



DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR
11511 MAIN ST., P.O. BOX 90012
BELLEVUE, WA 98009-9012

OPTIONAL DETERMINATION OF NON-SIGNIFICANCE (DNS) NOTICE MATERIALS

The attached materials are being sent to you pursuant to the requirements for the Optional DNS Process (WAC 197-11-355). A DNS on the attached proposal is likely. This may be the only opportunity to comment on environmental impacts of the proposal. Mitigation measures from standard codes will apply. Project review may require mitigation regardless of whether an EIS is prepared. A copy of the subsequent threshold determination for this proposal may be obtained upon request.

File No. 07-130285 LO
Project Name/Address: Weona Park Viewing Platform
2110 168th Ave SE
Planner: Matthews Jackson
Phone Number: 425-452-2729

Minimum Comment Period: September 20, 2007; 5 p.m.

Materials included in this Notice:

- Blue Bulletin
- Checklist
- Vicinity Map
- Plans
- Other:

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

Purpose of Checklist:

The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), Chapter 43.21C, requires all governmental agencies to consider the environmental impacts of a proposal before making decisions. An environmental impact statement (EIS) must be prepared for all proposals with probable significant adverse impacts on the quality of the environment. The purpose of this checklist is to provide information to help you and the agency identify impacts from your proposal (and to reduce or avoid impacts from the proposal, if it can be done) and to help the agency decide whether an EIS is required.

Instructions for Applicants:

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Governmental agencies use this checklist to determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant, requiring preparation of an EIS. Answer the questions briefly, with the most precise information known, or give the best description you can.

You must answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. In most cases, you should be able to answer the questions from your own observations or project plans without the need to hire experts. If you really do not know the answer, or if a question does not apply to your proposal, write "do not know" or "does not apply". Complete answers to the questions now may avoid unnecessary delays later.

Some questions ask about governmental regulations, such as zoning, shoreline, and landmark designations. Answer these questions if you can. If you have problems, the governmental agencies can assist you.

The checklist questions apply to all parts of your proposal, even if you plan to do them over a period of time or on different parcels of land. Attach any additional information that will help describe your proposal or environmental effects. The agency to which you submit this checklist may ask you to explain your answers or provide additional information reasonably related to determining if there may be significant adverse impact.

Use of checklist for nonproject proposals:

Complete this checklist for nonproject proposals, even though questions may be answered "does not apply." IN ADDITION, complete the SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS (part D).

For nonproject action, the references in the checklist to the words "project," "applicant," and "property or site" should read as "proposal," "proposer," and "affected geographic area," respectively.

A. BACKGROUND

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:

Weowna Park Viewing Platform

2. Name of applicant:

City of Bellevue Parks Department

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3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:

Applicant:
Jim Bennett, Project Manager
City of Bellevue Parks & Community Services Department
P.O. Box 90012
Bellevue, WA 98009-9012
(425) 452-6881

Contact:
Richard VanDeMark, (425) 222-7645

4. Date checklist prepared:

July 23, 2007

5. Agency requesting checklist:

City of Bellevue, Planning & Community Development Department

6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable): Begin occupancy:

Construction is planned to begin as soon as the permit is issued (April, 2007).

7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.

No.

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.

Weowna Park Drainage Study, Sverdrup Corporation, October 1992
Geotechnical Evaluations, Golder Asso., Sept., 1992
Weowna Beach Community Park, Natural Resource inventory, undated

9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain.

No.

10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.

Building Permit (07-103603 BW
Critical Areas Land Use (not yet submitted)

11. Give brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page. (Lead agencies may modify this form to include additional specific information on project description.)

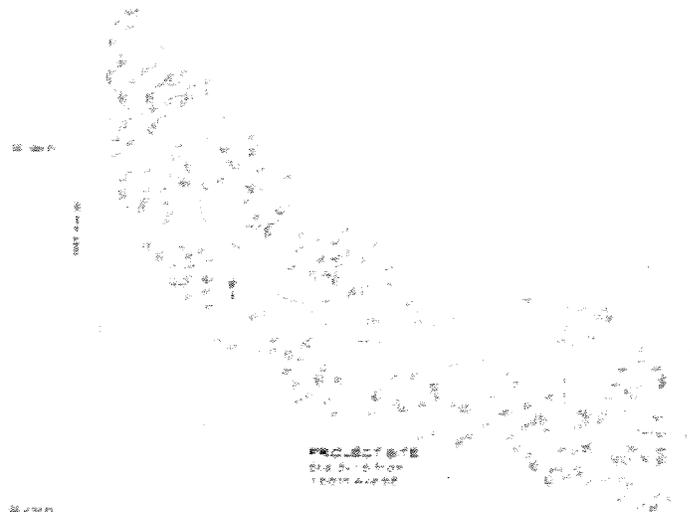
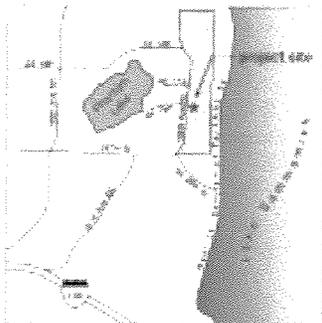
The proposed project is to construct a 216 sq ft. wood-framed and decked viewing platform to observe the artificial "waterfall" at Weowna Park. The platform will be placed at the south edge of the existing 50-foot deep ravine, approximately 100 feet east of the waterfall. A small (approx. 16 square foot) cantilevered portion of the platform will project slightly over the ravine. The design and detailing of the visible structure will replicate the existing viewing platform located approximately 500 feet down slope.

The intent, through the design and construction methods, is to reduce site disturbance. Access to the waterfall is difficult and at times dangerous. The proposed viewing platform allows park visitors to view the erosion control/water quality project without degrading the ravine bank or exposing themselves and the City to unnecessary risk. In addition, the pedestrian traffic over the steep and incised slopes is eroding and destabilizing the soils.

All materials and construction tools shall be hand carried to the site, including pre-cast concrete structural footings. A very small amount (approximately 10 cubic feet) of soil will be hand excavated and removed from the site. No surrounding plants or slope shall be disturbed. No significant trees are located within 50' of the platform.

12. Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit applications related to this checklist.

Site Address 1420 – 168th Ave SE. The Weowna Nature Park is located between Lake Sammamish and Phantom Lake. West Lake Sammamish Parkway is immediately east of the park while its west edge is bordered by 168th Avenue Southeast. The park extends from Southeast 24th Street north to Southeast 9th Street. See figure 1 below for reference to the specific project site within Weowna Nature Park.



B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. Earth

Note: All existing site conditions specified from the 1992 Weowna Park Natural Resource Inventory and Drainage Study reports, unless otherwise noted.

- a. General description of the site (circle one): Steep slopes, rolling, hilly, flat, mountainous, other.

Weowna Park lies within the Phantom Lake drainage basin. The entire basin is approximately 1,500 acres, while the park itself is about 80 acres. The outlet from Phantom Lake currently passes through the park near SE 19th Street before entering a 50-foot deep eroded channel (the ravine) before discharging into Lake Sammamish.

The park is undeveloped woodland, vegetated primarily with second-growth conifers and the associated native underbrush. The drainage channel is not naturally occurring. Sometime in the 1920's local farmers constructed a new outlet channel on the east side of the lake and directed flow to Weowna Park. Over the course of time a defined channel developed resulting in the present watercourse.

A renovation of the Phantom Creek drainage channel was completed in 1998 used a natural systems approach to reduce erosion, by armoring the creek and dissipating energy. The eroded channel was rebuilt, and a meander was created within the existing banks to make the stream appear natural and slow its flow. The two waterfalls were stabilized, and log and rock check-dams were used to further stabilize the channel. The renovation emulates a natural stream that has been stabilized over time by natural processes.

Though the primary purpose of the 1998 project was to stabilize the creek, one of the park's most scenic - and popular - features is the waterfall. The artificial feature was constructed by installing a shotcrete/soil-nail wall. The concrete was colored to match Weowna's soil, and rocks were hand-placed in the wet concrete to match the soil strata, and make it indistinguishable from the surrounding soil.

- b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?

Thirty-seven percent of the site is 15-40% slopes, and 8 percent of the site is over 40% slope. Slopes in the eroded ravine as steep as 1:1.

- c. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)?

The surface layer and sublayer are gravelly to very gravelly sandy loam texture.

- d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe.

Slope stability is dependent upon vegetation, ground and surface water hydrology and underlying geology. Per the recommendation of the Weowna NREP, all work shall be done by hand to maintain slope stability. In addition, surrounding vegetation shall be preserved and no alterations to the existing slope will be made.

e. Describe the purpose, type, and approximate quantities of any filling or grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.

Approximately 10 cubic feet (about 1/3 cubic yard) of soil will be hand excavated and removed from the site to accomodate pre-cast structural footings. No surrounding slope shall be disturbed, and no grading or filling is proposed.

f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe minor erosion that could occur on the site if soils are left exposed during heavy or lengthy rain occurrences.

No erosion shall result from clearing or construction of the viewing platform. The purpose of the platform is to reduce or eliminate erosion from visitors walking through the vegetation to view the waterfall. The project should therefore reduce future impacts.

g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)?

The 216 SF of wood decking is separated by 1/4" joints that will not allow any water to accumulate therefore there should be no impervious surfaces.

h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any.

The intent, through the design and construction methods, is to reduce site disturbance. All materials and construction tools shall be hand carried to the site, including pre-cast concrete structural footings. A very small amount (approximately 10 cubic feet) of soil will be hand excavated and removed from the site. No surrounding plants or slope shall be disturbed. No significant trees are located within 50' of the platform.

2. Air

a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal (i.e., dust, automobile, odors, industrial wood smoke) during construction and when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.

There will be no emissions during construction or upon completion. Construction utilizes hand tools and an electric jackhammer.

b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so generally describe.

No

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any:

The project will use Best Available Control Technology (BACT) and monitoring to ensure that Federal and State air quality standards are met.

3. Water

a. Surface:

- 1) Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into.

Phantom Creek drainage channel is within 100' of the proposed viewing platform.

- 2) Will the project require work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters. If yes, please describe and attach available plans.

Yes. The attached plans and project description detail the extent of the adjacent drainage channel and waterfall. The project is anticipated to have no impact on the stream buffer.

- 3) Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material.

None. No fill materials are to be used in this project.

- 4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

The proposal does not require any surface water withdrawals.

- 5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan.

According to the Federal Flood Insurance Rate map, the site is not located within the 100-year floodplain.

- 6) Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge.

There will be no discharge of waste materials to surface waters.

b. Ground:

- 1) Will ground water be withdrawn, or will water be discharged to ground water? Give general description, purpose and approximate quantities if known.

No ground water will be withdrawn and no water will be discharged to ground water.

- 2) Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example: Domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals....; agricultural; etc.) Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve.

No waste material will be discharged as a result of this project.

c. Water Runoff (including storm water):

1) Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will the water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe.

No impervious surfaces are included as part of this project.

2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe.

During construction, small leaks of petroleum products are possible from the electric jack-hammer . Storm water runoff may carry these materials into wetlands or streams.

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water impacts, if any:

Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be designed and implemented for all construction activities.

4. Plants

a. Check or circle types of vegetation found on the site:

-deciduous tree: red alder, big leaf maple, aspen, cottonwood, vine maple

-evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other

-shrubs: salmonberry, Himalayan blackberry, salal, horsetail, sword fern

-grass: perennial ryegrass

- pasture: None

-crop or grain: None

-wet soil plants: None

- water plants: None

-other types of vegetation: evasive exotics (scotch broom, English Ivy)

b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered?

No disturbance of native vegetation is anticipated.

c. List threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.

No threatened or endangered plant species are known to be on or near the site.

d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any.

No new landscaping is proposed.

5. Animals

a. Circle any birds and animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site:

_birds: red-tailed hawk, chickadees, pileated woodpecker, wrens, sparrows, towhees, green-winged teal, killdeer, robins. **A bird count was not conducted on the site, but local bird watchers have documented sighting more than one hundred species.**

_mammals: **deer**, bear, elk, **beaver**, **raccoon**, skunk, **mole**, **mouse**, mole

_fish: bass, **salmon**, trout, herring, shellfish, other

b. List any threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.

Fisheries data has been summarized from the *Bellevue Critical Areas Update Streams Inventory*, March, 2003. The report finds that the habitat potential for the creek is negligible based on channel type and that salmonids are present, but overall habitat quality is considered of low fish use potential.

Water quality in Phantom Creek has generally been found to be good, with the exception of turbidity and suspended solids (Bellevue Utilities Department, 1995). Turbidity and suspended solids were in the low range in base flow samples, but were moderately high in stormwater samples.

The Phantom and South Sammamish basins, while they may support fish use in lower reaches, are largely high-gradient, confined channels that do not support primary or secondary use by salmonids. These basins have a moderate level of channel and flow modifications as well as total impervious area; however, channel morphology limits their fish use potential.

c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.

This area is part of the North American Flyway which encompasses most of the Puget Sound area and is used extensively by migrating waterfowl.

Project construction and maintenance will have no impact on fish migration.

d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any;

The project will help preserve much of the wildlife habitat by avoiding the drainage channel and vegetated areas.

The intended use of the viewing platform allows future visitor access to view the waterfall without impacting the surrounding slope or vegetable. This will increase the amount and quality of wildlife habitat.

6. Energy and Natural Resources

a. What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc.

Not applicable. No utilities will be utilized on the completed project.

- b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe.

Not applicable.

- c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any:

Not applicable.

7. Environmental Health

- a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire or explosion, spill, or hazardous waste, that could occur as a result of this proposal?

None anticipated.

- (2) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:

The following spill prevention procedures will be used during construction of the site:

**No vehicles will be brought on the project site.
No chemicals will be stored on the project site.
Spill response procedures will also be in place in case of accidental spill.**

b. Noise

- 1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, aircraft, equipment, operation, other)?

No noise exists in the area that would affect the project.

- 2) What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site.

Construction work would utilize a small electric jack-hammer to drive pin piles for the pre-cast structural footings that would generate short-term noise. The maximum noise level generated by this equipment is approximately 100 decibels (dBA) at 3 ft. and 80 decibels 25 ft (dBA) (note: the closest residence is 400 feet from site.). While noise from construction only occurs during construction, it does raise the ambient noise.

Increased construction noise typically results in annoyance to sensitive neighbors. However, construction noise typically becomes most annoying to residences during early morning or evening hours. While daytime construction noise is generally exempt from the noise ordinance, there would be increased noise levels during construction that may result in nuisance impacts to residences located close to the park. It is anticipated that construction would take place between the hours of 8:00 am and 4:00 pm, Monday through Friday.

Once completed, the project will create no noise impacts.

2) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any:

Mitigation for construction noise would include the following measures:

Use of the electric jack-hammer would be scheduled to coincide with the highest ambient noise levels such as peak traffic periods. Similarly, activities would be prohibited during periods when noise impacts on residential areas would be most severe such as during evening hours.

8. Land and Shoreline Use

a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties?

The site is a nature park , with surrounding property being single-family residential.

b. Has the site been used for agriculture? If so describe.

No.

c. Describe any structures on the site.

There is one existing viewing platform, approximately 500 feet downslope.

d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what?

No.

e. What is the current zoning classification of the site?

The current zoning on the site is R-1.8.

f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?

The current comprehensive plan designation for this site is P/SF-L (Park/Single Family-Low)

g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?

Not applicable.

h. Has any portion of the site been classified as an environmentally sensitive area? If so, specify.

The stream and steep slopes that exist on the site are considered to be environmentally sensitive.

i. Approximately how many people will reside or work in the completed project?

Not applicable.

j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?

Not applicable.

k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any:

Not applicable.

a. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land use plans, if any:

The proposed uses are compatible with zoning and the comprehensive plan designation of the site.

9. Housing

a. Approximately how many housing units will be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle or low-income housing.

Not applicable.

b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle or low-income housing.

Not applicable.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any.

Not applicable.

10. Aesthetics

a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed?

The railing on the proposed viewing platform is 3'10" in height. Materials include wood decking and posts with welded wire mesh railing component.

b. What views of the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?

No views in the vicinity would be obstructed.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any:

Natural materials maintain a cohesion with the surroundings and the welded wire railing allows for minimal visual obstruction.

II. Light and Glare

a. What type of light and glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?

No lighting is proposed.

b. Could light or glare from the finished product be a safety hazard or interfere with views?

No.

- c. What existing off-site sources of light and glare may affect your proposal?

None anticipated.

- d. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts of light and glare, if any:

None necessary.

12. Recreation

- a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?

There is a pedestrian trail that runs along the southern side of the drainage channel.

- b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe:

No existing recreational uses would be displaced.

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any:

None are required.

13. Historic and Cultural Preservation

- a. Are there any places or objects listed on, or proposed for, national, state, or local preservation registers known to be on or next to the site? If so, generally describe.

There are no known places or objects listed on or proposed for national, state, or local historic preservation registers located on or next to the site.

- b. Generally describe any landmarks or evidence of historic, archaeological, scientific, or cultural importance known to be on or next to the site.

None are known at the site.

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts, if any:

No mitigation measures are needed.

14. Transportation

- a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site and describe the proposed access to the existing street system. Show on the site plan.

West Lake Sammamish Parkway and 168th Ave SE run adjacent to the site. No vehicular access is allowed or proposed to the site.

- b. Is the site currently served by public transit? If no, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?

The site is currently served by bus route 225 running along 168th SE immediately adjacent to the site.

- c. How many parking spaces would the completed project have? How many would the project eliminate?

No parking spaces developed as a part of the project.

- d. Will the proposal require any new roads, streets, or improvements to existing roads or streets, not including driveways? If so, generally describe them, indicating whether they are public or private.

The proposal will not require any new roads, streets, or improvements to existing roads or streets.

- e. Will the project use water, rail, or air transportation, or occur in the immediate vicinity of these facilities? If so generally describe the use:

The project will not use water or air transportation.

- f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur:

The project is not anticipated to increase vehicular trips to the site.

- g. Describe proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any:

None required.

15. Public Services

- a. Would the project result in the need for public services (for example: fire protection, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe.

No.

- b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any:

None required.

16. Utilities

- a. Circle utilities currently available at the site: electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other. **None**

- b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed.

No new utilities are required.

C. SIGNATURE

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.

Signature

Date Submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'John', written over a horizontal line.

7-31-07

