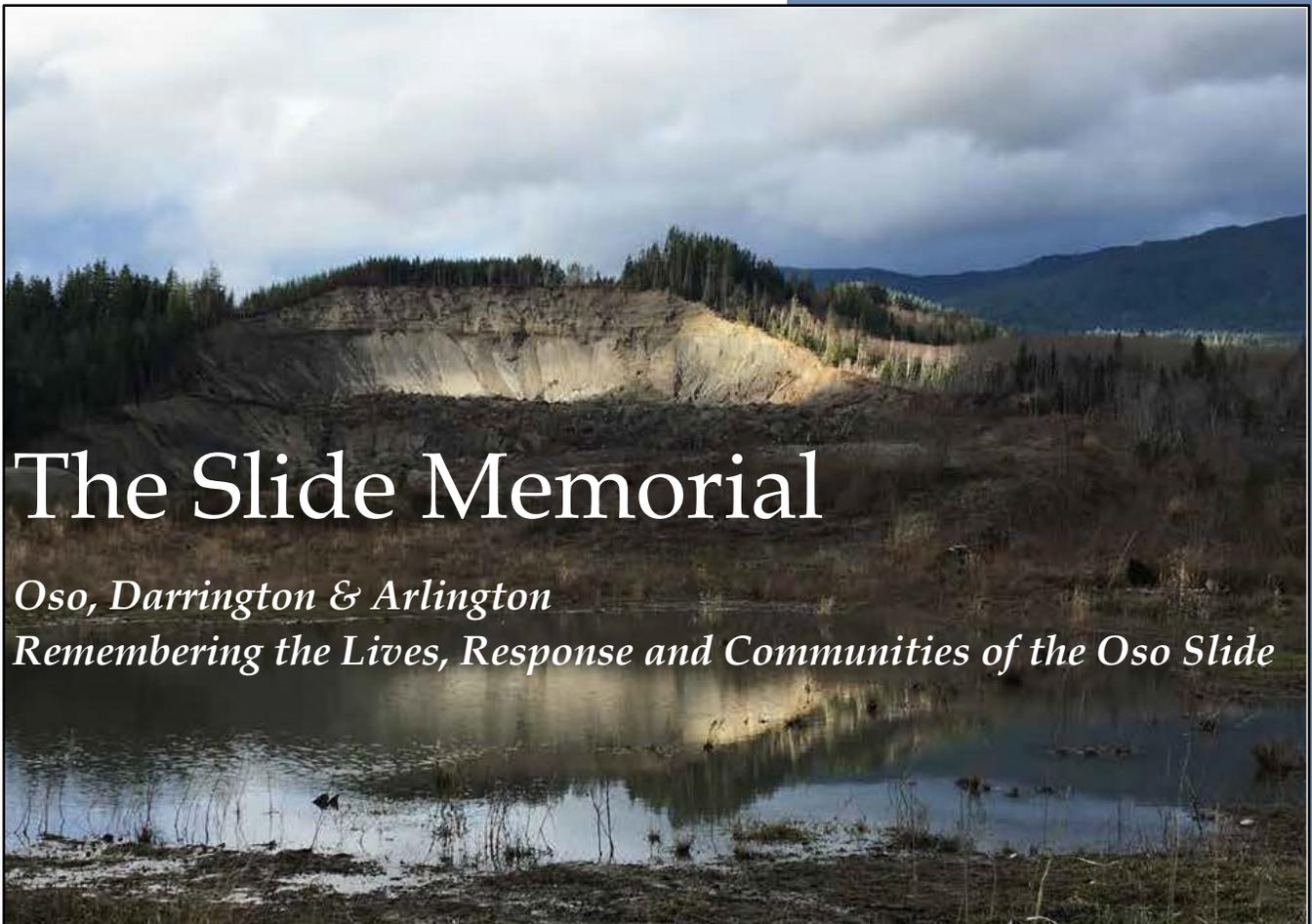


SR 530  
Mudslide  
Memorial

Funding Request



The Slide Memorial

*Oso, Darrington & Arlington*

*Remembering the Lives, Response and Communities of the Oso Slide*

# SR 530 Mudslide Memorial

## Project Summary

On March 22, 2014 at 10:37 am, forty-three lives and a vibrant riverfront community were lost in an instant as mud and debris flowed down from the surrounding mountainside devastating the homes and highway. What was once a forested neighborhood along the river had been leveled, and what remained resembled a swampy moonscape like nothing any responder had ever seen before, resulting in the largest loss of life from a single event landslide in US history.

The communities of Arlington, Darrington and Oso responded immediately, with community members searching side by side with first responders, into the mud. More than 100 first responders from Snohomish and Skagit Counties were dispatched that day, along with the Naval Station Everett's Search and Rescue unit, once the magnitude of the slide was realized. Eight people were pulled from the mud that day, seven survived, and forty-three perished.

Over the next few days, weeks and months, local residents and first responders worked side by side with State and Federal Search and Rescue personnel. Local loggers built a by-pass road and taught FEMA equipment operators how to build log rafts so responders could get equipment into the debris field. That road was later used by Darrington and north valley residents who had been cut off by the landslide to by-pass a 250 mile detour until the highway was rebuilt.

National and local non-profit organizations came together to help affected families find shelter, grief counseling and assistance. Others came to help feed and support two base camps full of first and community responders, and local media organizations hosted donation drives for much needed materials for responders such as shovels, boots and gloves. Still others drove the long detour to Darrington to bring much needed supplies like livestock feed, pet food and gas cards to help people get to work with a 250 mile detour.

In the end, every person was recovered from the mud. Families of victims come together in remembrance of their loved ones at the site of what was once the Steelhead Drive neighborhood. Forty-three trees have been planted along the highway to remember those who were lost. Birthdays, holidays and anniversaries are still celebrated among family and friends at the gate of Steelhead Drive, and mementos are left regularly at the gate and by their trees.

Snohomish County has purchased most of the parcels affected by the landslide, including thirteen acres that will be dedicated to an on-site memorial to those who perished in the event and the community that was lost. It is important to the families of the victims to have a place where they can individually remember their loved ones, yet gather together in remembrance on important days. The surrounding communities and responders also desire a location where they can peacefully memorialize those lost, and find resilience together. In addition, the site has become a place where people from all over the world stop to look at the remaining landscape, and pause in remembrance of the victims.

The Snohomish County Parks Team is working with family members of the victims and survivors to raise funds to engineer and construct a permanent SR 530 Mudslide Memorial on the thirteen acre memorial property. Most of the site will remain natural, while approximately 4 linear acres along the Whitehorse Trail will be developed into the Memorial, paying tribute to those who were lost, those who survived, the community that was lost and the communities that responded. The memorial will also highlight the timeline and geology of the event and the resilience of nature for those who have come to learn and visit. Parks is working with the family members and survivors to raise enough funds to complete the engineering and permitting for the project in 2018 in order to begin construction on the five year remembrance of the event, March 22, 2019. Donations of materials, construction services and labor will also be accepted.

## Process

The families of victims, survivors and responders have met with the Parks Planning Team over the last eighteen months to develop a concept plan for the Memorial. Early on in the process, the families decided that the Memorial should be composed of five main elements:

- Lost Loved Ones
- Survivors
- Community Lost
- Community Response
- Event and Geology

Other ideas from participants included paving the Whitehorse Regional Trail, developing entryways from both ends of the Whitehorse Regional Trail and the entrance to Steelhead Drive, separate parking areas for the Memorial and the trailhead, incorporating natural elements into the design, and restoring the flag pole raised by the first responders.

In order to refine these ideas into a site plan that includes therapeutic elements, Parks hired a local consulting team from MIG/Portico to assist in developing the design and gathering content for the memorial areas and exhibits. MIG/Portico and Parks held a joint design meeting on February 3, 2018, with family members and survivors to improve details for a site plan and renderings of the content for the different elements of the Memorial.

Snohomish County Council members, the Darrington Town Council and the Arlington City Council have been briefed about the project, and will be briefing both the Stillaguamish and Sauk-Suiattle Tribal Councils in the near future. Future briefings and meetings will be held with all involved as the project progresses into the civil engineering and construction stage.

## Objectives

The families of the victims and survivors, with the assistance of Snohomish County, are seeking to raise in excess of \$6 Million for the civil engineering, permitting, construction and long term maintenance of the Memorial.

### Site Issues

#### Design and Permitting - \$300,000

The site of the Memorial leads to many challenges for permitting and development including channel migration and flooding from the North Fork of the Stillaguamish River. The Memorial will need to be engineered to allow the flow of water to permeate beneath it. The site is considered sacred by the families of the victims and the surrounding communities, and approximately eighteen feet of debris was deposited on the site from the mudslide. No ground disturbing excavation can occur on the site, so it must be engineered utilizing pilings, helical anchors or ground fill overlaid on top of permeable boulders.

#### Site Security - \$600,000

The rural location along the twenty-seven mile long Whitehorse Regional Trail and SR 530 also pose site security and maintenance issues. At the request of the families, Parks has designed a post-and-rail barricade with a concrete barrier to prevent pedestrians, bikes and horses from accessing the remaining debris field. A low ambient lighting element and parking gate will also be included in the design to prevent vandalism.

## Construction

### Materials - \$2,000,000 – 3,000,0000

The design developed by MIG/Portico incorporates many natural materials, and is supplemented by materials that will be given a worn or natural appearance to match the character of the Steelhead Drive and C-Post Road neighborhoods. Panels will be constructed from Corten Steel, granite, concrete and incorporate elements such as river rocks, boulders, water features and ambient glow stone. Features such as covered areas and a boardwalk are also planned, and will require special design for minimal site disturbance. Parks will be accepting material donations as long as they fit the design of the Memorial and pass quality control.

### Construction Services - \$500,000 - \$1,000,000

Parks estimates the cost of construction services including labor, site prep, Memorial, and boardwalk construction to be between \$500,000 and \$1,000,000, and will be accepting donations for construction services if the contractor is qualified.

## Long Term Maintenance and Operation

At the request of the families of victims, the survivors and the surrounding communities, Parks will create an endowment fund to provide for the long term maintenance and operation of the Memorial. An endowment will provide a funding source for repairs in the case of flooding, vandalism and regular wear and tear of the Memorial elements. The families and survivors, with the assistance of Parks, would like to raise enough money to provide at least \$1 Million in endowment funds, but any additional funds raised would be placed into the endowment.

## Current Progress

Parks has constructed the Whitehorse Regional Trail trailhead parking off of C Post Road, and has drafted construction specs and plans for the asphalt paving. A structural engineer has been hired to restore the Responders' Flag Pole on the East side of SR 530, and a site plan has been drafted by MIG/Portico. Additionally, MIG/Portico has catalogued the resources available from media, families, survivors and responders, and Parks is actively filming event and survivor stories.

The funding listed above is required to continue progress on the Memorial. Parks would like to raise enough funding in the Spring of 2018 to cover the costs of paving the Whitehorse Regional Trail as well as design and permitting for the Memorial in order to meet the timeline for a construction site blessing on the five year remembrance of the event, March 22, 2019. Fundraising will continue throughout 2018 and 2019 to raise money for materials, construction of the Memorial, and security elements such as the lighting and trail barrier.

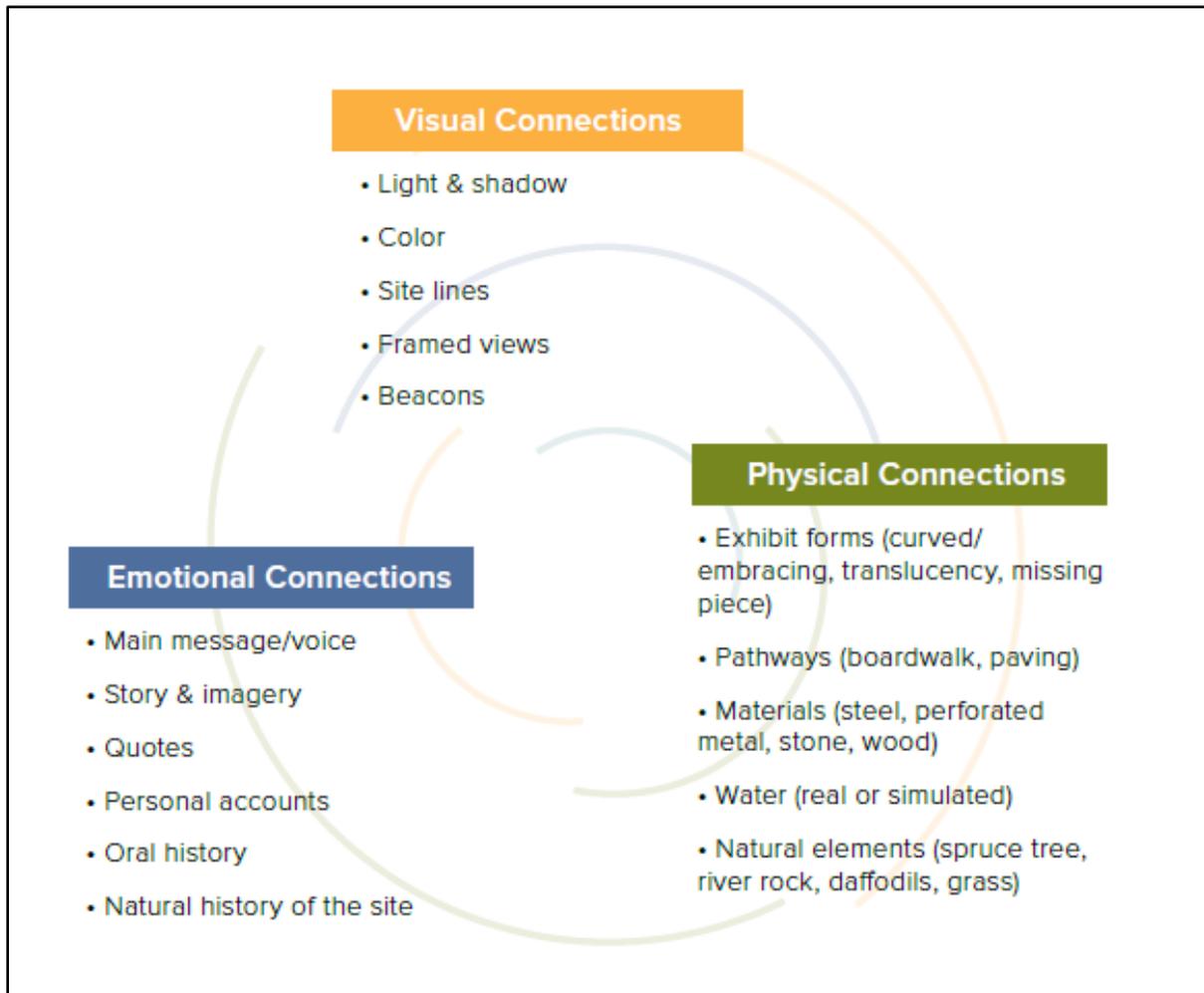
## Design

The design of the memorial has been developed and refined by meetings with families, survivors and responders. The MIG/Portico consultants have been able to take the Memorial concepts and elements, and develop them into a therapeutic experience for those visiting to memorialize and remember, as well as those who are there to learn about the people and the event. Using the five elements requested by the families, a site plan has been established that will not only serve a place of respite for family members, survivors and responders, but also as an education center about the event and Pacific Northwest geology and a community gathering space for important dates.

During the Concept Design phase the project team defined these primary objectives:

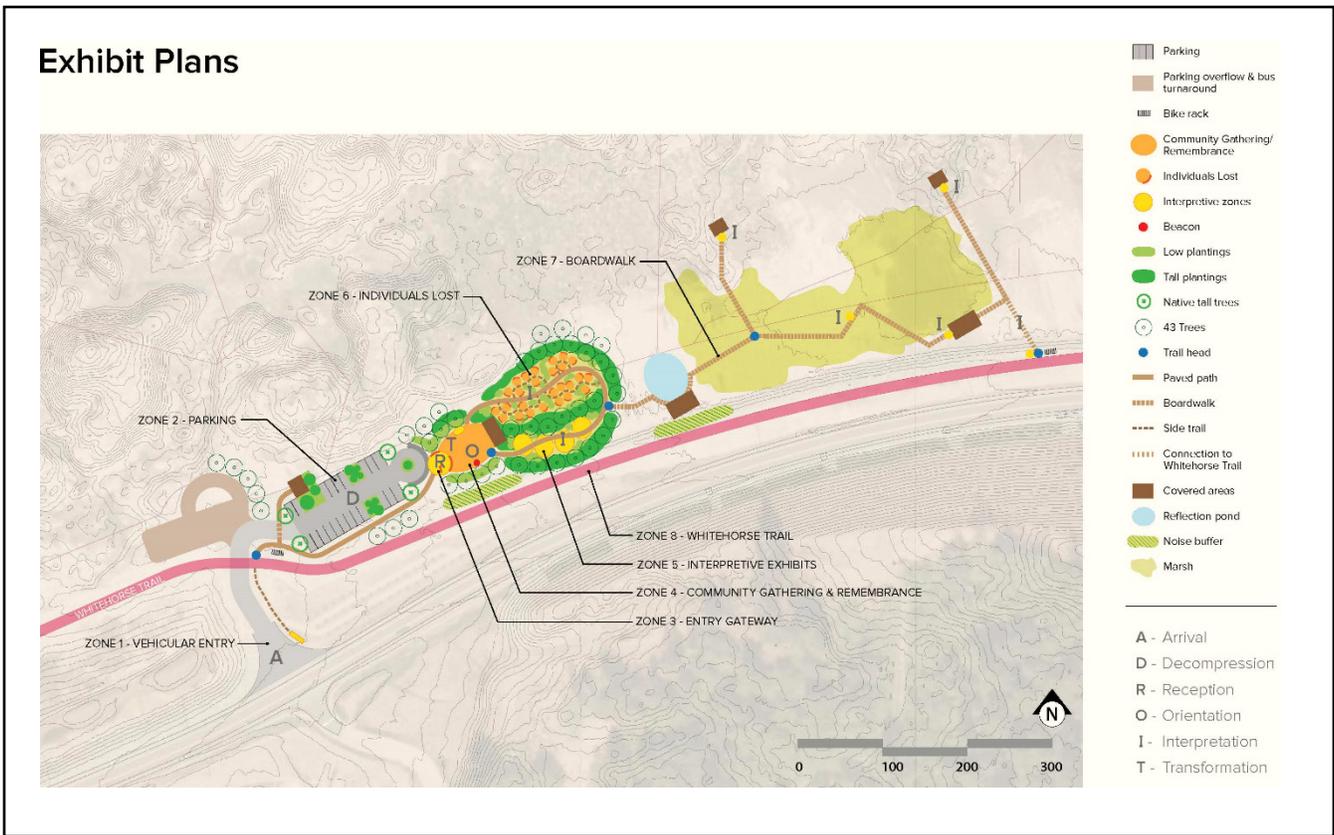
- Memorial will serve dual functions of educating visitors from outside the area and also providing a place of remembrance for family members
- Provide the stories and education for next generation of visitors
- Visitors to understand that 43 individuals were lost
- Memorial style and design to reflect local community and character of area as much as possible. No fuss, not “fancy,” more staying power.
- Longevity of memorial, exhibits and maintenance plan: “If it’s not going to last, it’s not worth doing.”

The emerging concept for this site is: Connectedness: A community embrace.

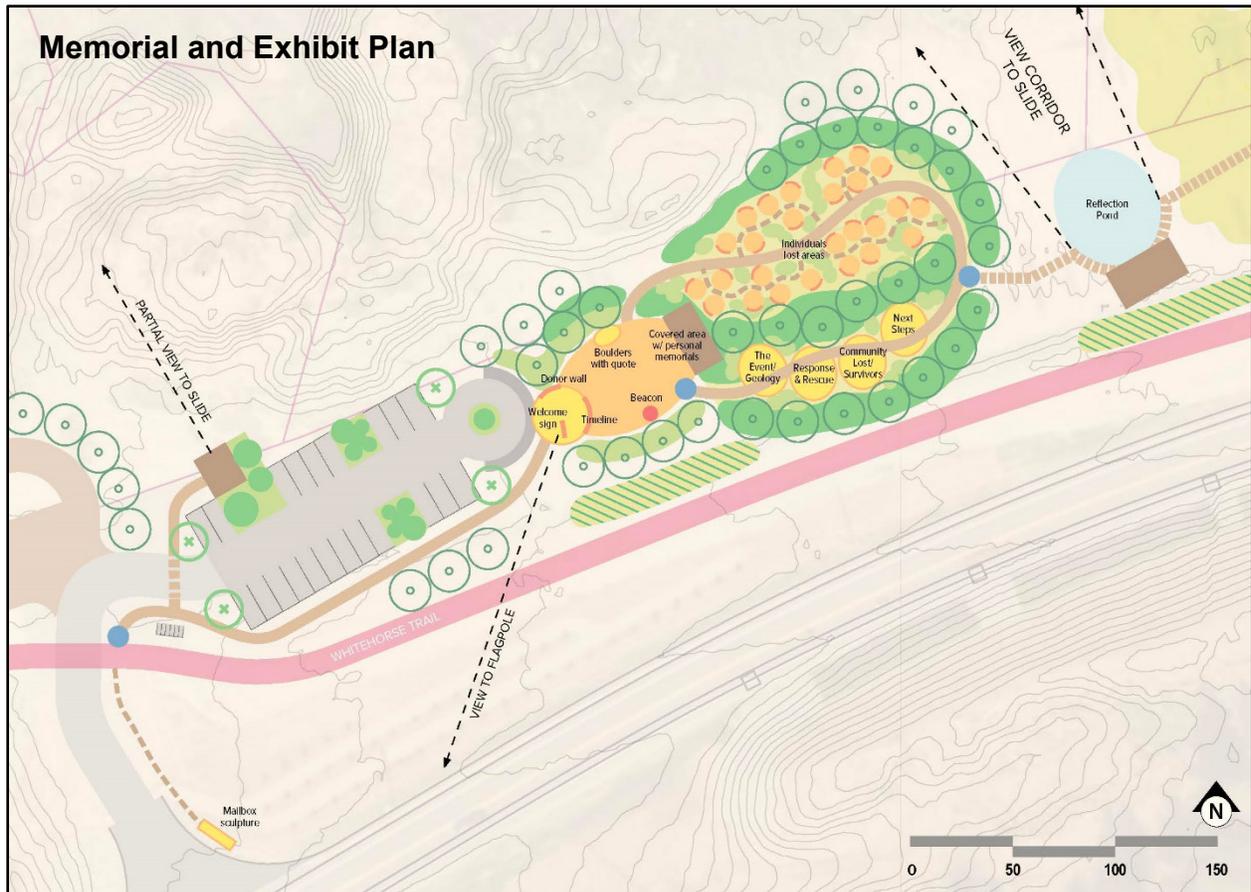


A memorial and exhibit that is located on the site of the actual event has dual responsibilities. On one hand, this is a sacred site, deeply important to those who feel strong personal connections to the site and to all that was lost on that unimaginable day. For those visitors, the site serves as a true memorial—a place to remember and grieve, and to celebrate community. At the same time, others who visit will have absorbed a wide range of information about the site and the landslide. Some will know nothing of the events before they arrive, and others will have seen press coverage or documentaries about the landslide and its aftermath. Still others will have friends or family who were involved, but will not have a direct personal connection. As time goes by, the latter group of less-connected visitors will grow; for them, the design of the visitor experience must provide an introduction to the importance of the site, the resilience of the community, and the scale of the slide itself.

The design incorporates the ADROIT principal, the idea that visitors to an educationally and emotionally intense place will move through predictable stages of Arrival, Decompression, Reception, Orientation, Interpretation, and Transition/Transformation.



Visitors will Arrive at the Steelhead Drive entrance that leads into the site parking area, and will pass by a sculpture of the original Steelhead Drive mailboxes. As they Decompress at the Parking Area, a single Callery Pear tree, donated by the 9/11 Foundation will stand prominent leading up to the path into the Memorial.



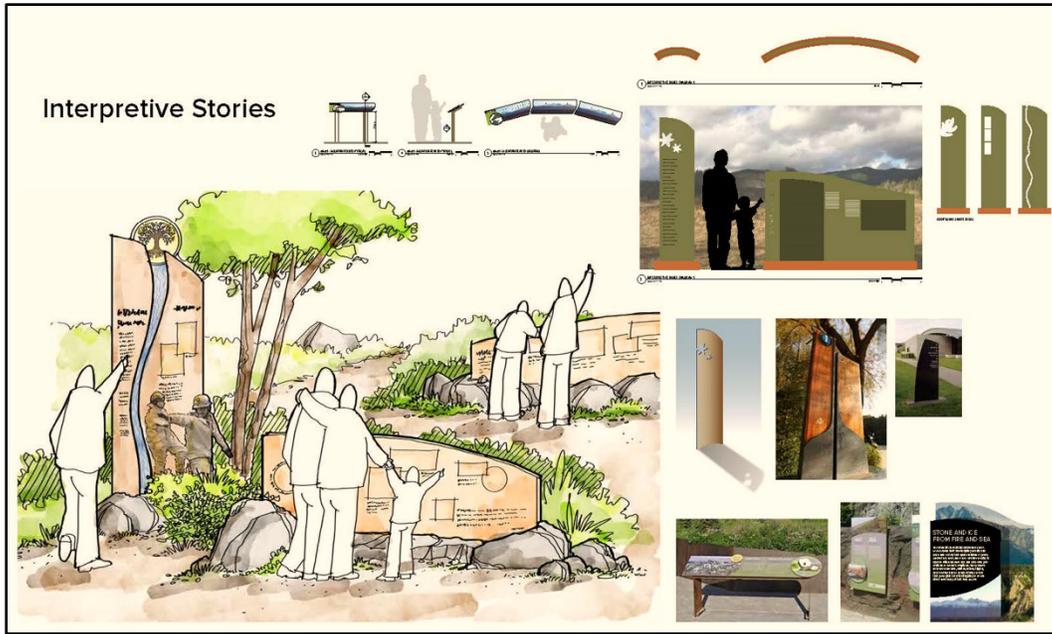
The Reception and Orientation area includes a Welcome Sign and Timeline exhibits which together frame a view to the Community Gathering and Remembrance space. The Community Gathering and Remembrance space honors the events of the slide in a public setting, and allows groups of family, friends, community members, and others to be together in their remembrance. It is a place that marks the event for individuals, the surrounding communities, the region, the state, and the nation— whose citizens grieved with the families as the extent of the slide devastation became known. It honors the collective response, and its overarching theme is gratitude for a supportive community. A beacon stands at a thirty-degree angle to a monument of boulders marked with quotes that are meaningful to the community. The Saturday of the slide was the first sunny day for quite some time after a long, wet winter, and if the sun shines on the anniversary of March 22 the shadow cast by the standing beacon will draw a line toward the boulders and throw the marker into shade for those moments of remembering.



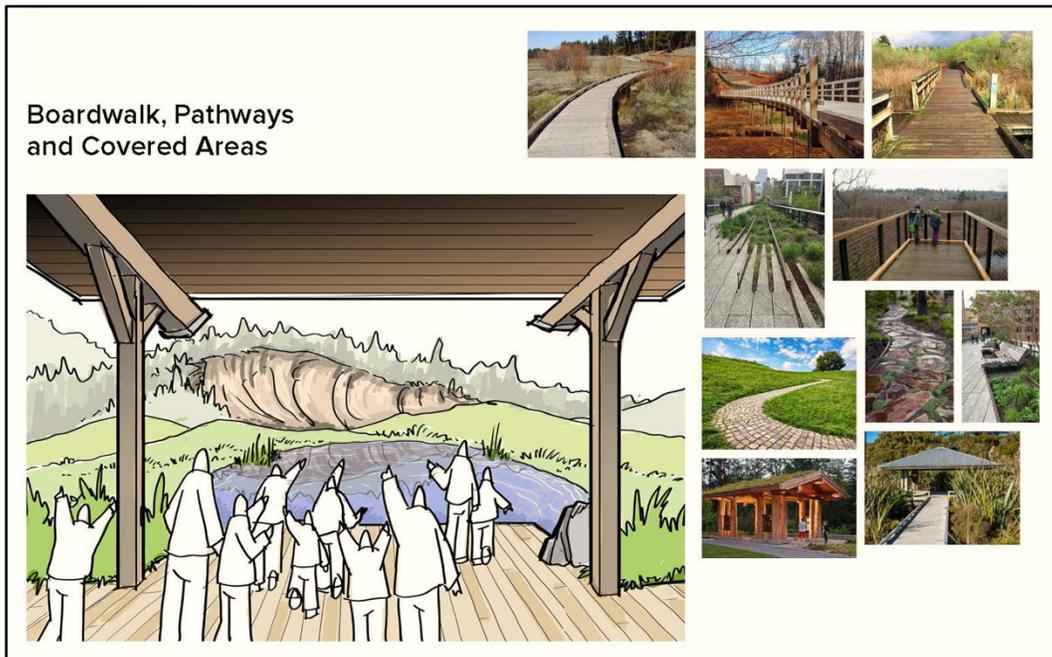
After passing through the Community Gathering space, the five elements requested by the family have been incorporated as individual exhibits within the Interpretation piece of the Memorial. Visitors will walk through the exhibit zones that will take them through the Geology of the area and the mudslide event to a tribute to the Response and Rescue, followed by a tribute to the Community Lost and Survivors of the event and the Resilience of the surrounding communities and the natural environment.

Visitors can take time to read and absorb details about the site and the slide, or they can move through more quickly, getting an overview of the relevant topics by reading exhibit “headlines.” The path is planted with trees and smaller shrubs that evoke the look and feel of Steelhead Drive. Visitors find shade and some shelter from the sights and sounds of the highway as they learn the stories of the site.



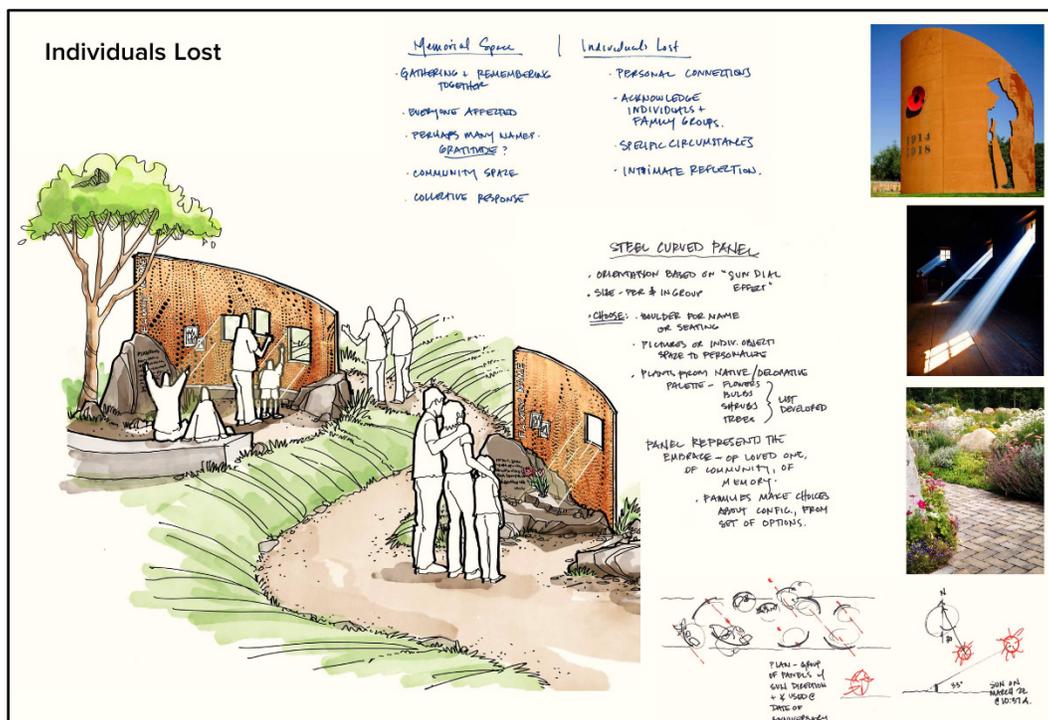


The densely-planted path gives way to open space, and visitors follow a boardwalk to the Slide Viewing Platform. The land, water, wind, plants and animals are reclaiming the land to the west, as growth and renewal take hold. But one view toward the slide itself is held clear. The boardwalk continues, offering exhibits and informational graphics about the geology of the region, the soils, the flora and fauna, the Stillaguamish River, the channel migration area that the boardwalk moves through, and the regeneration of the site as a wetland. Tribal connections to the river, wildlife, and landscape are interpreted with special acknowledgement of the Stillaguamish Tribe. Two covered shelters create small gathering spaces where the boardwalk ends, allowing visitors to be “on the site” and experience views of the hillocks, mounds and soil formations of the slide area.



The path winds and widens as visitors leave the boardwalk and turn west toward the Gathering and Remembrance space. Here, the individuals lost are acknowledged and remembered. This space is, first and foremost, for family, friends and first responders; they may come to this space directly, forgoing the longer loop path. Each person or family group is acknowledged with a curved steel panel that includes space for names, photos, mementos, and seasonal decorations. The color of the steel is rich and natural looking—clearly fabricated, but appropriate in the natural context.

Each panel stands within a unique configuration of landscape elements chosen from a palette of boulders, native and decorative plants, trees or annuals. Together they create a cohesive yet individualized area of remembrance. The curved panel represents a gentle embrace—of loved ones, of the community, of memories— while the setting incorporates natural features of seasonal or personal significance. The panels, arranged to provide both camaraderie and privacy to those who spend time among them, serve as permanent markers on this site. Surrounded by a vital, living landscape, they represent the sadness of the past as well as the embrace of the future.



As visitors Transform and Transition to leave, the lasting message of the Memorial is a one of hope, resilience and community bonding. A quote on the east-facing side of the Timeline exhibit reminds us all to go forward and cherish our families and friends. Recognition placed on the back of the welcome signs offers a discrete moment of gratitude for the individuals, companies, and agencies who contributed to the design and construction of the Memorial. From the parking lot, visitors can look back up via the partial view of the slide, seeing it very differently after what they have seen, read, and learned at the Memorial.

As the design progresses, important elements will be incorporated into the site and protected or acknowledged appropriately including, wood from the “grandmother” spruce tree removed from the site in 2017, totems and benches carved by tribal members remembering specific individuals, and the river and wildlife affected, first call plaque from fire hall, first responders’ boots, response coins, daily response journals from Army National Guard, flags, banners, and additional family items. Other elements of the site

include paving the Whitehorse Regional Trail and installing a security barrier along its boundary with the debris field.



## Donation Needs

Due to the difficult site conditions, Parks is in immediate need for monetary donations to cover the costs of design and permitting for the Memorial in order to meet the construction site blessing date of March 22, 2019. Other immediate monetary needs include the costs of paving the Whitehorse Regional Trail paving and installing the security barrier, in order to open the full 27 mile corridor to the public by the end of 2018.

Parks will also be accepting donations of materials and are seeking the following materials and services:

- Asphalt paving of Whitehorse Regional Trail
- Concrete barrier pre-casting and installation for the security barrier
- 8" x 8" x 3' cedar posts for the security barrier
- 4" x 8" x 10' cedar rails for the security barrier
- Granite and Stone material for exhibits and displays
- Corten Steel sheets or panels for exhibits and displays
- Six-man rocks/boulders
- High-end cedar logs for shelters and covered areas
- Landscaping plants
- Concrete benches for the Memorial
- Carved cedar benches in tribute to the natural wildlife and salmon of the area
- Totem carving for individual and Memorial poles
- Boardwalk materials

- Construction Services
- Manual Labor

Donations will be accepted based on design fit and quality control. Donations of professional and construction services will be accepted based on qualifications.

Recognition of donors and contributors will also be an important part of the design. While discretion is of utmost importance, those contributors who choose to be acknowledged will be listed on site. The spirit of community, participation and stewardship will be foremost in the design of the donor recognition system.

## Outreach Plan

The Project Team has established a Memorial website to provide the public and donors updated information on the progress of the project, and is currently working with willing family members and survivors to record video stories of the event and response to use in outreach materials. Once these videos have been finalized, they will be incorporated into the website. A dedicated Facebook page will also be established to assist with donation and project outreach. Both the website and any associated social media pages will be updated regularly with project information.

In addition to the distribution of this fundraising packet, Parks will be contacting local Philanthropic Organization to request matching donation campaigns. A press release announcing the Memorial project and fundraising campaign kick-off will be distributed to local print, radio and t.v. media groups. Snohomish County staff will work with specific family members and survivors who will be available to the media to share their stories and assist with donation drives. Fundraising events such as a high-end farm-to-table concert dinner and a Whitehorse Regional Trail race will also be held in 2018 and 2019 to continue raising funds for the construction and endowment fund.

## How to Give

Monetary donations will be accepted online via the project website at [www.slidememorial.com](http://www.slidememorial.com), or can be mailed to:

Snohomish County Parks, Recreation and Tourism  
Parks Donation Fund – SR 530 Slide Memorial  
6705 Puget Park Drive  
Snohomish, WA 98296

Donations of materials or services must be approved by the Snohomish County Parks Planning Team, and must meet required qualifications and/or quality control standards. Any parties interested in donating materials and services, or in proposing a fundraising event should contact Snohomish County Parks, Recreation and Tourism staff listed below.

## Family and Fundraising Committee

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## Project Team

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