



DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR
450 110th Ave NE., 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. 08-111684 WG
Project Name/Address: Wilburton Koh Trail/420 112th Ave SE
Planner: Heidi M. Bedwell
Phone Number: 425-452-4862

Minimum Comment Period: 30days, 5/12/2008

Materials included in this Notice:

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

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

12/21/00

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and adherence to these procedures. If you need assistance in completing the checklist or have any questions regarding the environmental review process, please visit or call the Permit Center (425-452-6864) between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday (Wednesday, 10 to 4). Our TTY number is 425-452-4636.

INTRODUCTION**Purpose of the Checklist:**

The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), chapter 43.21c RCW, 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 City of Bellevue identify impacts from your proposal (and to reduce or avoid impacts from the proposal, if it can be done) and to help the City decide whether an EIS is required.

Instructions for Applicants:

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. 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 Planner in the Permit Center 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 its environmental effects. Include references to any reports or studies that you are aware of which are relevant to the answers you provide. The City may ask you to explain your answers or provide additional information reasonably related to determining if there may be significant adverse impacts.

Use of a Checklist for Nonproject Proposals: *A nonproject proposal includes plans, policies, and programs where actions are different or broader than a single site-specific proposal.*

For nonproject proposals, complete the Environmental Checklist even though you may answer "does not apply" to most questions. In addition, complete the Supplemental Sheet for Nonproject Actions available from Permit Processing.

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

Attach an 8½" x 11" vicinity map which accurately locates the proposed site.

Give an accurate, brief description of the proposal's scope and nature:

1. General description:

Wilburton Hill Park is a 122.5-acre park composed of both open space and formal park elements. The Bellevue Botanical Gardens are located within Wilburton Hill Park and include a small visitor center in the 10-acre formal gardens. The park is also home to two ball fields and one soccer field located near the formal areas of the park. Two parking lots (approximately 7 acres total) are also present at the site.

The remaining parkland is preserved open space of second-growth cedar and hemlock overstory. The park's natural areas are available for passive recreation opportunities (hiking, bird-watching, etc.) via a series of open space trails. An existing, unimproved, 4 to 6-foot-wide trail currently links the Wilburton Hill Park trailhead to the International School and SE 7th Place. However, the trail crosses the seasonal Wilburton Tributary in two locations and currently does not allow formal passage of the stream. Currently trail users either cross the streambed by foot during the dry season or are forced to wade through the stream during the wet season.

The project proposes to improve the existing trail by making it a permanent 6-foot wide trail with 4" of woodchips placed on the base of the trail. The entire length of the trail is approximately 1,901 feet, 1,005 feet of which is located within stream or wetland buffer, and 112 feet of which is located within areas of wetland. No bark is proposed to be placed within the wetland. The project also proposes the removal of approximately 39,000 sq. ft. of invasive plants along the trail corridor and the planting of 14,395 sq. ft. of native vegetation.

The proposed project involves the installation of a 20-foot-long, 6-foot-wide wooden bridge over the Wilburton Tributary, which has been classified as a Type F stream and is a tributary of Kelsey Creek, and within a Category II wetland. Also proposed is the installation of two sections of 6-foot-wide boardwalk totaling 140 feet long, one over the Wilburton Tributary and within a Category I wetland buffer (360 sq. ft.) and the other within a Category I wetland (~478 sq. ft). The bridge and boardwalk crossings are intended to connect the existing unimproved trail. The stream and wetland crossings will provide safe pedestrian crossings and will also protect the stream and wetland from erosion and sedimentation due to foot traffic.

All bridge and boardwalk crossings will be assembled on-site with pre-fabricated materials. The wooden bridge will be installed using pin piles located upland of the ordinary high water mark. The bridge will span the entire width of the stream and will allow passage of water, fish and any wood. No in-water work is proposed as part of the bridge installation project. The proposed boardwalks will be constructed on aboveground footings placed approximately every 4 ft.

2. Acreage of site: **Tax parcel 3325059021 is approximately 16.13 acres, parcel 3325059176 is 0.88 acre, and parcel 8046100100 is 105.49 acres. The project site (where construction will occur) is approximately 51,000 sq. ft. (1.17 acres)**
3. Number of dwelling units/buildings to be demolished: **None**
4. Number of dwelling units/buildings to be constructed: **None**
5. Square footage of buildings to be demolished: **N/A**
6. Square footage of buildings to be constructed: **N/A**
7. Quantity of earth movement (in cubic yards): **141 c.y. fill / 4 c.y. cut**
8. Proposed land use: **The project site is the Wilburton Hill Park, which is an open space park managed by**

Please provide one or more of the following exhibits, if applicable to your proposal.
(Please check appropriate box(es) for exhibits submitted with your proposal):

- Land Use Reclassification (rezone)
Map of existing and proposed zoning
- Preliminary Plat or Planned Unit Development
Preliminary plat map
- Clearing & Grading Permit
Plan of existing and proposed grading
Development plans
- Building Permit (or Design Review)
Site plan
Clearing & grading plan
- Shoreline Management Permit
Site plan

A. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. EARTH

- a. General description of the site (circle one): Flat Rolling Hilly Steep slopes Mountains Other:

From the formal areas of the park (north), the site slopes gently downhill to the south, increasing in steepness near the middle of the project area, and then sloping more gradually again at the south end of the project area. The bridge crossings are to be located in the southern part of the open space at the bottom of a steep slope. The improved trail sections meander downhill, through the steeper and more moderately sloped areas.

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

The steepest slope near the project area is approximately 25%. However, the precise areas where the bridge crossings will be installed are relatively flat. The section of trail that passes through wetlands, wetland buffer and stream buffer averages 18% slope.

- c. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any prime farmland.

According to the King County Soil Survey, the site is mapped as Alderwood gravelly sandy loam, 6 – 15% slopes and Alderwood gravelly sandy loam 15 – 30% slopes.

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

No indications of unstable soils were observed.

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

There are no off-site sources of emissions that will affect the project.

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

Standard methods of reducing impacts to air would be utilized, and include keeping all hand-held power equipment in good operating condition and managing disturbed soils as described above under 1h.

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.

The Wilburton Tributary is a seasonal stream that flows only during rainy periods. It has been classified as a Type F stream and drains into Kelsey Creek and eventually into Lake Washington. The project area also contains a Category I wetland and a Category II wetland.

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

The proposed bridge and boardwalk crossings will be built directly over the Wilburton Tributary and an associated wetland. The northern bridge crossing will be installed within an area classified as a Category II wetland. Additionally, the easternmost boardwalk crossing will be installed across the Wilburton Tributary and within the buffer of a Category I wetland, while the westernmost boardwalk will be installed within a Category I wetland. Construction will occur during the dry season when it is expected that the stream will be dry.

- 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.

No material would be installed in or excavated from Wilburton Tributary. However, the bridge crossing and boardwalks will be installed over the Wilburton Tributary in two locations and within the limits of a Category I wetland in one location. However, neither the bridge nor the boardwalk structures are considered fill.

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

No.

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

No. The areas of bridge installation and trail improvement have not been identified as being within a 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.

- pasture
- crop or grain
- wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bulrush, **skunk cabbage**, other: **reed canarygrass, slough sedge, deer fern, lady fern**
- water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other: **water parsley**
- other types of vegetation:

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

Himalayan blackberry is present within the trail corridor. Approximately 39,000 sq. ft. of these shrubs will be cleared by hand to make way for native restoration plantings.

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:

Invasive vegetation will be removed along both sides of trail, and patches of native vegetation will be planted. Any additional plant species removed from the project area for trail construction or bridge crossing installation will be replaced with native plantings and replanted within the immediate vicinity to control erosion and maintain wildlife habitat. It is anticipated that approximately 14,395 sq. ft. of native restoration plantings will occur along the trail corridor.

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: hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, other:

mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other:

fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other:

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

None. The nearest state or federally listed species are likely chinook and coho salmon utilizing Kelsey Creek downstream, and possibly bald eagle (state-listed only) which may occasionally forage on salmon in Kelsey Creek. No fish were observed in Wilburton Tributary, but there are also no obvious barriers between Kelsey Creek and the Wilburton Tributary.

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

No.

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

Invasive vegetation along the trail corridor will be removed as part of the project, and patches will be replaced with native species. It is anticipated that approximately 14,395 sq. ft. of native restoration plantings will occur.

Noise associated with the proposed project would be restricted to the use of hand operated power tools and hand excavation during the construction phase. Construction noise would be limited to normal daytime working hours as dictated by the City of Bellevue's noise policy. There would be no long-term noise associated with the proposed project.

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

As mentioned above, noise would be limited to daylight weekday hours. No other noise-control measures are necessary.

8. LAND AND SHORELINE USE

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

The site is currently managed by the City of Bellevue as a preserved open space. The proposed action would allow improvement of an existing trail and the installation of three bridge/boardwalk crossings. Neighboring properties are single-family residences and the International School.

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

No.

- c. Describe any structures on the site.

A City-owned house (2780 sq. ft., built in 1953) sits on a ridge approximately 1/3 mile from the site of the proposed bridges. In the formal areas of the park, there is a small visitors center and restroom facility.

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

No structures are proposed for demolition.

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

The portion of the project area containing critical areas is zoned R-10 (multi-family residential). The parcel containing the more developed portions of the park to the north is zoned R-1 (single-family residential).

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

MF-L

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

N/A

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

The Wilburton Tributary and wetlands on-site are considered to be "environmentally sensitive" areas. The applicant will apply for a Critical Area Land Use Permit to allow for disturbances within the sensitive areas.

11. LIGHT AND GLARE

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

No light or glare will be produced by the proposed project.

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

No.

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

None.

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

No measures are necessary.

12. RECREATION

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

The Wilburton Hill Park near the project area is used for passive recreational activities such as hiking, bird watching, etc. The proposed improved trail and bridge crossings will encourage further recreational activities. The more developed portions of the park to the north include ball fields, a playground, and the Bellevue Botanical Garden.

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

No. The proposed project will enhance passive recreational use of the park.

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

The proposed project will connect multiple neighborhoods and increase the ability of citizens to use and enjoy the park. The bridge crossings will provide safe passage over the waterway and will preserve the quality and health of the seasonal stream and wetlands.

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.

No places or objects of this type are known to exist in the immediate vicinity.

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

None.

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

- a. Circle utilities currently available at the site: electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other.

No utilities are currently available at the site.

- 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 proposed as part of the project.

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 *K. B. [unclear]* - THE WATERSHED Co.

Date Submitted: 2/25/08

