

Belmondo Reach Natural Area Site Management Guidelines

February 2004



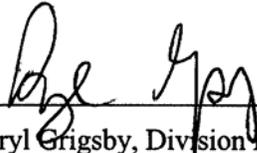
King County

Department of Natural Resources and Parks

Water and Land Resources Division

Belmondo Reach Natural Area Site Management Guidelines

February 2004



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King County

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Belmondo Reach Natural Area Site Management Guidelines

Executive Summary

This document provides property information and management recommendations for Belmondo Reach Natural Area, a King County Ecological Land. Ecological Lands are a category of King County Water and Land Resources Division (WLRD) properties managed for the protection of their ecological value. Appropriate public access and interpretive opportunities are accommodated on these sites where they do not harm the ecological value of the site.

This property is located in the Belmondo Reach of the Lower Cedar River, as identified through the Cedar River Legacy program which directs public conservation efforts in the Lower Cedar River. Belmondo Reach is located between RM 9.4 and 10.8. Belmondo Reach is a high priority for future land acquisition to advance flood control and habitat conservation goals. Future acquisitions would acreage to Belmondo Reach Natural Area.

Belmondo Reach Natural Area consists of a single parcel less than two acres in size, located on the mainstem Cedar River. The natural area is located four miles southeast of Renton and four miles north of Maple Valley just east of SR 169 (Renton-Maple Valley Road) and the Cedar River Trail.

The property is a vacant parcel among residential parcels, supporting typical riparian vegetation of mixed alder, cottonwood, and conifers with a limited amount of invasive species in the understory. The WPA revetment extends along the shoreline through this meander bend. There are no parking or facilities at the site.

The management goals for all King County Ecological Lands are to conserve and enhance ecological value, and accommodate appropriate public use that does not harm the ecological resources on site.

Management recommendations for Belmondo Reach Natural Area are as follows.

- Perform baseline inventories and assessments upon future acquisition of Belmondo Reach properties
- Develop long term ecologically based protection and restoration recommendations from inventory information
- Monitor public access and use to prevent inappropriate uses of site
- Monitor and contain invasive vegetation

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Belmondo Reach Natural Area Site Management Guidelines

Introduction

The property described in this document is within the Belmondo Reach of the Lower Cedar River. The extent of this reach was identified through the Cedar River Legacy program, which directs public conservation efforts in the Lower Cedar River. The Belmondo Reach is located between RM 9.4-10.8.

The King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP) Belmondo Reach Natural Area is located within this reach and has an Ecological Lands classification. Ecological Lands are a category of Water and Land Resources Division (WLRD) properties managed for the protection of their ecological value. Appropriate public access and interpretive opportunities are accommodated on these sites where they do not harm the ecological value of the site.

This document provides general property and acquisition information, a description of existing site conditions, a chronology of recent events and management actions, and a list of management objectives and recommendations for Belmondo Reach Natural Area. These site management guidelines were developed using guidance established in the King County Ecological Lands Handbook (King County 2003).

Part 1. General Property Information

Belmondo Reach Natural Area consists of a single 1.34-acre parcel on the left bank of the Cedar River (facing downstream), at approximately River Mile (RM) 10.75. The site is located in unincorporated King County, approximately four miles southeast of Renton and four miles north of Maple Valley along SR 169. The property is located on the east side of SR 169, on 201st Place SE. The only access is on a marked private road (SE 201st Place SE) that crosses and then parallels the Cedar River Trail. See Figure 1 for a vicinity map and Figure 2 for a site map depicting river miles. Table 1 provides general information about the location of the Natural Area. Table 2 provides specific information for the parcel.

This property is a vacant lot among a series of parcels bordering the Cedar River zoned rural residential, at one house per 10 acres. The general vicinity is characterized by low-density housing at one house per five or ten acres. Across the river to the southeast is the Cedar Grove Mobile Home Park, which lies just downstream of two Ecological Lands: Rainbow Bend Natural Area and Cedar Grove Road Natural Area.

Table 1. Belmondo Reach Natural Area General Information.

Best Available Address	17452 – 201 st Place SE
Thomas Guide Map Location	657 G7
Legal Description	Section 29, Township 23, Range 6
Acreage	1.34 acres
Drainage Basin	Lower Cedar River
WRIA	WRIA 8
Council District	12
King County Sensitive Areas	Stream, FEMA 100-year floodplain and floodway

Table 2. Belmondo Reach Natural Area Parcel Information.

Parcel Number	Name used in this document*	Acreage**	Purchase Date	Ownership type/price	Previous Names	Zoning	Funding Source
2923069030	Belmondo Reach-9030	1.34 Ac	06/27/01	Owned in Fee, \$140,000	Hong	RA-10 (Rural Area, 1 unit/10 acres)	Cedar River Legacy: 2001 CIP and Open Space Non-Bond

*Parcels are referred to by the reach name plus the last four digits of the ten-digit parcel number.

**Acreage from King County Assessor's data.

A number of large parcels zoned for mineral extraction are located across the river (on the right bank), extending approximately two miles downstream to Jones Road, and extending ½ mile upstream to Cedar Grove Road. To the east of these parcels lies the King County Cedar Hills Landfill.

The King County Roads Division owns one parcel in Belmondo Reach: 292306-9007. This site was acquired as mitigation for work on the Cedar Mountain bridge. This parcel is mostly vegetated and supports one small rental house managed by the King County Property Services Division (Jaramillo pers. comm. 2004). The Roads parcel was the subject of King County Council Motion 2001-0452 which directive the executive complete an agreement to transfer ownership from Roads to DNR. Ownership of this site was never transferred (King County Council 2001).

Part 2. Acquisition History, Funding Source and Deed Restrictions

Belmondo Reach Natural Area was acquired in 2001 as part of the Cedar River Legacy program. The Belmondo Reach was designated a #1 priority from the 1997 Cedar River Legacy Program “because it is the longest, continuously unarmored reach in the lower 22 miles of the Cedar River, containing large woody debris accumulation and thick riparian forest.” (King County 2001c)

King County DNRP Acquisitions staff indicate that 2001 CIP and Open Space non-bond funds were used for this purchase (Peterson pers. comm. 2005). There are no restrictions contained in the deed, although the Escrow Instructions indicated that the following restrictions were to be placed on the deed: “The property herein conveyed is subject to open space use restrictions and restrictions on alienation as specified in RCW 84.34.200, et seq., and King County Ordinance No. 9071, 10750, 11068, and 11713.” (King County 2001a, Section 1A) These restrictions refer to the following documents:

- Ordinance 9071 (July 27, 1989) authorized a public vote on 1989 Open Space Bonds. (Further information about Open Space Bond funding may be found in the Cedar River Collective Chapter.)
- Ordinance 10750 and 11068 (March 8 and October 3, 1993) authorized the Regional Conservation Futures 1993 Bond Acquisition Program (per regulations in RCW 84.34.200). Under Conservation Futures, property use is restricted to low-impact passive-use recreation, non-motorized use, and minimum 15% impervious surfaces. (Further information about Conservation Futures funding may be found in the Cedar River Collective Chapter.)
- Ordinance 11713 (February 15, 1995) refers to an allocation of Waterways 2000 funds for acquisition and stewardship. There are no explicit restrictions contained in the ordinance.

Existing easements on the property include a roadway easement on the western 20 feet of the property; river protection easement on the south 100 feet; private drainfield easement on western and southern portions of the site; well covenants with adjacent properties’ wells; and sensitive areas notices on title.

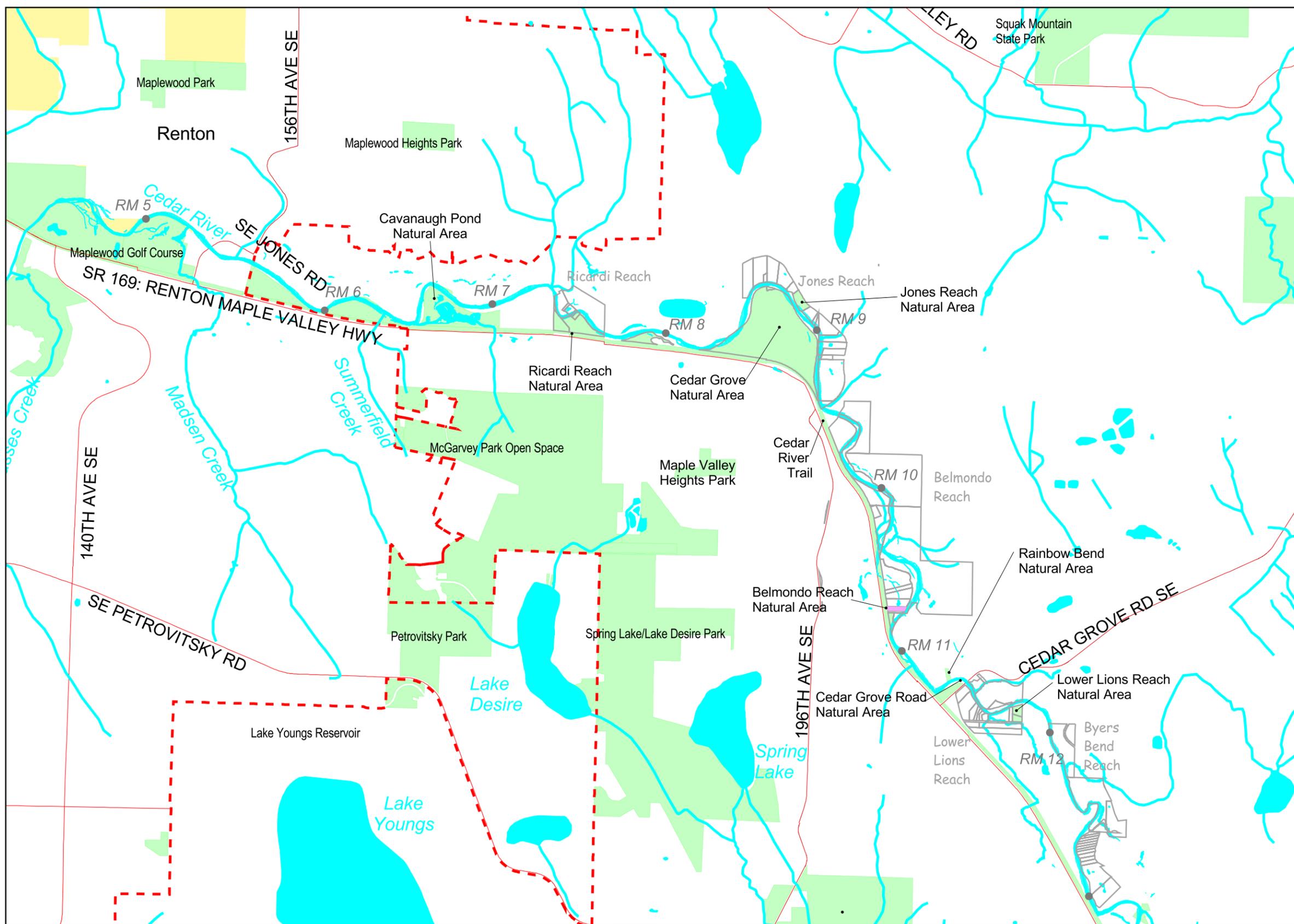
The 1993 King County Flood Hazard Reduction Plan has identified the Belmondo river reach for possible revetment setback and removal, associated with purchases of the properties along SE 201st Place (King County 1993b; described further in Part 6 Analysis below). This property is the first acquisition in this reach; future purchases may be pursued by King County to allow revetment setback.

Part 3. Ecological and Physical Setting

This section describes the natural resources and ecological processes in this vicinity. This section describes existing conditions; further analysis will be provided in Part 6 below. Figure 3 provides information on site features such as topography, streams, wetlands, and floodplain.

Topography and Soils

The river valley is approximately 1/3 mile wide through the Belmondo river reach. The valley is bounded by steep slopes abutting residential parcels along SR 169 to the west, and steep undeveloped slopes on the



Legend

- River Reach Boundaries
Lower Cedar River reach extents are designated by Cedar River Legacy Program
- River Mile Markers
- Belmondo Reach Natural Area
- Public Recreation Lands
- Rivers and Lakes
- Streams
- KC Urban Growth Area
- Streets
- Municipal Boundaries

February 24, 2004

The information included on this map has been compiled by King County staff from a variety of sources and is subject to change without notice. King County makes no representations or warranties, express or implied, as to accuracy, completeness, timeliness, or rights to the use of such information. King County shall not be liable for any general, special, indirect, incidental, or consequential damages including, but not limited to, lost revenues or lost profits resulting from the use or misuse of the information contained on this map. Any sale of this map or information on this map is prohibited except by written permission of King County.

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Figure 1

Vicinity Map



King County

east side of the Cedar River. The river meanders across the flat valley bottom through this reach, the western extent of the meanders limited by the Cedar River Trail and SR 169.

The Belmondo Reach Natural Area parcel 9030 is located entirely on the flat valley bottom bounded by SE 201st St and the Cedar River Trail, and the Cedar River. The King County soil survey maps this parcel as Newberg silt loam (Snyder et al 1973). This is a well-drained soil that formed in alluvium in stream valleys, at low elevations with slopes 0-2%. Permeability is moderate, though inclusions of relatively poor-draining soil types are common.

Hydrology and Channel Morphology

Cedar River

King County research analyzed maps and aerial photographs to describe historic change in channel characteristics (King County 1993a; also Perkins 1994). These studies classified the Lower Cedar River into eight river reaches. According to Perkins (1994), reaches were selected based on morphology and slope.

The river reach between RM 10.0 (RM 9.4 in Perkins) and RM 13.8 was classified as a single river reach in the Current and Future Conditions Report (King County 1993a, p. 5-22; Perkins 1994). The Current and Future Conditions Report describes this reach as follows:

“[The reach] was extensively braided in 1865, with braided zones ranging in width from 800 to 1300 feet so that the river occupied almost the entire width of the valley floor. By 1936, the river had abandoned many of its channels but still had an obvious meander belt between 300 and 600 feet wide... Most bends in this reach are constrained by revetments or the valley wall, leading to a relatively stable channel in the past two decades.” (King County 1993a, p. 5-29)

This analysis indicates that the 1895 active channel width was 460 feet; the 1989 active channel width is 120 feet. The natural degree of confinement was “unconfined,” but the current level of hydrological modifications is “high.” Wetted channel width has decreased from a maximum of 299 feet and minimum of 161 feet in 1895 to a maximum of 108 feet and minimum of 90 feet in 1989. Historic pool frequency has decreased from “high” in 1895 to “low” in 1989. (Perkins 1994; Blair 2003)

This section of the river “between RM 9.6 and 10.7 retains a more natural channel pattern with braids and side channels [than does the rest of the Cedar River from RM 1.6 to RM 16.2].” (City of Seattle 2000, 3.2-31, citing King County 1993a) Aerial photos show side channels or overflow channels across many of land bounded by river meanders.

The mapped FEMA 100-year floodplain indicates areas with a high probability of inundation during flood events. The 100-year floodplain through the reach includes most of the valley bottom between the eastern valley wall and the Cedar River Trail.

The Lower Cedar River Basin Plan mapped the reach between 9.3 and 10.6 as a channel migration hazard area.¹ Recent channel movement is described in the Current and Future Conditions Report:

“A major avulsion took place in 1990, when the river switched course to a side channel next to the east valley wall and abandoned its old channel except during floods (RM 10.1-10.5). The new channel alignment has directed flows against the left bank downstream. This could trigger rapid bank erosion and major changes in course as far downstream as the upper Jones Road bridge, possibly endangering several houses on the left bank.” (King County 1993a, p. 5-29)

¹ Channel migration hazard areas for the Lower Cedar River are currently being updated by the King County Flood Hazard Reduction Services. New migration hazard information should be consulted once mapping is completed.

The Lower Cedar Basin Plan identified 117 acres as high priority for acquisition along the mainstem between RM 10.1 and 10.6, called Belmondo Addition. The Natural Area parcel is located at the upstream end of this acreage (WMC 1998, 4-90, Figure 3-3, and p. 4-38). The Flood Hazard Reduction Plan identified several recommendations for flood control in this vicinity, which will be noted in Part 6: Analysis.

On the Belmondo Reach-9030 parcel, an acquisition report indicates that “the property contains a fragment of a side channel, though there appears to be no surface connection to the mainstem of the river.” (King County 2001b, p.3-4) This quote may reference a small wetland area on the parcel that may or may not be a side channel. A small side channel or backwater appears on aerial photography in this area downstream of the site (see Figure 3). Aerial photos and GIS layers on Figure 3 indicate that there may be other overflow channels and small channel meanders off the mainstem river through this river reach.

Tributaries

Right-bank Tributary #0315 that flows down the valley wall from the undeveloped parcels to the east and enters the Cedar River at approximately RM 10.25. Tributary #0315 is 0.4 miles in length with cascades at the base that may limit salmonid access (Williams et al. 1975).

The Catalog of Washington Streams maps a 0.35-mile right bank Tributary 0316 on the downstream end of the Rainbow Bend peninsula, in the vicinity of Wetland 105 (see Figure 3) (Williams et al 1975). The Cedar River Current and Future Conditions Report indicates that deep pool habitat is lacking in this tributary (King County 1993 p. 7-30).

Wetlands

The King County Wetland Inventory maps Wetland 105 on both sides of the river just downstream of the Belmondo Reach-9030 parcel. This 9.2-acre, Class 2 wetland supports palustrine forested deciduous and evergreen stands.

Wetland 111B is mapped within the valley bottom, but on the west side of SR 169 from the Belmondo Reach Natural Area parcel 9030. This wetland system appears to have been isolated from the remainder of the river channel by the construction of SR 169, and no longer has hydrologic connectivity to the mainstem. This wetland was not verified in the King County Wetland Inventory.

Wetland 104B is mapped on the channel perimeter between RM 10.3 and RM 9.8, in an area of channel braiding. This wetland was not verified in the King County Wetland Inventory.

A 1999 wetland delineation conducted at the county-owned Belmondo Reach-9030 parcel indicated that a Class 2 wetland “occupies a long narrow depression oriented north to south through the parcel [forming] the break between the forested community to the east and the old field to the west” extending off-site to the south and north of the parcel (Ecological Landscape Services 1999). This wetland is described in sensitive area notices on the deed (King County 2001d, p. 3)).

Vegetation

Recent aerial photographs indicate that the large, relatively undeveloped parcels in the vicinity support extensive forest cover. Although these sites have not been visited, they likely support typical deciduous riparian vegetation dominated by black cottonwood and red alder. Portions of the parcels along the valley bottom in this reach have been cleared for houses or yards (see Figure 3.) The King County Wetland Inventory indicates that species observed at Wetland 105 just downstream of Belmondo Reach-9030 include bigleaf maple, black cottonwood, red alder, western red cedar, vine maple, red osier dogwood, twinberry, blackberry, elderberry, salmonberry, and willow (King County 1991).

The Belmondo Reach-9030 parcel is predominantly young red alder with occasional conifers, and an understory of non-native invasive species such as Himalayan blackberry, reed canarygrass, and Japanese knotweed. The shrub layer occupies most of the western portion of the site off of 201st Place. The eastern portion of the site toward the river is a mixed alder, cottonwood, and conifer overstory. The 1999 wetland delineation identified black cottonwood, oregon ash, red alder, red osier dogwood, and vine maple in the overstory of the wetland area (Ecological Landscape Services 1999). There is Japanese knotweed, among other species, along the revetment. No county-listed noxious weeds for which control is required have been identified at the site.

Fish and Wildlife

No detailed information exists about wildlife use of the site. The Cedar River in this reach supports coho, chinook, and sockeye salmon, coastal cutthroat trout and winter steelhead (Kerwin 2001 p. 329). The backwaters and side channels along this reach may support off-channel spawning or rearing areas for salmonids. The revetment along the Belmondo Reach-9030 parcel presents a topographic barrier to hydrologic connectivity at the county-owned parcel. The Wildlife Habitat Network is mapped along the Cedar River in this vicinity (described further in the Cedar River Collective Chapter).

Part 4. Public Use and Infrastructure

As noted in Part 1, the county-owned parcel 9030 is located on the east side of SR 169, on a marked private road 201st Place SE that crosses and then parallels the Cedar River Trail. The county-owned parcel 9030 has no parking on SE 201st Place.

The property is very close to the Cedar River Trail, but has no access points or trails. Extensive invasive species limit access to most of site. The property is bounded by a fence on all sides which limits any access (appropriate or inappropriate); this fence prevents boundary encroachment from neighboring properties. A trail follows the river protection easement on the eastern portion of the property, which may allow infrequent access from neighboring sites (King County 2001b, p. 3). There are no facilities on the site. Since acquisition in 2001, there has been no need for litter collection during monthly inspections.

There are no apparent revenue-generating opportunities on Belmondo Reach Natural Area.

Revetments

There are three revetments in this reach of the river (see Figure 3).

- The WPA revetment extends from the Cedar Trail 6 Revetment along the Cedar River on the eastern perimeter of the Belmondo Reach-9030 parcel.
- Two other revetments are located approximately one mile downstream of this site: the Cummins revetment at RM 9.7 and the Littlefield revetment at RM 9.5.

These revetments are maintained by the Flood Hazard Reduction Services (FHRS) section of WLRD as part of their river protection facility inventory. FHRS performs both routine and post-flood inspections and maintenance on all such facilities. Routine maintenance activities on these facilities typically include vegetation management, such as removal of blackberries, in order to ensure adequate access and visibility for inspection of the revetment's structural integrity.

In addition to the routine maintenance and repair of these facilities, the FHRS Section performs mapping and other flood-related studies and projects on these lands. FHRS and/or its contracted surveyors may have placed permanent stakes or rebar along the revetment or riverbanks to mark sites at which river cross-sections are measured (Koon pers. comm. 2003).

Part 5. Site Management Chronology

The revetments along the left bank of the Cedar River in this area were installed as part of the King County “River Improvement Program” in the 1960s.

The 1993 *King County Flood Hazard Reduction Plan Appendix B* describes flooding in the immediate area under the WPA/Cedar Mountain problem statement: “This existing left-bank levee [revetment] (looking downstream) was damaged by severe erosion along a tightly-confined reach of the river. The Thanksgiving 1990 flood inundated six homes behind the levee [revetment].” (King County 1993b p. B-130)

The Belmondo Reach-9030 parcel was a vacant property prior to acquisition in 2001. No further information is known about the site prior to acquisition. No activity has taken place on the site since acquisition, except for routine periodic site inspections.

Part 6. Analysis

The purpose of this section is to provide a context and foundation for developing recommendations that meet the NRL program mission of protecting the ecological value of lands within Belmondo Reach Natural Area. Site-specific information, public access considerations, and the larger landscape considerations described in the conservation principles section of the *Ecological Lands Handbook* will be used to help meet this purpose.

Information Gaps and Development of Management Recommendations

Future acquisitions may add acreage to Belmondo Reach Natural Area. The following biological inventory and recommendation development should occur upon addition of future acreage.

There are significant gaps in how much is known and understood about ecological conditions and physical processes in this reach because recent comprehensive baseline inventories of plant, fish, and wildlife species, and geologic and hydrologic conditions do not exist. This type of information is necessary prior to developing restoration concepts and specific designs, particularly for large-scale changes and modifications to site features. If basic site inventory and assessment is not done, there is a strong likelihood of inadvertently harming either individual plant or animal species or ecological processes that sustain one or more of these species.

Therefore, prior to undertaking major management activities in this Natural Area, a site inventory and assessment should be undertaken that is focused, at a minimum, on the conditions and processes that the management activities will affect. The site inventory, assessment, or evaluations of proposed actions should be conducted by those staff with appropriate expertise (e.g. Watershed and Ecological Assessment group). Inventory and assessment information may be available in the Current and Future Condition Report, Habitat Limiting Factors Analysis, Lower Cedar Basin Plan, and Ecosystem Diagnosis and Treatment study of the Cedar River (being conducted at the time of writing), as well as past and future work by King County Ecological staff.

Prior to minor management activities (e.g., small planting project) a discussion and evaluation of the proposed activity should occur from the perspective of doing no harm to intact or future desired ecological processes and conditions. If the likely outcome is harm, then the activity should not be undertaken.

Species of Concern

Because of the lack of a comprehensive biological inventory at Belmondo Reach Natural Area, the species identified in this document do not account for all species that use the site for one or more stages of

their lifecycles. However, documented evidence of chinook salmon, and probable use by bald eagles, both listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act, make habitat preservation and restoration necessary management priorities at the site.

Restoring Process

Though little current information exists for restoring the ecological processes within Belmondo Reach, the primary restoration goal for the portions of the mainstem Natural Area sites confined by revetments should be to reconnect the river channel with its floodplain. Although this action could occur in different ways (e.g. levee removal or modification to trigger riverbend aggradation or to lower the floodplain), the outcome of a better connection between the channel and the floodplain is a first step in restoring critical natural processes in the reach. More in-depth analysis of historic river conditions, hydraulics, and hydrology would be needed to determine the best approach for improving the channel-floodplain connection.

Restoring Structure and Function

The main structural considerations may be to control invasive and non-native species, and to promote conifer growth. Plantings should represent the historic vegetative communities commonly associated with forested riparian areas in western Washington and at the site in particular. Inherent in the restoration should be efforts to maintain structural complexity, plant diversity and multiple canopy layers in order to provide a variety of vegetative and physical features that would provide a number of niches for wildlife.

If control and removal of invasive species were a priority at the site this activity would require dedicated funding and staff time. Invasive species on adjacent private properties could readily recolonize the site. The presence of these neighboring invasives, and uncertainty about future restoration plans may make invasive species control a low management priority.

Flood Hazard Reduction Activities

The 1993 Flood Hazard Reduction Plan (FHRP) recommends a mix of projects and activities ranging from levee/revetment modification to buyout of frequently flooded developed properties to minimize flood damage along the lower Cedar. The FHRP is currently being updated, and the 1993 recommendations may be revised to reflect current budget and management priorities, and development conditions. The FHRP recommendations may or may not contribute to a restoration of ecological processes, structure, or function at the site. There are three recommendations proposed for reducing flood damage at this site are (King County 1993b, B-130):

- *Bank Restoration:* “Bioengineering techniques could be used to restore and stabilize the eroding levee [revetment] bank. Although this would increase the bank’s strength, the increase may not be sufficient to control the extreme erosive energies which attack this bank.”
- *Levee [Revetment] Removal/Setback Levee [Revetment] Construction:* Reduce flood stages and velocities by removal or lowering of existing revetment. A setback revetment landward of the current revetment would be protected by bioengineered stabilization and could provide containment of 100-year flood flows.
- *Purchase and Remove Homes from Floodway:* Six homes were identified for removal, to “implement King County’s authority under Washington State Law (RCW 86.12) to acquire properties in order to keep floodplains clear of obstructions...Properties purchased under this option would be incorporated in an open space tract operated for recreation, fisheries habitat enhancement, and floodplain management.”

Of these recommendations the buyout option is in accordance with Ecological Land management priorities. Future purchases of home sites within this reach would add acreage to the current Natural Area and advance the opportunity restore ecological processes. There are no specific plans or timeframe for implementing these recommendations at this time.

The WRIA 8 Draft Plan Framework and Preliminary Actions List (WRIA 8 Service Provider Team 2003) noted an additional recommendation for the downstream end of Belmondo Reach: Cedar Mountain Revetment Removal (Chapter 6, p. 5). This recommendation involves land acquisition, levee setback or removal, and floodplain restoration. As with the above recommendations, there are no specific plans or timeframe for implementing this recommendation at this time.

Public Use Considerations

The Belmondo Reach-9030 parcel affords little to no recreation opportunity due to the limited size and the absence of parking. In the future if other sites are added to the inventory, there may be further opportunity for public use. The site is adjacent to the Cedar River Trail and could provide passive recreational opportunity. There are no revenue-generating opportunities apparent at the site. Nearby sites off of the Cedar River Trail are regularly used for public dumping. This site should be monitored for dumping in the future.

Part 7. Management Goals, Objectives, and Recommendations

The objectives and recommendations in this section are derived from the standard practices for most NRL sites. Office of Rural and Resource Programs staff will revise the recommendations for Belmondo Reach Natural Area as new information from baseline inventory, assessment, and site monitoring programs and other initiatives becomes available for use in land management decisions.

Goals for Belmondo Reach Natural Area

The goals for all King County Ecological Lands are to:

- conserve and enhance ecological value, and
- accommodate appropriate public use that does not harm the ecological resources on site

The objectives and recommendations that follow are designed to support these goals at Belmondo Reach Natural Area.

Management Objectives and Recommendations

Objective: Upon future acquisition of property in Belmondo Reach, develop long term ecologically based protection and restoration actions

Recommendation: Perform baseline inventories and assessments

Complete baseline inventories and assessment of basic ecological conditions and physical processes. Staff with appropriate expertise (e.g., ecologists, biologists, and engineers) should perform this work. Existing documents, studies, and staff research may contribute substantial inventory and assessment information about the sites.

Recommendation: Develop recommendations for site restoration from inventory information

Use inventory and assessment information to develop specific actions that meet the purpose and goals of sites identified as King County Ecological Lands.

The 1993 Flood Hazard Reduction Plan recommended purchase and removal of homes from the floodway in this area, and future revetment removal and construction of a setback revetment. The home buyout recommendation will add to Natural Area acreage.

Objective: Protect the site from inappropriate uses

Recommendation: Monitor public access and use

Park staff should inspect the site monthly to determine whether there has been any dumping or other inappropriate uses. Inspection should occur regularly from SE 201st Street, and periodically from the revetment access road.

Objective: Contain spread of invasive vegetation

Recommendation: Monitor and contain invasive vegetation

Park staff should monitor the presence of noxious and invasive plant species at the site. If a spread in invasive species is noted, use manual control to contain the spread of invasives.

When staff time and resources are available for ongoing work, control existing invasive species at the site.

Implementation

Many of these recommendations regard ongoing site maintenance and short-term management. These short-term recommendations are currently being implemented through actions by the Parks Resource Coordinator. Table 3 presents the time frame and sections responsible for recommendations.

Recommendations that address long-term management will need to be developed when funded and prioritized by DNRP management (within the work programs of NRL, Science, Basin Stewards, CPOSA, FHRS). As new information is gathered for the site, restoration plans may be developed subsequent to SMG adoption. Projects should be consistent with management objectives and approaches described above and in the Ecological Lands Handbook. Funding for restoration projects may be available through Surface Water Management CIP funding or salmon conservation planning funds.

Table 3. Matrix of Management Recommendations

Recommendations	year	NRL staff	Park Resource Staff	Basin Steward	WRIA Project Coord.	CPOSA	WEAT	FHRS
Priority One								
Monitor and control invasive vegetation	At least monthly		X					
Monitor public access	At least monthly		X					
Priority Two								
Perform baseline inventories and assessments, and develop recommendations	Upon future acquisitions in reach	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Coordinate with FHRS activities	As needed	X		X	X			X
Update Site Management Guidelines	Within at least five years	X	X	X				

References

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Appendix 1: List of all parcels in Belmondo Reach

Parcel acreage derived from Assessor's Database. Properties listed from north to south. Refer to Figure 2 for Reach Identification.

Belmondo Reach		
Assessor's Parcel #	Acreage	Ownership
292306	-9006	12.94 Private Ownership
	-9007	8.21 King County Roads
	-9009	36.74 Private Ownership
	-9008	5.67 Private Ownership
	-9071	1.10 Private Ownership
	-9013	5.88 Private Ownership
	-9019	78.51 Private Ownership
	-9035	8.33 Private Ownership
	-9043	1.87 Private Ownership
	-9032	3.16 Private Ownership
	-9033	3.12 Private Ownership
	-9030	1.34 King County Ecological Land
	-9016	0.61 Private Ownership
322306	-9045	1.21 Private Ownership
	-9006	0.81 Private Ownership
Total	169.50 Acres	