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:

New South Vashon Levy Trailhead Project and Trail System Improvements

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:

TRAILHEAD (New South Vashon Levy Trailhead Project)
Leigh Nelson, Project Manager
King County Parks and Recreation Division
201 South Jackson Street, Room 6500
Seattle, WA 98104
206-477-7372 (SEPA)
KCParks.SEPA@kingcounty.gov

TRAILS (Trail System Improvements)
Zachary Bergen, Open Space Team
King County Parks and Recreation Division
201 South Jackson Street, Room 6500
Seattle, WA 98104
(206) 477-7372 (SEPA)
KCParks.SEPA@kingcounty.gov

4. Date checklist prepared:
November 20, 2025

5. Agency requesting checklist:

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

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

Construction of the trailhead and trail system improvements is expected to begin in Spring 2026 and extend into the summer. There may be a need to continue trail renovation work beyond this timeline estimate depending on funding and resource availability.

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

There are currently no plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with the trailhead component of the project. Future recreation trail system improvements may occur utilizing adaptive management practices, in response to any new information, new land acquisitions, changes to circumstances on the ground, changes in new laws, new recreational use patterns and trends, and new scientific and technological developments. Additional SEPA review, if required, will be conducted for any future trail system improvements not covered within this proposal.

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

TRAILHEAD

The following environmental documentation was prepared and/or reviewed in connection with the trailhead component of the project:

- Confluence (Confluence Environmental Company). 2025. New South Vashon Levy Trailhead: Critical Areas Study. Prepared for King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks, Seattle, Washington, by Confluence, Seattle, Washington.
- GeoEngineers. 2005. Geotechnical engineering and environmental assessment services, LDS Morningstar Farm. Prepared for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Issaquah, Washington, by GeoEngineers, Seattle, Washington.
- GeoResources. 2025. Geotechnical Engineering Report. Prepared for King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks, Seattle, Washington, by GeoResources, Fife, Washington.
- King County Parks. 2025. New South Vashon Trailhead: Stormwater Technical Information Report. Prepared to demonstrate compliance with King County Surface Water Design Manual.

TRAILS

Environmental information was gathered and reviewed to develop the proposed South Vashon Trail System Concept Plan Map (completed October 2025 and attached to this proposal), through a field-based trail suitability assessment conducted by King County Parks that considered existing site

conditions such as topography, vegetation, drainage, existing trails and known environmental constraints. No stand-alone report was prepared, the assessments findings are reflected in the Concept Plan Map.

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.

King County Parks is unaware of any applications or pending approvals for other proposals directly affecting the property covered by this proposal.

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

TRAILHEAD

- King County Department of Local Services, Clearing & Grading Permit
- King County Historic Preservation Program (HPP) Review

TRAILS

- King County Department of Local Services, Clearing & Grading Permit (request for concurrence under King County Parks Backcountry Trail Development Programmatic Clearing and Grading Permit)
- King County Historic Preservation Program (HPP) Review

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.)

The proposed project includes two components: development of a trailhead with parking facilities and trail system improvements. Each are described below.

The project area is located on property owned by King County and managed by King County Parks. The site contains an existing network of trails that were originally developed by previous landowners as informal hiking routes and later as part of a planned recreational component associated with a proposed camp. These trails were not formally designed or managed as part of a public park system.

The proposed project would formalize and manage public access by establishing a designated trailhead and improving the existing trail system as part of a broader site activation effort. The trailhead and trail system improvements are planned to be implemented concurrently and maybe completed one or more contractors and/or King County Parks crews.

TRAILHEAD

The trailhead component of the project will provide a new vehicular access driveway from 131st Avenue SW, parking for six passenger vehicles and one Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible vehicle, relocation of an existing potable waterline, and a new enhanced pedestrian route

to an existing trail system. The new access driveway will include an access gate and upgrades to an existing roadside drainage culvert. The project will occur in an upland area, outside of all stream and wetland buffers. The purpose of the project is to provide a safe and accessible trailhead parking lot.

TRAILS

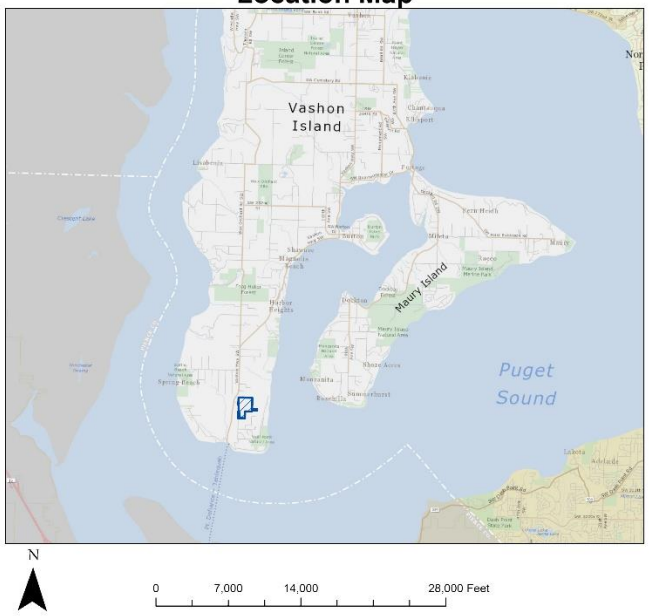
The trail system component of the project will improve the existing trail network within the property, to provide sustainable, non-motorized recreation opportunities, enhance user experience, and reduce maintenance needs. The project will decommission approximately 4,458 linear feet of existing trails that are eroding or poorly aligned and construct approximately 1,281 linear feet of new trail built to King County Parks' standards for sustainability and accessibility. Decommissioned trail segments will be restored to natural conditions. This work represents a 71% reduction in total trail length, emphasizing quality, safety and resource protection over density.

Trail work will include tread surface and drainage improvements, vegetation management, and installation of minor trail structures where necessary to reduce erosion. The trails will accommodate hiking, bicycling, and horseback riding, although no horse-trailer parking is included as part of this project. There may be opportunities to improve user experience and reduce potential trail conflicts between users by designating specific trails and/or trail segments for single-use types versus open to all-uses.

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 is located near the south end of Vashon Island off of 131st Avenue SW. The project is in the northwest quarter of Section 1 in Township 21 North and Range 2 East, Willamette Meridian. See the location and vicinity maps below. The trailhead and trail system improvements occur on a collection of adjoining parcels tentatively referred to as "131st Avenue SW Site Interim Name,". The trailhead is located on King County tax parcels 0121029137 and 0121029003—see the site map below. The trail improvements are generally situated north and east of the planned trailhead site on King County tax parcels 0121029003, 0121029137, 0121029002, 0121029121, 0121029122, 0121029123 and 0121029055, totaling approximately 51.36 acres held in fee (see the trail map below).

"131st Avenue SW Site Interim Name"
Location Map



King County PARKS Your Big Backyard

Property Boundary

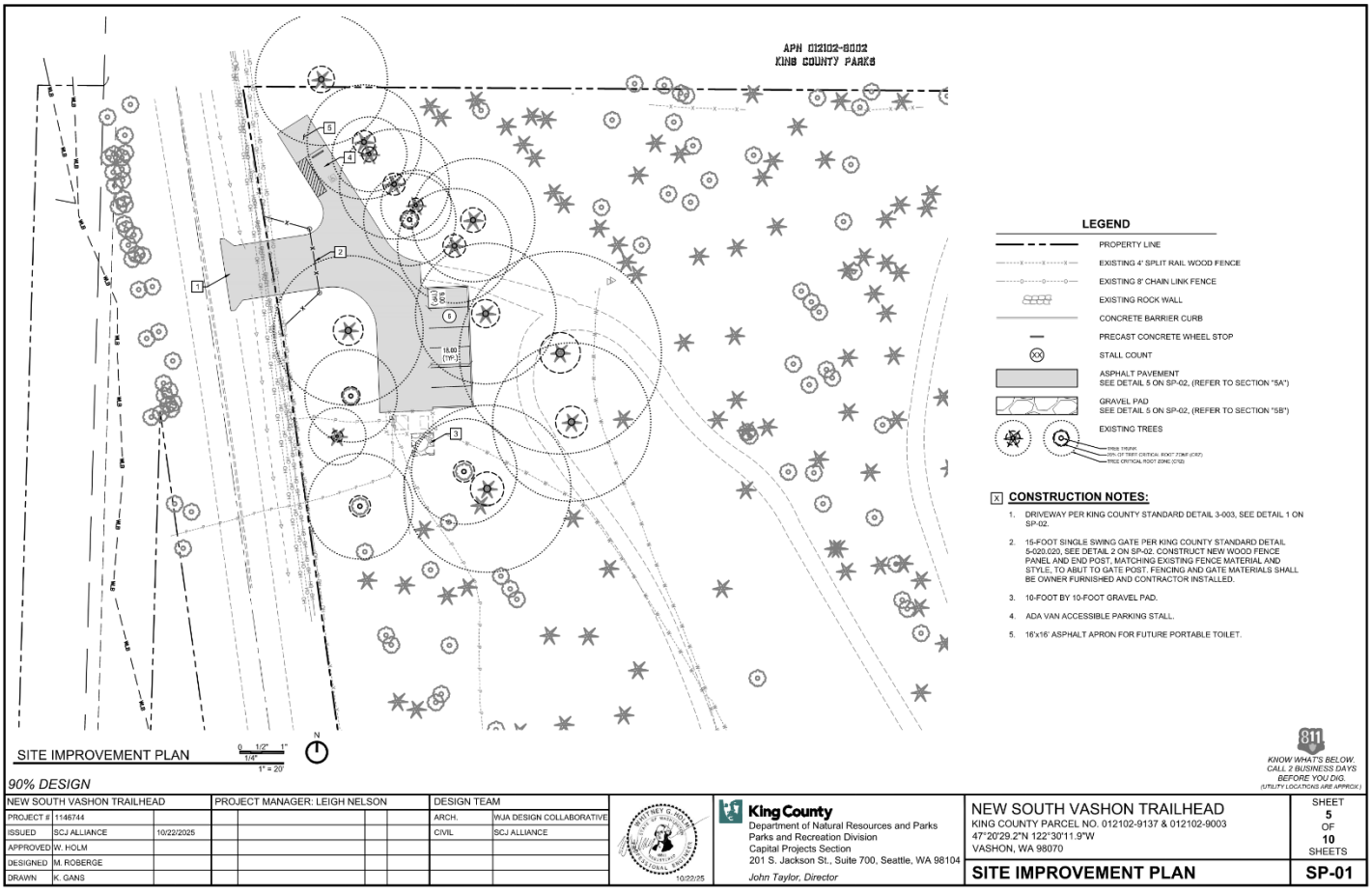
EPI - Bergen - 2025

"131st Avenue SW Site Interim Name"
Vicinity Map

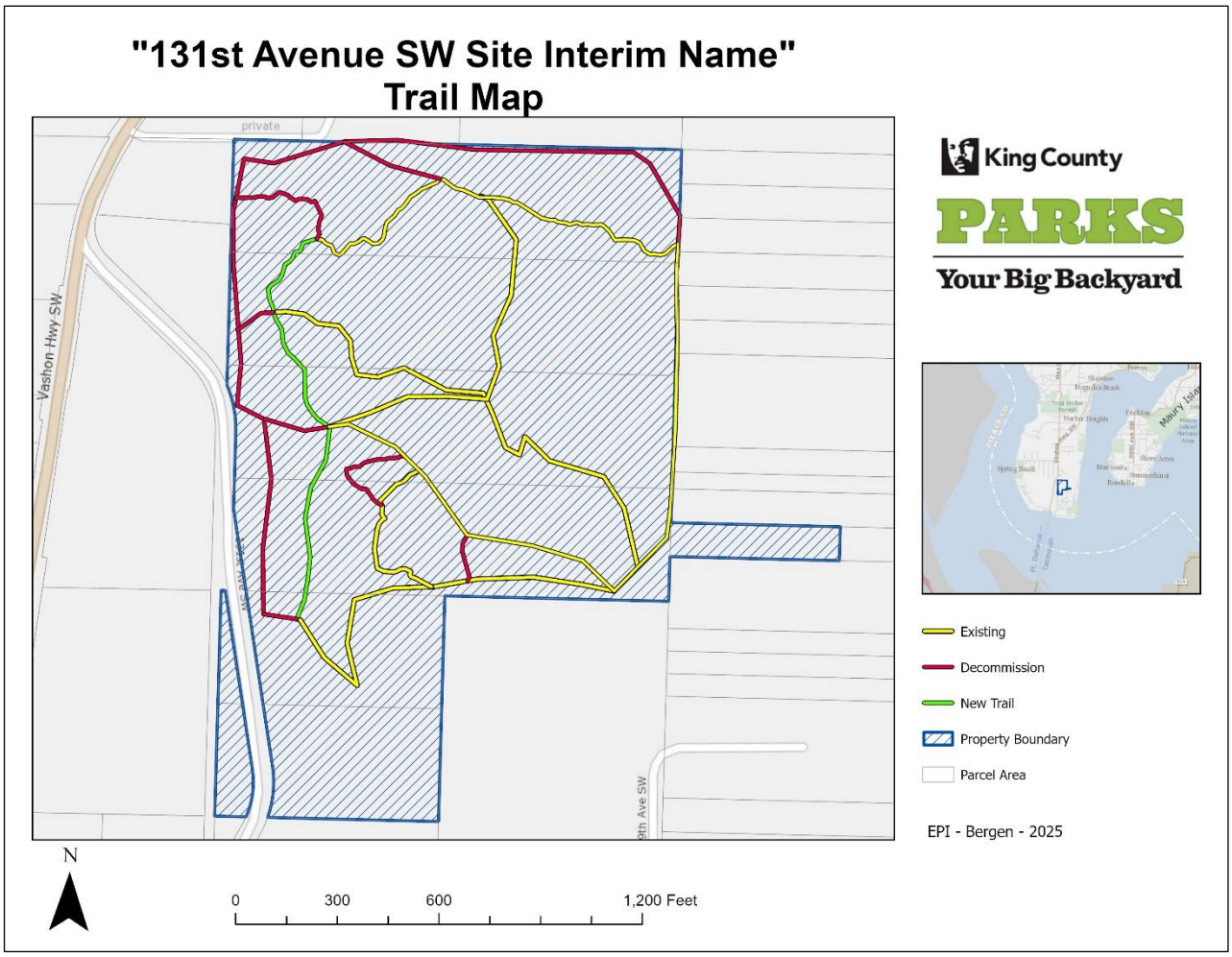
King County PARKS Your Big Backyard

Property Boundary

EPI - Bergen - 2025



TRAILHEAD SITE PLAN



TRAIL SITE MAP

B. Environmental Elements

1. Earth

a. General description of the site:

The northern 40 acres of the King County-owned lands are forested and have not been developed. The middle portion of the site occupies an upland plateau situated between 131st Avenue Southwest and 125th Place Southwest. The site slopes steeply to the east from the plateau toward Puget Sound and Quartermaster Harbor. The western portion of the site slopes down towards 131st Avenue Southwest. The project site varies from approximately 100 to 300 feet in elevation and consists primarily of rolling forested uplands. Slopes within the project area generally range from 10 to 20 percent, with localized steeper areas (up to about 40 percent) along the northeastern boundary, outside of the primary trail alignments. Overall, the terrain is moderately sloped and suitable for sustainable non-motorized trail construction with minimal grading or earthwork anticipated.

Circle or highlight one: Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other:
The topography is generally rolling, with slopes ranging from 10-20 percent and localized steeper areas up to about 40 percent outside the northeastern corner. The terrain consists of gentle upland hills and shallow drainages typical of southern Vashon Island.

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

The steepest slope in the trailhead area is approximately 40%. This area will be avoided. Most of the proposed trail construction and improvement areas are located on rolling upland terrain with moderate slopes. The proposed trail segments occur primarily on slopes ranging from 10% to 20%, with isolated portions of the property containing steeper slopes up to approximately 40% located outside the trail alignment. Careful avoidance of excessively steep or unsustainable slopes was incorporated into the trail layout and design process to ensure long-term stability and sustainability of the trail system.

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.

The Soil Survey (NRCS 2025) maps two soils on the site, which are both upland (non-hydric) soils: Alderwood gravelly sandy loam (15 to 30 percent slopes) and Everett-Alderwood gravelly sandy loam (0 to 15 percent slopes).

The soil conditions at the site consist of topsoil underlain by loose to medium dense silty sand and sand and some gravel and cobbles. This mixture of soil types is glacial in origin (GeoEngineers 2005; GeoResources 2025).

References:

- GeoEngineers. 2005. Geotechnical engineering and environmental assessment services, LDS Morningstar Farm. Prepared for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Issaquah, Washington, by GeoEngineers, Seattle, Washington.
- GeoResources. 2025. Geotechnical Engineering Report. Prepared for King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks, Seattle, Washington, by GeoResources, Fife, Washington.
- NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service). 2025. Web soil survey [online database]. U.S. Department of Agriculture, NRCS, Soil Science Division, Washington D.C. Available at: http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/HomePage.htm (accessed on February 21, 2025).

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

There is no history or surface indications of unstable soils in the area.

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.

TRAILHEAD

Filling, excavation, and grading will need to occur for construction of the trailhead component of the project, totaling 5,100 square feet. Estimated excavation will be approximately 19 cubic yards, and fill will be approximately 132 cubic yards, for a net amount of 113 cubic yards of fill. Excavated material will be reutilized on-site. Imported fill will be soil from a King County approved source that can verify the fill is free of invasive species.

TRAILS

For the trail system improvements, minor excavation and grading will be required to establish a sustainable and well-defined trail trend. Work will primarily involve hand-built techniques and use of a mini-excavator to realign existing trail segments and construct new sections with consistent grades and adequate drainage. No off-site import or export of soil is currently anticipated. However, minor adjustments could occur during construction if necessary.

f. Could erosion occur because of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.

TRAILHEAD

Erosion could occur during grading or construction of the trailhead; however, temporary erosion and sediment control (TESC) best management practices (BMPs) will be implemented during construction to reduce the potential for erosion.

TRAILS

Trail design will minimize long term erosion potential by routing new and reconstructed trails in sustainable locations that are less prone to erosion. Some minor erosion could occur during or immediately following construction due to soil disturbance. However, careful field verification and design will avoid unstable slopes and maintain natural drainage patterns. Standard best management practices would be implemented to minimize erosion and sediment transport, such as limiting the extent of soil disturbance, stabilizing exposed soils and conducting work during appropriate weather conditions.

Trails will be constructed with a target tread of approximately 36 inches or less and limited grading, reducing the overall footprint and minimizing the potential for erosion. Decommissioning of eroding and poorly aligned trail segments will restore natural slope and drainage conditions and promote native vegetation, further reducing the potential for erosion.

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

The site is approximately 50 acres in size. The trailhead and trails projects will add approximately 5,100 square feet and 6,400 square feet of new impervious surfaces, respectively. Accordingly, the site will have less than 1% impervious cover.

Although packed dirt trails are classified as impervious under the King County Surface Water Design Manual, they remain partially permeable compared to asphalt or concrete surfaces. The trails will

be naturally surfaced using native mineral soil, with localized areas hardened using gravel or on-site rock where necessary to improve durability and drainage.

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

TRAILHEAD
TESC BMPs will be implemented during construction of the trailhead parking area. These measures may include stabilized construction entrances, temporary and permanent seeding, silt fences, construction stormwater infiltration, dust control, or other suitable TESC BMPs identified by the project's Certified Erosion and Sediment Control Lead (CESCL).

TRAILS
Trail alignment and layout have been designed to follow natural contours and avoid areas prone to drainage concentration. Grade reversals and out-sloped tread will be incorporated to maintain natural surface drainage and minimize erosion. The need for TESC BMPs is not anticipated but if required, temporary erosion control fabric, straw wattles, or wood straw will be used during trail construction to reduce the risk of erosion and control sediment. The potential for erosion will also be reduced by minimizing tree removal, retaining existing native vegetation, and avoiding grading beyond the defined trail corridor. Decommissioned trail segments will be stabilized by placing woody debris, scattering forest litter, and replanting native vegetation.

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.

TRAILHEAD
Emissions to the air resulting from construction of the trailhead parking area would be from the operation of construction equipment and heavy machinery such as backhoes. This quantity of emissions is expected to be negligible. During operation and maintenance of the parking lot, emissions would come from vehicles accessing the parking lot. The parking lot is relatively small (7 stalls total) and would not result in an appreciable increase in vehicle use on Vashon Island. Therefore, any increase in emissions will be negligible.

TRAILS
The majority of trail construction will be performed using hand tools and will not generate measurable emissions. Limited use of small fuel-powered mini excavators or motorized carriers may occur for grading and material placement, producing minor temporary exhaust and dust emissions during active construction. These emissions will be short term and localized. Once construction is complete, the project will not generate new ongoing emission sources, as trails will be used exclusively for nonmotorized recreation such as hiking, bicycling, and horseback riding.

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

There are no off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect either component of the project.

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

The contractor will be encouraged to limit idling of vehicles to the extent practicable and will use dust control as needed. No other measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air are warranted given the lack of significant long-term emissions associated with operation of the trailhead or trails.

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.

One wetland was identified within 300 feet of the site; Wetland A. Wetland A is a depressional wetland on the west side of 131st Avenue SW. It is an isolated wetland with no outlet and is not associated with a navigable water. Most of Wetland A is an unvegetated pond with a distinct topographic break (roughly a 3-foot drop) from the surrounding land, but the wetland does extend beyond the topographic break in areas to the north, east, and south. To the north, the pond connects to an additional ponded area more than 300 feet from the site via an incised swale. Water in the swale does not flow strongly enough or for a great enough distance to develop an ordinary high-water mark. The boundary of the swale was determined by breaks in topography and the presence of standing water (Confluence 2025).

The Statewide Washington Integrated Fish Distribution database (WDFW 2025) and Forest Practices Application Mapping Tool (WDNR 2025a) map a Type N water running east to west through parcel 0121029137 near the project area, across 131st Avenue SW, and through Wetland A. However, the site investigation conducted for the critical areas study revealed no evidence of a stream or associated culvert in this location or elsewhere within 300 feet of the site (Confluence 2025).

References:

- Confluence (Confluence Environmental Company). 2025. New South Vashon Levy Trailhead: Critical areas study. Prepared for King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks, Seattle, Washington, by Confluence, Seattle, Washington.
- WDFW (Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife). 2025. Statewide Washington integrated fish distribution [online database]. WDFW, Olympia, Washington. Available at: https://geo.wa.gov/datasets/wdfw::statewide-washington-integrated-fish-distribution/explore?location=47.763983%2C-122.358382%2C14.00 (accessed on February 21, 2025).
- WDNR (Washington Department of Natural Resources). 2025a. Forest practices application mapping tool. Olympia, Washington. Available at: https://fpamt.dnr.wa.gov/default.aspx# (accessed on February 21, 2025).

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 project will not require any work over, in, or adjacent to the wetland, and all work will be completed outside of the wetland 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.**

No fill or dredge material will be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands.

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

The proposal will not require surface water withdrawals or diversions.

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

The proposal does not lie 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.**

The proposal involves no discharge of waste materials to surface waters.

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 well is planned to be constructed, and no water will be discharged to groundwater.

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.**

No waste material will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources.

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.**

TRAILHEAD

Stormwater runoff from the trailhead driveway and parking lot will be dispersed into the surrounding pervious areas using best management practices that meet the requirements of the King County Surface Water Design Manual. The majority of runoff will be generated from 4,250 square feet of impervious surfaces associated with the new paved ADA accessible parking stalls. This runoff will be collected and conveyed to the existing conveyance system on 131st Avenue SW.

TRAILS

The primary source of runoff from the trails will be precipitation. Trail design will maintain the site's natural hydrology by incorporating a 5% out-slope on trail tread surfaces, allowing rainfall not intercepted by the forest canopy to sheet flow gently across the trail and disperse immediately on to the adjacent forest floor. This design prevents water from channelizing along the trail and reduces erosion potential. No stormwater collection or conveyance systems are proposed for the trails. Runoff will infiltrate naturally into the forest soil, following existing drainage patterns.

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

Pet waste from dogs could be a source of fecal coliform contamination to surface water bodies. For all King County Parks, however, dogs are required by law to be on a leash and any person with a pet animal shall be responsible for removing animal feces from the park. Therefore, occurrences of pet waste entering ground or surface waters will be negligible. No other waste materials will be generated by the trailhead parking lot or trails.

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

TRAILHEAD

Proposed site improvements for the trailhead parking lot will not alter or affect existing drainage patterns.

TRAILS

Trail routes will be designed to manage on-site runoff and minimize impacts to surrounding areas. The design will maintain natural side slope drainage through trail out-slope and frequent grade reversals, allowing water to sheet- flow across the tread and disperse naturally.

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

TRAILHEAD

Proposed site improvements do not alter or affect existing drainage patterns; surface water runoff will be controlled using appropriate BMPs identified in the King County Surface Water Design Manual.

TRAILS

Exposed soils from trail renovation and new construction will be stabilized using weed-free wood straw, native plantings, forest debris layering, and other best management practices as needed. Rock surfacing and hardening will be applied in select areas to prevent erosion and maintain stable, sustainable trail tread.

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?

TRAILHEAD

Open grassy areas and some limited shrubs under a forested canopy will be removed to construct the proposed park trailhead access upgrades (around 5,100 square feet). No trees will be removed as part of the project.

TRAILS

Trail renovation and new construction may require limited clearing of small understory vegetation to expose mineral soil and shape the trail tread, typically ranging from two to five feet in width. A minimal number of small trees may be felled where necessary for safety or to maintain proper trail alignment. All disturbed areas will be stabilized and restored using native vegetation and natural forest debris to minimize long-term impacts.

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 for known occurrences of threatened or endangered plant species. No occurrences were identified in the project area (WDNR 2025b).

Reference:
WDNR (Washington Department of Natural Resources). 2025b. Washington natural heritage program data explorer. WDNR, Olympia, Washington. Available at: https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/174566100f2a47bebe56db3f0f78b5d9/page/Home/ (accessed on February 21, 2025).

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

TRAILHEAD
Clearing for the trailhead driveway and parking lot will be the minimum necessary to construct the project. Existing surrounding vegetation will be preserved, and no landscaping is proposed.

TRAILS
Restoration work associated with trail renovation and construction may include revegetation using native plant species to stabilize disturbed soils and restore natural forest conditions. Efforts will focus on retaining existing trees where feasible and using natural materials such as woody debris or boulders to maintain a natural aesthetic.

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

The general project area contains patches of reed canarygrass (King County non-regulated, Class C), Himalayan blackberry (King County non-regulated, Class C), tansy ragwort (King County non-regulated, Class C), and Scotch broom (King County non-regulated Class B).

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.

Examples include:

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

The site occurs in forested conditions typical of the Puget Lowlands and is assumed to provide habitat for common forest species including raptors, songbirds, deer, coyote, and a variety of other small mammals. Small pockets of open grassland are also present and may support common wildlife species associated with that habitat type.

During the site investigation for the critical areas study, no active breeding sites were identified and there were no incidental observations of protected species in the study area. Results of the habitat survey for the species specified in King County Code and those identified in the database search as potentially present on the site are summarized in the critical areas study (Confluence 2025). Although no bald eagle or osprey activity or nests were observed during the site visit, the property is forested with trees suitable for an eagle, osprey, or other raptor nest and is close enough to Puget Sound to support hunting by raptors.

Reference:
Confluence (Confluence Environmental Company). 2025. New South Vashon Levy Trailhead: Critical Areas Study. Prepared for King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks, Seattle, Washington, by Confluence, Seattle, Washington.

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

No occurrences of threatened and endangered species were documented within 0.5 mile of the project site (WDFW 2025). The site was also evaluated by Confluence (2025) for the potential presence and preferred habitats of threatened and endangered species.

References:
- Confluence (Confluence Environmental Company). 2025. New South Vashon Levy Trailhead: Critical Areas Study. Prepared for King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks, Seattle, Washington, by Confluence, Seattle, Washington.
- WDFW. 2025. PHS on the web interactive mapping [online database]. WDFW Habitat Program, Olympia, Washington. Available at: https://geodataservices.wdfw.wa.gov/hp/phs/ (accessed on July 8, 2025).

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

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.

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

TRAILHEAD
All new site improvements associated with the trailhead driveway and parking lot will be located and constructed outside of the wetland and the wetland buffer and no trees will be removed, thereby limiting impacts to wildlife or suitable habitats.

TRAILS
Trails will be designed to improve sustainability of existing recreation use while minimizing wildlife impacts. If trees are to be removed, it will occur outside of the generally accepted bird breeding window or will be surveyed for nesting birds prior to removal. If active nests are found, tree removal will be deferred until the nest is no longer active. If any sensitive, threatened or

endangered species are observed during project work, construction activities will follow biologist-recommend buffers or avoidance measures. Decommissioning eroding or redundant trails will reduce human activity in certain areas and decrease disturbance to wildlife. Providing well-defined, sustainably designed trails will discourage off-trail travel, helping to protect wildlife habitat and maintain natural movement corridors.

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

Invasive or range-expanding wildlife species observed or likely present in the project vicinity include European starling, house sparrow, barred owl, and bullfrog, all of which are common throughout the lowlands of western Washington, including Vashon Island.

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.

This proposal will not require energy needs during operation.

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

The project will not affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties.

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.

No energy conservation features or other measures to reduce or control energy impacts are warranted because the completed project will not require energy use.

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.

TRAILHEAD

Spills or leaks from equipment used during construction are possible, but unlikely, events to occur from this proposal. The contractor will be required to prepare a spill prevention, control, and countermeasures plan and will maintain spill response kits on-site at all times and will respond to any accidental spills immediately.

TRAILS

The proposed project will result in designated outdoor recreation trails open to non-motorized use; therefore, potential for environmental health hazards and risk of fire are low. During trail construction, Washington DNR Industrial Fire Precaution Level requirements will be followed, ensuring the safe operation and storage of motorized equipment and fuel and the implementation of precautionary measures to prevent wildfire risk during fire season.

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

The Washington State Department of Ecology Confirmed and Suspected Contaminated Sites mapping tool was checked on July 8, 2025, and the following contaminated site was identified: Morningstar Farm (former name of the property). Between 2000 and 2017, soil testing found the surface soil was contaminated with arsenic and lead. This contamination is a result of air pollution from the former Asarco smelter in Tacoma. Cleanup for properties contaminated by the Asarco smelter is being conducted through the Voluntary Cleanup Program (Ecology 2025). The proposed project does not trigger any requirements for cleanup.

Reference:
Ecology (Washington Department of Ecology). 2025. Contaminated Sites List. Available at: https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/reports/cleanup/contaminated (accessed July 7, 2025).

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.

The proposed project involves only a shallow ground disturbance that would not be expected to hit any gas, liquid, or other substance pipelines. The contractor for the trailhead driveway and parking lot will be required to locate any underground utilities prior to any ground disturbance.

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.

<u>TRAILHEAD</u>
Storage of toxic or hazardous chemicals on-site will be avoided whenever possible during construction of the trailhead driveway and parking lot. Appropriate secondary containment will be used for any fuel or other hazardous materials needed during construction and the contractor will be required to maintain spill response kits on-site at all times. During normal park operation, toxic and hazardous chemicals will not be stored, used, or produced on-site. The King County Parks system is certified Salmon-Safe.

<u>TRAILS</u>
Fuel and gasoline will be used to power small equipment such as mini-excavators, compactors, and chainsaws during trail renovation and construction. These activities will produce minor, short-term

emissions, and all fueling and storage will follow Washington DNR Industrial Fire Precaution Level requirements to ensure safe handling and protection of natural resources.

4) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

No special emergency services will be required during construction or operation of the proposed project.

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

TRAILHEAD

BMPs will be in place during construction to reduce or control environmental health hazards. The construction contractor will be required to prepare a site-specific health and safety plan and a spill prevention, control, and countermeasures plan. The contractor will be required to maintain spill response kits on-site at all times, and any suspected contamination will be reported to the Washington Department of Ecology for guidance on cleanup actions if needed.

TRAILS

Fuel used during trail construction will be stored in spill-proof containers, and all equipment operators will be trained in safe handling procedures. Equipment will be regularly inspected for leaks, and spill response kits will be maintained on-site to enable immediate cleanup in the event of a leak or spill. Fuel storage and refueling will occur only in designated upland areas and any suspected contamination will be reported to the Washington Department of Ecology for guidance on cleanup actions if needed.

b. Noise

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

There is limited anthropogenic noise at this site. Occasional traffic can be heard from the main road and associated ferry traffic. Vehicle noise may be more frequent during summer months when visitor traffic is increased.

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 during construction. Equipment used to construct the trailhead will include diesel-powered machines like excavators and pavers. Equipment used in trail construction includes hand tools, chainsaws, motorized wheelbarrows, and mini-excavators used to transport and place materials as needed. The project will adhere to standard construction hours of 7:00 am to 7:00 pm on weekdays (KCC 12.86.520). No work on weekends is anticipated.

The trails will be open during daylight hours only and use of the site will be limited to passive recreation; therefore, the project is not anticipated to generate any significant noise during operation.

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 heavy equipment operation to 7am to 7pm on weekdays and 9am to 7pm on weekends. Construction is not anticipated on the weekends for this project. In addition, construction equipment will not be allowed to idle on-site.

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 site is currently used as an informal park for passive recreational purposes (e.g., hiking/walking). Adjacent properties are currently in rural residential use. The current proposal will not affect current land uses on the site 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 non-forest use?

The project site has not been used as working farmlands or working forest lands in recent times.

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?

The project will not affect or be affected by working farm or forest land.

c. Describe any structures on the site.

The site was formerly operated as a horse boarding facility and has numerous buildings such as barns and feed stations. An existing lodge building is located in the southwest portion of the site, and a residence is located in the southeast portion of the site. Three water supply wells are located on the west slope of the site. The water wells are used to supply potable water to the existing facilities. The southern portion of the site previously contained a pond. The pond was unlined and artificially supplied with water to maintain the water level. Water is no longer pumped into this area, and the pond is essentially dry.

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

The existing gate at the entrance off of 131st Avenue SW will be removed, and a new gate will be installed to the east.

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

The site is currently zone as RA-10-SO – Rural Area, One Dwelling Per 10 Acres. The site is subject to Special Overlay (SO) 140 for groundwater protection (KCC 21A.38.150).

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

The comprehensive plan designation for the site is Open Space (OS).

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

The site is not within the shoreline jurisdiction.

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

Potential steep slope hazard areas and a wetland have been identified on or near the site, but neither are located within the footprint of the project. There is a critical area notice on title for parcel 0121029139 from 1997 indicating the presence of an erosion hazard area. The entirety of Vashon Island is designated as a critical aquifer recharge area. See the critical areas study (Confluence 2025) and geotechnical reports (GeoEngineers 2005; GeoResources 2025) for more information.

References:

- Confluence (Confluence Environmental Company). 2025. New South Vashon Levy Trailhead: Critical areas study. Prepared for King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks, Seattle, Washington, by Confluence, Seattle, Washington.
- GeoEngineers. 2005. Geotechnical engineering and environmental assessment services, LDS Morningstar Farm. Prepared for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Issaquah, Washington by GeoEngineers, Seattle, Washington.
- GeoResources. 2025. Geotechnical Engineering Report. Prepared for King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks, Seattle, Washington, by GeoResources, Fife, Washington.

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

No people would reside or work in the completed project. Parks maintenance staff and park rangers would be on-site periodically.

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

The project will not displace any people.

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

No measures to avoid to reduce displacement impacts are warranted because no people will be displaced by the project.

l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any.

This proposal is consistent with King County's Open Space Plan, which provides a framework for how the county plans, develops, manages and expands its parks system (King County 2022).

Consistent with Chapter 4 of the King County Open Space Plan, Parks will incorporate targeted community outreach into the planning and design of the trail project. As part of standard practice, Parks will engage local stewardship groups on Vashon-Maury Isalnd including Friends of Island Center Forest, Friends of Wax Orchard Site (temporary name), and friends of Maury Island Natural Area, as well as the Vashon Maury Island Land Trust and other interested community members. Engagement may include meetings, site walks, and digital communications. This approach ensures that community knowledge and local priorities inform trail development and that the proposal remains compatible with existing and anticipated land uses.

Reference:
King County. 2022. King County Open Space Plan: Parks, Trails, and Natural Areas, 2022 update. King County, Department of Natural Resources and Parks, Parks and Recreation Division, Seattle, Washington.

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

The project will not impact agricultural or forest lands of long-term commercial significance.

9. Housing

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

The project will not provide housing units..

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

The project will not eliminate any housing units.

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

No measures to reduce or control housing impacts are warranted because the project will not affect housing.

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 tallest "structure" being proposed is the vehicle access gate at 3.5 feet height. No other structures of any significant height are proposed.

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

The project will not alter or obstruct any views.

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

The project is not anticipated to have any aesthetic impacts. The use of natural materials in trail construction will blend-in with the surrounding forest lands.

11. Light and Glare

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

No new lighting is proposed.

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

The proposed lighting will be shielded and is not anticipated to be a safety hazard or to interfere with views.

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

There are no existing off-site sources of light or glare that may affect the proposal.

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

Lighting used at the parking lot will be shielded to minimize impacts outside of the parking lot.

12. Recreation

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

There are no active recreational opportunities on-site (e.g., play structures, soccer fields, etc.). Passive recreational opportunities at the site include trails for hiking, biking, and horseback riding, as well as informal picnicking and other informal recreational activities that would typically occur in open fields.

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

No existing recreational uses would be displaced by the project. Some existing trails may be decommissioned, but new trails will also be established.

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

This project will enhance long-term, sustainable recreation opportunities by providing well-designed trail connections for hikers, equestrians, and mountain bikers. Properly located and managed trails, supported by clear signage, will protect natural resources, improve user dispersal and safety and enhance the overall user experience.

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.

No buildings, structures, or sites on or near the project area are over 45 years old. The project will not impact existing buildings or structures eligible for the national or local preservation registers.

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.

A cultural resources review was conducted for the site in February 2025 by the King County Historic Preservation Program. The review determined that no known archeological sites are present in or adjacent to the project area and that no archeological investigations are necessary. An Inadvertent Discovery Plan will be implemented during construction. Work crews will be trained to recognize archeological materials and follow appropriate procedures if any such materials are discovered during construction.

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.

A cultural resources review was conducted for the site in February 2025 by the King County Historic Preservation Program. The review cites historic maps, aerial photographs, previous reviews for other projects in Park, and other sources. The County has reached out to Tribes with potential interest in the site to determine whether they have any concerns about the project.

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.

The review by the King County Historical Preservation Program determined that no archaeological excavation permits are needed for the project. King County Parks maintains an Inadvertent Discovery Plan and will implement the plan for this project. If any archaeological or historical artifacts are found during project activity, work will stop, the site will be protected from further disturbance, and the County will notify the Tribes, and all appropriate federal, state and county agencies, including Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation. Interested tribes will be invited to be onsite during any ground disturbance.

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.

The site is accessed from 131st Avenue SW. The proposed project includes improving the existing access drive from 131st Avenue SW (see the site plan provided above). No improvements to 131st Avenue SW are proposed.

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?

The site is served by King County Metro Route 118. The closest transit stop is at the Tahlequah Park and Ride, approximately 1 mile to the south.

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).

The project will not require any new or improvements to existing transportation facilities.

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

The project will not use or occur in the immediate vicinity of water, rail, or air transportation facilities.

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 non-passenger vehicles). What data or transportation models were used to make these estimates?

The project will add seven new parking spots. Assuming that each parking spot could have up to four different users per day, there could be up to 28 additional trips to the site per day.

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.

The proposal will not interfere with, affect, or be affected by the movement of agricultural or fores products.

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

No measures to reduce or control transportation impacts are warranted because the project will not result in transportation impacts or be affected by existing transportation facilities or patterns.

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.

The project is not anticipated to increase the need for public services.

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

No measures to reduce or control impacts on public services are warranted because the project will not affect public services.

16. Utilities

a. Circle utilities currently available at the site: electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other: storm drainage system within adjacent street

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.

Lighting for the trailhead parking lot will require extension of existing power servicing the site. The trail component of the project will not require any utility work.

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:
Leigh Nelson
67E9F03313DD47E...

Date: 12/18/2025 | 10:18 AM PST

Signee and Position: Leigh Nelson, PE – Project Manager

Agency/Organization: King County Parks

Signed by:
Zachary Bergen
7693DE3E39604B3...

Date: 12/18/2025 | 11:10 AM PST

Signee and Position: Zachary Bergen, EPI – Open Space Team

Agency/Organization: King County Parks