

WSDOT conducts cultural resources study on Foster Island

Summer 2010

What is WSDOT studying on Foster Island?

The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) is conducting a cultural resources study on Foster Island as part of the I-5 to Medina: Bridge Replacement and HOV Project. This important safety and mobility project will build a safer floating bridge and give new options to people crossing Lake Washington.

WSDOT is conducting this study in order to confirm that no significant archaeological resources are near the proposed locations of permanent and temporary support structures for the planned SR 520 bridge.

This study will be completed on Foster Island to the north and south of SR 520. WSDOT archeologists will limit disturbances on the island while completing this study.

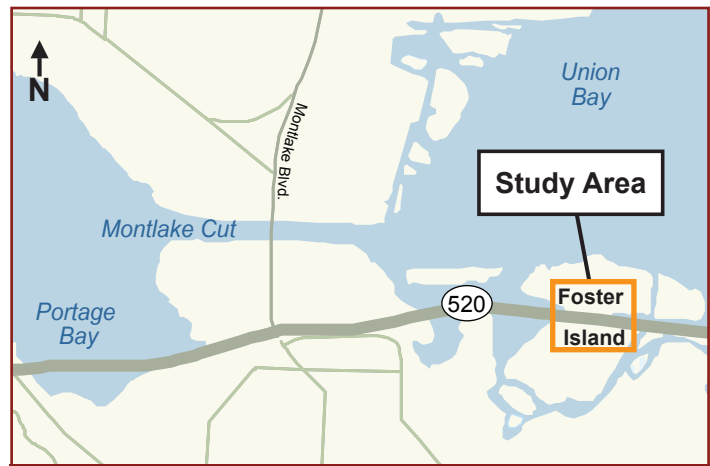
What work is involved in the cultural resources study?

WSDOT archeologists will excavate several areas on Foster Island. The WSDOT field team will use a variety of hand tools to complete this study, including shovels, trowels, and hand augers.

No mechanical, power or forced-pressure tools will be used. No trees larger than 8" in diameter and no ornamental or collection plants will be cut or disturbed. All excavated areas will be backfilled and returned to their pre-investigation appearance to the greatest extent possible.

What is the timeline for this study?

The proposed work will be conducted over approximately 75 consecutive days, including weekends, and is expected to be complete by mid-October. Work will occur for approximately 10 hours per day during daylight hours only.



Foster Island as seen today with SR 520 bridge.

What is the cultural significance of Foster Island?

The historic record shows that the areas on and around Lake Washington were used by several regional tribes. In coordination with tribes, WSDOT is working to minimize the future construction disturbance on Foster Island.

How will WSDOT coordinate with other local agencies on this study?

WSDOT will coordinate with the University of Washington Botanical Gardens and Seattle Parks and Recreation to replace surface vegetation according to the wishes of groundskeepers and established policies of the Washington Park Arboretum.

For more information, contact:

I-5 to Medina: Bridge Replacement and HOV Project

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SR 520 Program:
www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/SR520Bridge

Washington Park Arboretum:
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