

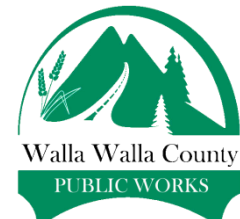
# *Mill Creek Flood Control Channel and the Mill Creek Channel Coalition*



BAKER



BOYER



# 1931 Flood — Flows between 5000-6000 cfs



Palouse Street - 1931

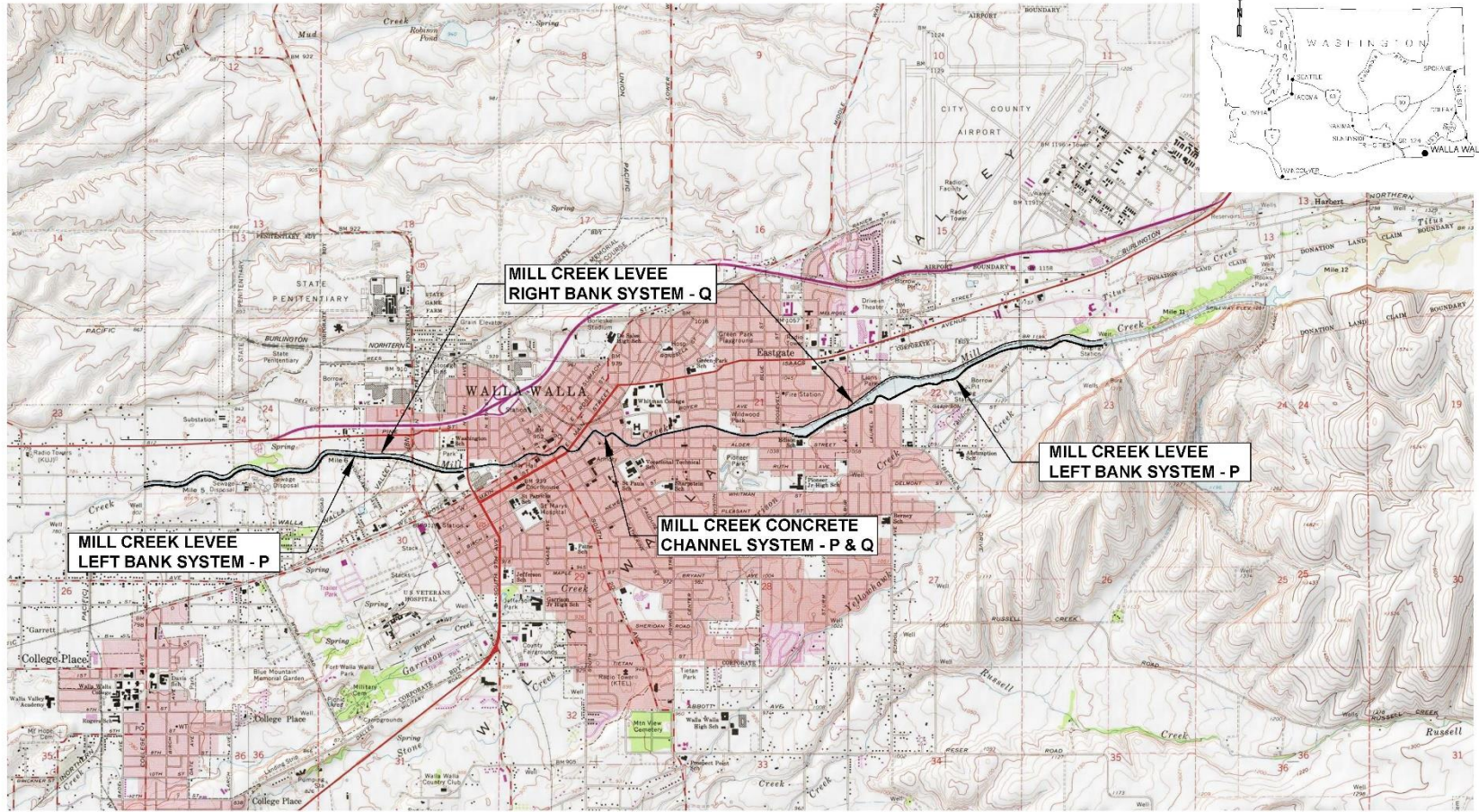


Alder Street - 1931

# Mill Creek Flood Control Channel

## *Quick Facts:*

- 1931 Flood prompted action
- Channel constructed in the mid-1930s with completion in 1942
- Channel is approximately 7 miles long
  - 1 mile levee embankment (Corps of Engineers)
  - 4 miles levee embankment (Mill Creek Flood Control Zone District)
  - 2 miles concrete channel (Mill Creek Flood Control Zone District)
- Channel protects about 20,000 people and 8,000 structures
- Assessed value within the Mill Creek Flood Control Zone is approximately \$3 billion
- Channel approaching the end of its design life

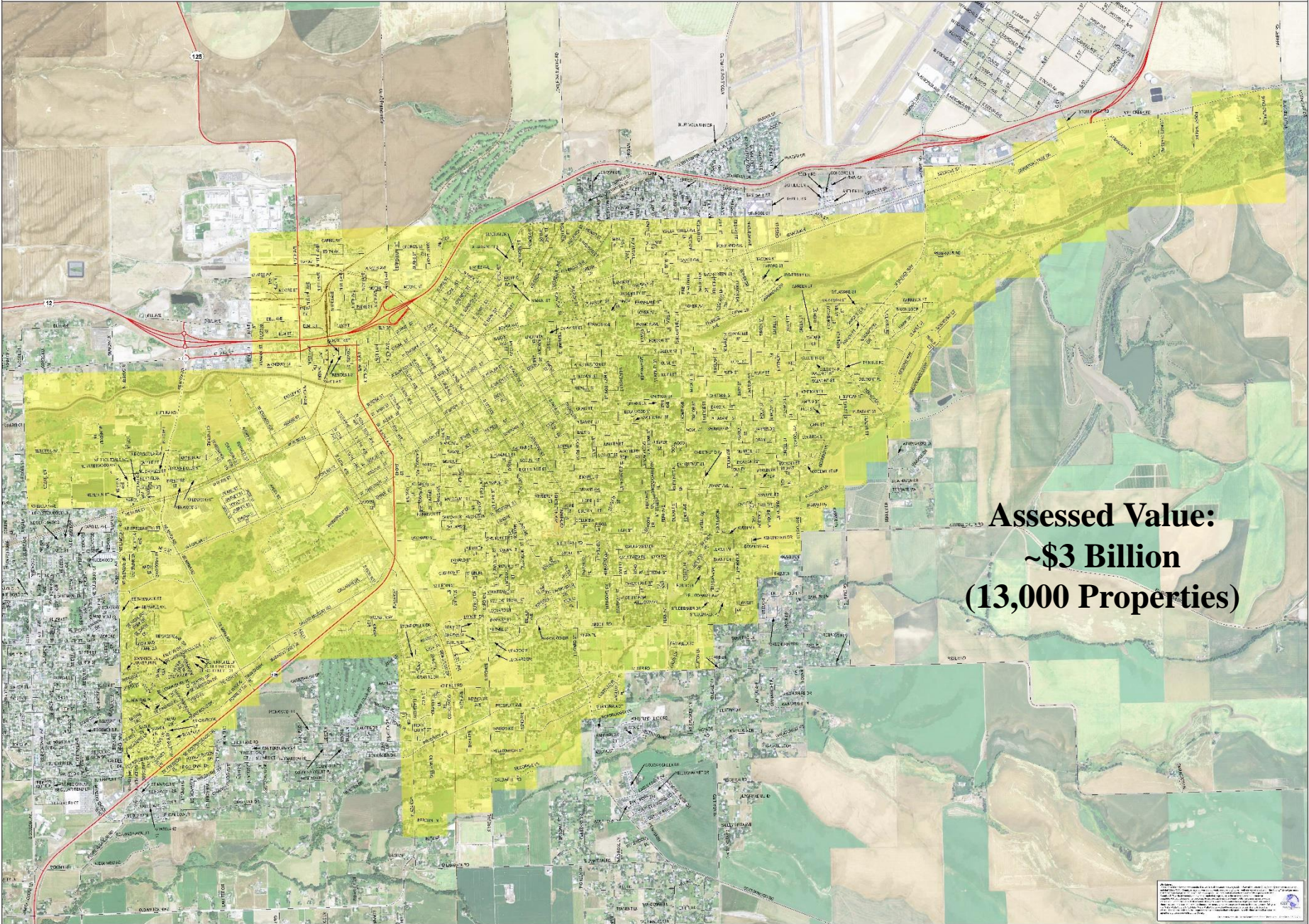


	<p>WALLA WALLA COUNTY MILL CREEK LEVEE SYSTEMS - P &amp; Q VICINITY MAP</p>	<p>FIGURE 1</p>
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# Mill Creek Flood Control Zone District

- State Highways
- Railroads
- Public Roads
- Private Roads
- Mill Creek Flood Control Zone District Boundary
- 2013 NAIP Imagery



2013 NAIP Imagery  
© 2013 National Aerial Photography

# Why We're Concerned

## *Increased flood risk:*

- Channel constructed 80 years ago by multiple agencies – structural integrity uncertain
- 2013 USACE Planning Assistance to States study concluded:
  - 2010 Periodic Inspection by the Corps rated channel “minimally acceptable”
  - Deficiencies noted in the levees, floodwalls, drainage systems, and concrete channel
  - Maintenance costs rising exponentially over time (budget quadrupled over past 3 years)
  - Decades of accumulated stress and deterioration created issues beyond routine maintenance and repair - new deficiencies emerge each year
- Operational changes (for dam safety) by the Corps increased regular flows through the channel. Current deficiencies, combined with higher regular flows created a new sense of urgency with respect to the long-term functionality of the channel.
- Deterioration of channel crossings (bridges, buildings, parking lots) also contribute a sense of urgency to re-evaluate channel capacity in the downtown corridor.









EROSE ST

N SPOKANE ST

S SPOKANE ST

N COLVILLE ST

E MAIN ST

S COLVILLE ST

E ALDER ST

S 1ST AVE



N 2ND AVE

N 3RD AVE

E ROSE ST

W ROSE ST

E MAIN ST

W MAIN ST

S 2ND AVE









07/15/2010



# Levee Safety Action Classification (LSAC)

- Corps sponsored levee safety activity to assess risk of flooding relative to other levees
- Levee screening criteria include:
  - Probability of an event
  - Performance of infrastructure
  - Consequences of failure
- Ratings range from LSAC 5 (low risk) to LSAC 1 (high risk)
- Mill Creek ratings (looking down stream):
  - Right bank levee system received an LSAC 3 rating (high priority)
  - Left bank levee system received an LSAC 2 rating (urgent)



# Why We're Concerned

## *Fish passage for ESA listed fish:*

- Channel design limits passage of ESA listed fish
- Fish must migrate through concrete channel without resting areas
- Lethal water temperatures often present by mid-May – with decreasing flows fish become trapped in warm waters
- Hydraulic conditions create fish passage barriers throughout the channel
- Some small fish passage projects completed in coordination with the Mill Creek Work Group – minimal funding exists for future projects

# Mill Creek Flood Control Channel

## *Next Steps:*

- Walla Walla County continues project maintenance
- Corps finalized initial Appraisal report under Sec. 216 Authority
- Coalition seeks Congressional support for a comprehensive Federal study (General Investigation Study) (GI Study)
- Coalition seeks Corps of Engineers funding for study
  - FY 2018/2019 work plans
  - FY 2019/2020 President's Budget
- Coalition continues coordination with CTUIR

# General Investigation Study

- Comprehensive study of the Mill Creek Channel and the flood control system
  - Assess condition of infrastructure
  - Assess system capacity
  - Assess overhead obstructions
  - Assess water quality & fish passage conditions
- Based on assessments, determine what comes next
  - Develop alternative solutions to address problems
  - Evaluate alternatives against established evaluation criteria
  - Recommend a preferred alternative

# General Investigation Study

- GI Study Parameters (3 x 3 x 3)
  - Cost of the study is \$3,000,000
    - ✓ Non-federal sponsor is the Mill Creek Flood Control Zone District (WW County)
    - ✓ Cost shared 50-50 (Federal Government –Coalition members)
    - ✓ In-kind work credited toward cost share
  - Study completed within 3 years
  - The Corps commits to 3 simultaneous levels of review (District-Division-HQ)

# Mill Creek Flood Control Channel Conclusions

- Flood risk is the primary concern
- Channel approaching the end of its design life
- Channel deficiencies, combined with higher routine flows, have created a strong sense of urgency for action
- Upper Mill Creek provides vital fish habitat – passage throughout the channel critical to ESA listed fish
- Community leaders willing to assist Corps in re-evaluating the channel
- A viable non-federal sponsor is in place (WW County - with support from other Coalition members)
- **THE TIME FOR ACTION IS NOW**