

Building Resiliency: Mount Vernon, WA





Before the Floodwall

Heroism Isn't a Practical Strategy



- Thousands of volunteers
- Emergency-driven response
- Not sustainable long-term

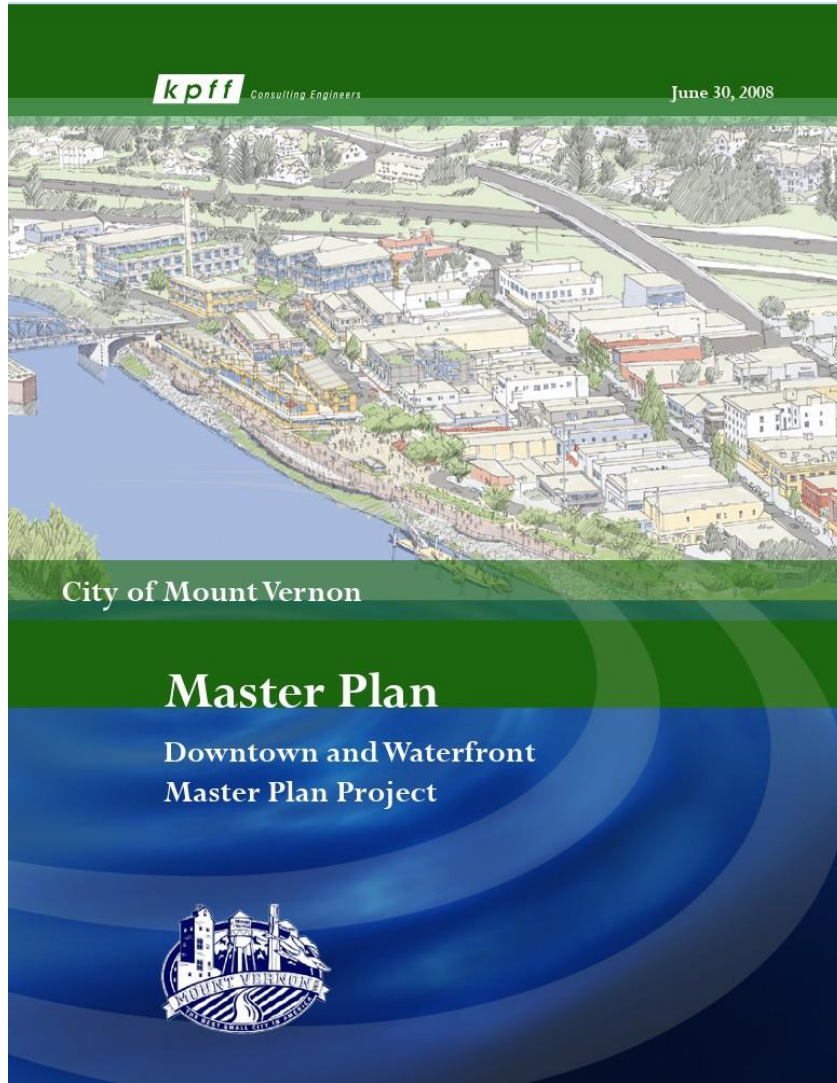


What Was at Stake

- Historic downtown
 - Homes and small businesses
 - Community confidence



The Turning Point: A Plan



2008 Downtown Development Master Plan

- Flood protection first
- Parking and investment followed

What We Built



Flood protection system

- Riverwalk and plaza
- Everyday public use

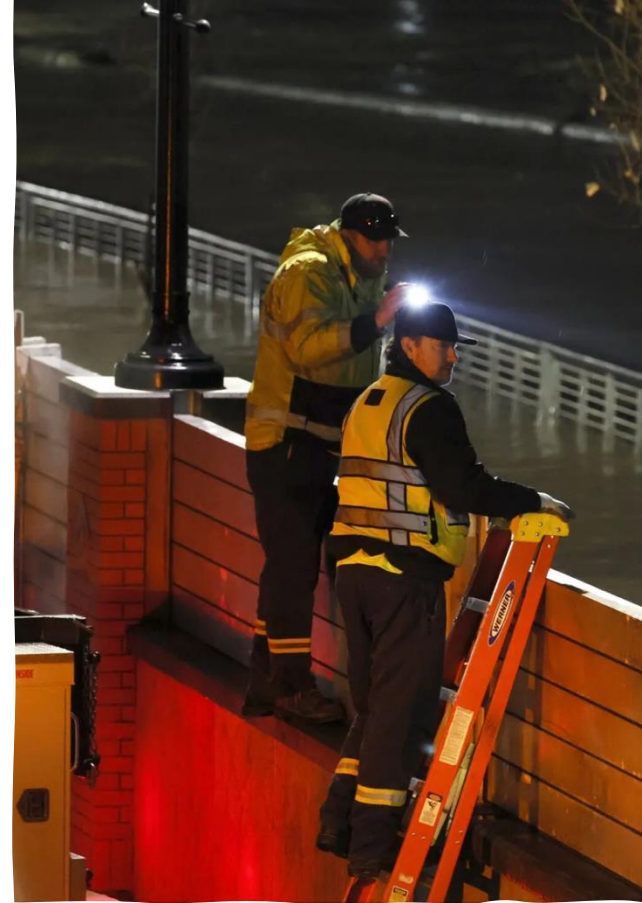
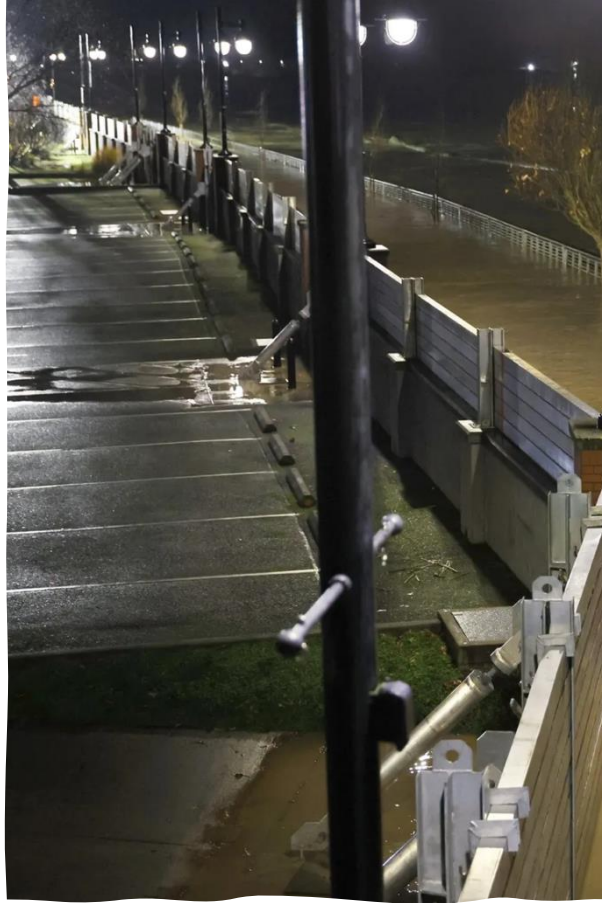


Resilience as a Routine

Trained crews

- Efficient deployment
- Predictable process





Does It Work?

- Protected downtown
- Major flood events
- No massive volunteer coordination efforts



Recent Proof: Historic Flood

- Record-breaking event
 - Downtown remained dry
 - Wall performed as designed



An aerial photograph of a city street. The street is lined with multi-story buildings. In the foreground, there is a large, muddy, brown area that appears to be a flooded field or a construction site. A white fence runs along the edge of this area. Several people are walking on a path that runs along the fence. The sky is clear and blue.

What Changed Because of It

- FEMA Floodplain designation lifted
- Private & Public Investment unlocked
- \$62M Downtown Infrastructure completed—ZERO Local Tax Impact



Mount Vernon Library Commons

Resilience Is About the Long View

