King County
Department of Natural Resources and Parks
Parks and Recreation Division
King Street Center
201 South Jackson Street, Suite 5702
Seattle, WA 98104
http://www.kingcounty.gov/parks

SEPA ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

A. Background

1. **Name of proposed project, if applicable:**

   Tolt MacDonald Park - Upper Beaver Dam Maintenance

2. **Name of applicant:**

   King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks
   Parks and Recreation Division

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

   Claire Jonson, Capital Project Manager
   King County DNRP, Parks and Recreation Division
   201 South Jackson Street, Room 5702
   Seattle, WA 98104
   206-477-7372 (SEPA)
   KCParks.SEPA@kingcounty.gov

4. **Date checklist prepared:**

   May 15, 2024

5. **Agency requesting checklist:**

   King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks

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

   Construction proposed Summer 2024 or 2025. Anticipated to be constructed within a week during August or September 2024, but may occur in 2025.

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.**

   None.

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.**

    - King County Department of Local Services-Permitting: Shoreline Exemption, Clearing and Grading Permit
    - Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife: Hydraulic Project Approval (issued December 2023)

11. **Give a 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.)**

In 2014 King County Water and Land Resources Division, Stormwater Services Section (WLRD SWS) created the Beaver Dam Response Protocol, to provide guidance to King County staff on how to respond to a beaver dam that is at risk of failing or has already failed. WLRD SWS classified the beaver dam located on Parks Property, Parcel 1725079014, as a severe hazard using the Beaver Dam Response Protocol.

Washington State Department of Ecology regulates engineered dams that are at least 10-acre feet (or 3.2 million gallons) of water. The area was LIDAR surveyed by Geoterra the week of February 13, 2023, and Otak provided ground survey. They estimated the beaver dam area at 13 acres.

The project is to manage a beaver dam at Tolt-MacDonald Park. In 2023 King County Parks obtained authorization from Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) to manage the beaver dam at the outlet of the wetland. The WDFW HPA permit is to allow maintenance of the beaver dam to prevent or reduce flooding. Maintenance measures include removal of a beaver dam (if less than a year old or for other serious safety concerns), notching of beaver dam, installation of beaver dam exclusion fencing, or installation of a pond leveler(s).

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.

The project site is on the northwest corner of Tolt-MacDonald Park in Carnation, WA, King County Parcel # 1725079014.

NE quarter of Section 17, Township 25N, Range 7E WM

GPS Coordinates 47.65405 N, -121.93625 W

B. Environmental Elements

1. Earth

a. General description of the site:

Flat

Circle or highlight one: Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other:

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

<2%

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 agricultural land of long-term commercial significance and whether the proposal results in removing any of these soils.

Alderwood gravelly sandy loam and Seattle muck.

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

No.

e. Describe the purpose, type, total area, and approximate quantities and total affected area of any filling, excavation, and grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.

Approximately one cubic yard of material will be removed from the beaver dam, by hand, as notching, and then subsequently returned to the beaver dam elsewhere.

f. Could erosion occur because of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.
The flow of water could cause minor erosion of beaver dam at the notch. As a corrective action, the material will be replaced in the dam, seeded, and covered with erosion control blankets.

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

0%. No additional impervious surface will be added.

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

Temporary erosion control (TESC) best management practices (BMPs) will be implemented during construction. These measures could include temporary and permanent seeding, erosion control blankets, mulching, plastic covering, silt fences, and dust control.

Schedule work in summer during time of little to no precipitation to minimize potential for

sedimentation.

Slow notching of dam to allow slow, gradual release of water to minimize the potential for downstream erosion.

2. Air

a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal during construction, operation, and maintenance when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.

Short term use of hand tools with minimal emissions (e.g., chain saw). No heavy equipment will be used on the project.

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.

Best management practices will be used during construction phase to minimize emissions.

3. Water

a. Surface Water:

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.

There is a wetland on the south side of the project site. The wetland outlets to a stream to the north, then flows east, and eventually flows into the Snoqualmie River in approximately 2,000 feet.

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.

Yes, the beaver dam is located within the wetland.

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.

Approximately 1 cubic yard of material could be removed from the beaver dam, releasing water, and then the same amount would be subsequently replaced as a corrective action.

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

No

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

No

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

No

b. Ground Water:

1) Will groundwater be withdrawn from a well for drinking water or other purposes? If so, give a general description of the well, proposed uses and approximate quantities withdrawn from the well. Will water be discharged to groundwater? Give a general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

No

2) Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (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.

None

c. Water Runoff (including stormwater):

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

No runoff would result from the completed project.

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

No

3) Does the proposal alter or otherwise affect drainage patterns in the vicinity of the site? If so, describe.

The water level in the wetland may go down temporarily when the beaver dam is modified. After the dam is repaired, the water level in the wetland will be reduced to safer levels due to the flexible pond leveler.

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

The proposed work will be performed during the summer on a day with little or no anticipated precipitation.

Slow notching of dam to allow slow, gradual release of water to minimize the potential for downstream erosion.

4. Plants

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

- ☒ **deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other**
- ☒ **evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other**
- ☒ **shrubs**
- ☐ **grass**
- ☐ **pasture**
- ☐ **crop or grain**
- ☐ **orchards, vineyards, or other permanent crops.**
- ☒ **wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other**
- ☐ **water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other**
- ☐ **other types of vegetation**

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

None

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

The Washington Department of Natural Resources Washington Natural Heritage Program Data Explorer online tool was checked on January 2, 2024, for known occurrences of threatened or endangered plant species. No occurrences were identified in the project vicinity.

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

No landscaping included in project. Any disturbed areas would be small and have erosion control measures applied including seeding of material that will be covered with erosion control blankets.

e. List all noxious weeds and invasive species known to be on or near the site.

None known.

5. Animals

a. List any birds and other animals that have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site.

The Tolt-MacDonald Park property has a variety of wildlife including birds (e.g., hawk, eagle, heron, osprey, songbirds) and mammals (e.g., deer, coyote, bear, beaver, squirrels). Fish (including salmonids) are also present in the Snoqualmie River and tributaries in the river valley located downgradient of the project area.

Examples include:

- **Birds: hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, other:**
- **Mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other:**
- **Fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other:**

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

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Priority Habitat and Species on the Web tool was checked on January 2, 2024 for occurrences of threatened and endangered species within 0.5 mile of the project site. No species were identified to occur within the project area.

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

d. The project site is located within the Pacific Flyway, which is a major north-south route of travel for migratory birds in America, extending from Alaska to Patagonia. Migrating and nesting birds within the project area will be protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

e. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any.

The beaver dam would be left in place to preserve habitat in the area.

f. List any invasive animal species known to be on or near the site.

None known.

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.

The completed project would require no energy.

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

No

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.

None needed.

7. Environmental Health

a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste, that could occur because of this proposal? If so, describe.

No

1) Describe any known or possible contamination at the site from present or past uses.

None known.

The Washington State Department of Ecology Confirmed and Suspected Contaminated Sites mapping tool was checked on January 2, 2024 and did not identify any contaminated sites with one mile of the project address.

2) Describe existing hazardous chemicals/conditions that might affect project development and design. This includes underground hazardous liquid and gas transmission pipelines located within the project area and in the vicinity.

None

3) Describe any toxic or hazardous chemicals that might be stored, used, or produced during the project's development or construction, or at any time during the operating life of the project.

None needed.

4) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

None needed.

5) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any.

BMPs will be in place during construction. The construction contractor would be required to prepare a site-specific health and safety plan and a spill prevention, control, and countermeasures plan.

b. Noise

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

None

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)?

The project will generate short-term noise from hand tools during construction.

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

Operation of construction equipment will follow the operating hours specified in King County Ordinance, Title 12, Public Peace, Safety and Morals which limits construction hours from 7am to 7pm on weekdays and 9am to 7pm on weekends. In addition, heavy construction equipment will not be used.

8. Land and Shoreline Use

a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties? Will the proposal affect current land uses on nearby or adjacent properties? If so, describe.

The project site is a wetland on the Tolt-MacDonald Park property where current uses include hiking and exercise. The adjacent properties are rural lots. The proposal will not affect current land uses or adjacent properties.

b. Has the project site been used as working farmlands or working forest lands? If so, describe. How much agricultural or forest land of long-term commercial significance will be converted to other uses because of the proposal, if any? If resource lands have not been designated, how many acres in farmland or forest land tax status will be converted to nonfarm or nonforest use?

No

1) Will the proposal affect or be affected by surrounding working farm or forest land normal business operations, such as oversize equipment access, the application of pesticides, tilling, and harvesting? If so, how?

No

c. Describe any structures on the site.

There are no structures on the site.

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

No

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

Present use is a Park, zoned as RA-5.

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

Park

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

None

h. Has any part of the site been classified as a critical area by the city or county? If so, specify.

Based on King County iMap the site includes Stream classification U, KC Wetlands Inventory 1920701 Type 1.

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

None

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

None

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

Not applicable

l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land

uses and plans, if any.

This proposal is consistent with the *King County the King County Open Space Plan: Parks, Trails, and Natural Areas* which provides a framework for how the county plans, developments, manages and expands its parks system.

m. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts to agricultural and forest lands of long-term commercial significance, if any.

Not applicable

9. Housing

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

None

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

None

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?

No structures are proposed.

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

None

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

Not applicable

11. Light and Glare

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

None

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.

Not applicable

12. Recreation

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

The site is parks open space used as informal hiking.

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

No

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

Not applicable

13. Historic and Cultural Preservation

a. Are there any buildings, structures, or sites, located on or near the site that are over 45 years old listed in or eligible for listing in national, state, or local preservation registers? If so, specifically describe.

There are no buildings, structures, or sites that are over 45 years old listed in or eligible for listing in national, state, or local preservation registers at the beaver dam. However, there are several archaeological sites elsewhere in Tolt River John MacDonald Park with some being eligible for or potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. These include pre-contact period village and burial sites 45KI505 and 45KI692. These recorded archaeological sites are not in the portion of the park where the beaver dam work is planned, so there will be no negative impacts to any existing cultural resource properties.

b. Are there any landmarks, features, or other evidence of Indian or historic use or occupation? This may include human burials or old cemeteries. Are there any material evidence, artifacts, or areas of cultural importance on or near the site? Please list any professional studies conducted at the site to identify such resources.

There are no recorded landmarks, features, or other known and documented evidence of Indian or historic use or occupation in the immediate beaver dam project area. To date, no human burials or old cemeteries have been recorded at the beaver dam. There are no known instances of identified material evidence, artifacts, or other documented areas of cultural importance at the beaver dam. However, there is known and documented use of the larger Tolt Park area by Native Americans and archaeological materials, including burials, have been identified at Tolt Park. The banks of the Snoqualmie River were used and occupied by people in the past and it should be assumed that past evidence of that use could be in the project vicinity; however, it has yet to be formally identified. Systematic professional studies have occurred in various parts of Tolt Park where projects occurred over the past 40 years, but the beaver dam location was not previously investigated as part of the earlier project work. The beaver dam area is mostly under water.

c. Describe the methods used to assess the potential impacts to cultural and historic resources on or near the project site. Examples include consultation with tribes and the department of archeology and historic preservation, archaeological surveys, historic maps, GIS data, etc.

King County Parks submitted this project to the King County Historic Preservation Program for review to assess the potential impacts to cultural and historic resources on or near the beaver dam. The King County Historic Preservation Program reviews data from previously completed archaeological surveys available on the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP)'s Washington Information System for Architectural and Archeological Records Data (WISAARD) repository, other nearby investigations, historic maps, aerial images, GIS data, ethnographic information, and other research databases to assign a sensitivity risk factor to the project and treatment recommendations. The King County Historic Preservation Program determined there is high potential for encountering intact buried archaeological sites in the ground in the area surrounding the beaver dam based on the known culture history and environment. But there is low potential for this beaver dam project to impact any such resources, if present, because the only planned disturbance will be on the actual beaver dam structure in the water. That work will not result in any disturbance of the ground around the beaver dam. As such, the King County Historic Preservation Program said that work by trained individuals may proceed with

beaver dam work following the standard Inadvertent Discovery Plan (IDP). This project will comply with all applicable laws and regulations concerning cultural resources.

d. Proposed measures to avoid, minimize, or compensate for loss, changes to, and disturbance to resources. Please include plans for the above and any permits that may be required.

Negative impacts to historic properties are not expected during this project. No ground disturbance will occur as part of this project. Potential impacts are limited to the actual beaver dam structure. No excavation permits are currently required to complete the project. If future work were to identify potentially significant cultural resources, then King County Parks will obtain any needed state-issued Excavation Permits prior to project work. In addition, King County Parks will follow the Inadvertent Discovery Plan (IDP) for this project. So, project work will be completed by crews that have been trained in how to recognize cultural resources and what to do if they are found.

14. Transportation

a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site or affected geographic area and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any.

None

b. Is the site or affected geographic area currently served by public transit? If so, generally describe. If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?

No

c. Will the proposal require any new or improvements to existing roads, streets, pedestrian, bicycle, or state transportation facilities, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).

No

d. Will the project or proposal use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe.

No

e. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project or proposal? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur and what percentage of the volume would be trucks (such as commercial and nonpassenger vehicles). What data or transportation models were used to make these estimates?

None

f. Will the proposal interfere with, affect, or be affected by the movement of agricultural and forest products on roads or streets in the area? If so, generally describe.

No

g. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any.

Not applicable

15. Public Services

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

No

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

Not applicable

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.

None

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.

DocuSigned by:
Claire Jonson
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5/30/2024 | 10:28 AM PDT

Date: _____

Signee and Position: Claire Jonson, Capital Project Manager

Agency/Organization: King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks, Parks and Recreation Division