Case Study

Walkable Washington

The Walkable Washington program grew out of the Feet First Cities Program. It showcases exceptional pedestrian-oriented improvements, community groups and outreach programs; maintains a statewide network for key contacts and stakeholders including an annual symposium; and provides assistance with Safe Routes to School, walking audits and other educational activities and programs.

Skagit River Waterfront Redevelopment Project
Mount Vernon, WA

Description and purpose
Waterfront Redevelopment along the Skagit River is part of the multifold Mount Vernon Downtown Flood Protection and Revitalization Project. In addition to adding FEMA flood protection for the historic heart of Mount Vernon, the project includes pedestrian improvements such as a public riverfront park, a river promenade, and a trail system.

The construction of the 24-foot wide pedestrian trail along the Skagit River and through downtown Mount Vernon is occurring in two phases. Phase I of construction, a 1,500 foot segment of the trail, is already complete and in-use. The second phase, a 1,200 foot segment connecting the State Route into downtown, is currently under development.
The trail will increase the already extensive public trails system in Mount Vernon, allow people access alongside the Skagit River, and render the downtown more accessible for pedestrians. The trail was inspired by the city’s existing Kulshan Creek Trail which runs East-West through Mount Vernon.

Costs and funding
The project is funded by federal, state, and city funds. Phase II of the project will cost $6 million dollars to complete.

Implementation time-frame
Phase II is targeted for completion in August 2014.

Community involvement
The people of Mount Vernon have been very supportive of the construction of the riverside trail and have actively begun to use the completed section of the trail.

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Resources
Downtown & Waterfront Area Master Plan

Photo courtesy of City of Mount Vernon