.
4. **SEDIMENT TRANSPORT.** Consider the anticipated patterns and flooding impacts of sediment transport in the watershed.
5. **REGULATORY ISSUES AND PROCESSES.** Understand the current framework of regulatory requirements and look for opportunities to bring greater efficiencies in coordinating and streamlining regulations to effectively deliver flood remediation techniques.
6. **LAND USE PLANNING.** Consider, as appropriate, how best to balance land use zoning and development requirements that support regional and local land use goals but may impact the severity of flooding in the watershed.
7. **INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY APPROACHES.** Explore opportunities for individual property approaches to flood remediation in the watershed.
8. **NON-STRUCTURAL APPROACHES.** Consider non-structural approaches to managing flooding in the watershed, (including policies and laws, public awareness raising, training and education, [and purchases of properties subject to repetitive and/or severe flood losses](#)).
9. **COMPREHENSIVE PARTICIPATION IN FLOOD REMEDIATION.** Ensure participants in any comprehensive flood remediation approach include public agencies, private employers, property owners, and other affected stakeholders in the watershed.
10. **GOVERNANCE.** Develop a collaborative and integrated governance approach to implement the agreed-upon flood remediation strategy.
11. **COST/BENEFIT.** Strive to achieve flood remediation approaches that maximize watershed benefits while exercising fiscal prudence. As part of this consideration, identify the trade-offs of different approaches.
12. **INCORPORATE BEST PRACTICES.** Whenever possible, incorporate flood remediation best practices including infrastructure techniques, storm water management, environmental preservation and enhancement, property owner incentives, and governance structures.