

Dorre Don Reach Natural Area Site Management Guidelines

October 2004



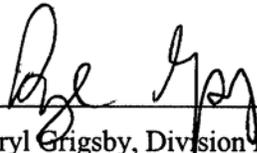
King County

Department of Natural Resources and Parks

Water and Land Resources Division

Dorre Don Reach Natural Area Site Management Guidelines

October 2004



Daryl Grigsby, Division Director

King County Water and Land Resources Division



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Dorre Don Reach Natural Area Site Management Guidelines

Summary

Site Description

Dorre Don Reach Natural Area is a King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP) Ecological Land. Ecological Lands are managed for the protection of their ecological value, with appropriate public access.

Dorre Don Reach Natural Area is located within the Dorre Don Reach of the Cedar River, approximately River Mile 15.5 to 17.1 as defined by the Cedar River Legacy Program. The Natural Area parcels are located on both sides of the Cedar River. The left bank of the Cedar River from RM 15.0 to 16.2 has been identified in the Lower Cedar Basin Action Plan as a Channel Migration Hazard Area.

The Natural Area consists of five parcels (68 acres) owned in fee by King County. The Natural Area lies immediately northeast of the City of Maple Valley and the SR 18/SR 169 interchange. The County Urban Growth Boundary lies to the west of the sites and bisects the southern parcel of the Natural Area. The Cedar River Trail extends through the Natural Area.

The two northern Natural Area parcels on the left bank are located entirely in the mapped FEMA floodway and floodplain. Side channels flow through the properties at times of high water, supporting seasonally use by sockeye, coho, steelhead, and cutthroat trout, and possibly Chinook. These parcels support typical riparian forest dominated by mature black cottonwood, red alder, occasional conifers, and dense understory vegetation. These parcels support important off-channel habitat for salmonids, and a large tract of lowland riparian forest along the river.

A southern left bank parcel adjacent to the Cedar River Trail is higher in elevation, consisting of upland forests (mixed deciduous/coniferous canopy and dense understory of upland shrub species), and a scrub-shrub/forested wetland on the eastern portion of the site.

On the right bank of the river, the main acreage contains a very steep hillside between Dorre Don Way SE and adjacent hilltop house lots, supporting mixed deciduous/coniferous canopy over dense shrubs. The other parcel was a small lot located at the western terminus of Dorre Don Court SE. Due to river movement, the parcel was washed away and King County no longer holds responsibility for this parcel.

Public Use

The southern parcel may be accessed by pedestrians off of the Cedar River Trail, where informal trails lead to the south across the parcel. Future access from the south could be provided in association with future development of an adjacent privately owned parcel. This southern parcel is appropriate for walking through the trails in the forested portion of the site. The northeastern part of this parcel does not provide ready access to the river due to the riverbank being elevated above the water level; there may be informal trail access to the water at some point along the riverbank.

The northern parcels have limited opportunity for public use due to limited access, topographic, or ecologic features. There is no legal access for the general public to the northern parcels on the left bank of the river. The lack of public access and the hydrologic barrier to access presented by a side channel (important for off-channel spawning and rearing areas for salmonids) make them inappropriate for extensive public use. The right bank hillside parcel is extremely steep and not conducive to use.

Management Objectives and Recommendations

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 following are management recommendations that are designed to support these goals. Text follows each recommendation explaining how that recommendation applies at the site.

Objective: Maintain ecological integrity of the site

Recommendation: Ensure that management and public access support the regional ecological value of site

Decisions about site management and public access should consider the ecological role of, in particular, the northern parcels supporting lowland riparian forest and side channels, and should preserve and protect ecological integrity. Public use at the site may be most supportable on the parcel south of the Cedar River trail, which is predominantly upland forest with a few trails leading through the parcel. This overarching recommendation is carried out through the various recommendations below.

Objective: 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. The Ecosystem Diagnosis and Treatment study, and past and future work by King County Ecological and FHRS staff, 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 projects to achieve a set of goals and objectives consistent with those identified for King County Ecological Lands. The Cedar River Basin Plan, Flood Hazard Reduction Plan (FHRP), and WRIA 8 Chinook Salmon Conservation Plan contain a number of recommendations for the Dorre Don reach that can be considered for future recommendations. These general proposals are aimed at the multiple objectives of the basin plan (flood hazard reduction, habitat quality and salmonid health, and water quality and quantity) and FHRP and have not as yet been prioritized or funded. Recommendations include acquisition, home removal, and restoration along the right bank; habitat enhancement projects on the Natural Area (among other properties in the reach) to support off-channel salmonid habitat, and additional acquisitions of undeveloped parcels.

As projects on the Natural Area are prioritized and funded by King County agencies outside of the Natural Resource Lands group (or by other implementing agencies), projects should be reviewed by NRL through the “Application to Alter Parks Division and NRL Managed Properties” process to coordinate site management with project work.

Objective: Contain spread of invasive vegetation

Recommendation: Monitor and control invasive vegetation

Park staff should monitor and contain the spread of noxious and invasive plant species that are present at the sites. Limited amounts of invasives have been identified along trails in Dorre Don-9011 parcel. Knotweed on northern parcels may require more extensive, separate capital project work. Control is primarily through manual removal of plants by Park staff.

Objective: Protect the site from inappropriate public uses

Recommendation: Control litter/dumping and encroachment activities

Park staff should monitor the site for encroachment, dumping, and other trash and respond as necessary to maintain a clean and safe property. Monitoring should occur at least monthly. Park staff should consider installing litter/dumping policy signs on the property if litter activity increases.

Recommendation: Verify boundary of Dorre Don-9011 parcel

Park staff should verify existing survey information, or GPS-locate the western edge of the Dorre Don-9011 property to determine actual boundaries of the site. If privately owned parcel to the south is developed, ensure that boundaries are verified and marked as appropriate.

Objective: Allow current level of passive recreation opportunities at the sites

Recommendation: Monitor public access

At the current time, there is limited use by the public, mainly occasional pedestrian use off of the Cedar River Trail through Dorre Don-9011. If access is opened on the south side through future development, monitor level of usage from local residents and Cedar River Pipeline Road users to determine necessary changes to trail

management in this area. Use should be directed to the upland areas of Dorre Don-9011, since the northern parcels provide environmentally sensitive salmonid and wildlife habitat and have no legal public access.

Park staff should note changes in visitor numbers and types of recreational activities at these sites, and observe any noticeable visitor impacts on the ecological values of the site. This information should be reported annually to King County Natural Resource Lands Management Staff responsible for updating site management guidelines.

Table of Contents

Summary	i
Table of Contents	iv
Acknowledgements	v
Introduction	1
Part 1. General Property Information	1
Part 2. Acquisition History, Funding Source and Deed Restrictions	6
Funding Sources.....	6
Easements and Acquisition Information	8
Part 3. Ecological and Physical Setting	10
Topography and Soils	10
Hydrology and Channel Morphology	11
Vegetation	13
Fish and Wildlife.....	14
Part 4. Public Use and Infrastructure	14
Part 5. Known Site History	15
Part 6. Analysis	15
Information Gaps and Development of Management Recommendations	16
Species of Concern.....	16
Restoring Processes.....	16
Restoring Structure and Function	16
Public Use	17
Flood Hazard Reduction	17
Part 7. Management Goals, Objectives, and Recommendations	17
Goals for Dorre Don Reach Natural Area.....	17
Management Objectives and Recommendations	17
Implementation	19
References	21
Appendix 1: List of all parcels in Dorre Don Reach	23
List of Tables	
Table 1. Dorre Don Reach Natural Area General Information.....	2
Table 2. Dorre Don Reach Natural Area Parcel Information.....	2
Table 3. Matrix of Management Recommendations.....	20
List of Figures	
Figure 1: Vicinity Map.....	3
Figure 2: Reach Extent and Parcel Numbers	4
Figure 3: Site Features	5
Figure 4: View of Dorre Don-9123 from across Cedar River. Photo taken March 2003.	14
Figure 5: View of Dorre Don-9123 from west, across side channel. Photo taken March 2003.	14

Acknowledgements

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Dorre Don Reach Natural Area Site Management Guidelines

Introduction

The property described in this document includes several parcels within the Dorre Don Reach of the Lower Cedar River, which is located between RM 15.5 and RM 17.1.¹ The extent of this reach was identified through the Cedar River Legacy program, which directs public conservation efforts in the Lower Cedar River.

The King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP) Dorre Don 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 this 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

Dorre Don Reach Natural Area consists of five parcels comprising approximately 68 acres on both banks of the Cedar River. The Dorre Don Reach Natural Area lies immediately northeast of the City of Maple Valley and the SR 18/SR 169 interchange. The County Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) lies to the west of the sites and bisects the southern parcels of the Natural Area. The Cedar River Trail borders the western and southern boundary of the reach, through the Natural Area. Seattle Public Utilities' Cedar River Pipeline Road, which is used for local recreational use, lies just southwest of the southern parcels of the Natural Area.

Refer to Figure 1 for a vicinity map and to Figure 2 for a site map. Figure 2 also shows the last four digits of parcel numbers; full parcel numbers for every parcel in the reach are provided in Appendix 1. Table 1 provides general information about the location of the Natural Area. Table 2 provides specific information for each parcel in the Natural Area.

Within the urban side of the Maple Valley UGB southwest of Dorre Don Reach Natural Area, single family residences exist at densities of approximately five homes per acre. A new residential subdivision has been proposed on the lot immediately south of Dorre Don-9011.² Just west of the Natural Area are numerous parcels zoned for mining and industrial land uses. The parcels on the rural side of the UGB are zoned at one home per five acres, although lots have been developed at higher densities in many areas.

Three of the Dorre Don Reach Natural Area parcels are located on the left bank (facing downstream) of the Cedar River. These parcels are located approximately 1.25 miles to the southeast of Lower Peterson Creek Natural Area, and approximately 0.5 miles to the northwest of BN Peninsula and Wetland 79 Natural Areas (see Figure 1).

The other two Dorre Don Reach Natural Area parcels are on the right bank of the Cedar River. One parcel (Dorre Don-1036) is located on the steep hillside between Dorre Don Way SE and adjacent hilltop house lots bordering SE 225th St. The small Dorre Don-0170 parcel was located at the western terminus of Dorre Don Court SE. Due to river movement, the parcel was washed away and King County no longer holds

¹ River miles depicted in the Lower Cedar River Basin and Nonpoint Pollution Action Plan are used in this report; actual river miles may be somewhat different due to improved technology in measurements.

² DDES application L97P0038 for 29 lots on 28.06 Acres, River Ridge at Daybreak. Notification posted at lot on 5/29/01.

responsibility for this parcel (see discussion on page 10, in Part 2). (Gray, Gavin. Email communication. 12/4/03)

Table 1. Dorre Don Reach Natural Area General Information.

	Dorre Don Reach Natural Area
Best Available Address	Portions on Northeast side of Dorre Don Way SE near Dorre Don Court SE
Thomas Guide Location	688 A7, and 718 A1 and B1
Legal Description	Section 15, Township 22, Range 6
Acreage	5 parcels totaling 68.47 Acres
Drainage Basin	Lower Cedar River
WRIA	WRIA 8
Council District	12
King County Sensitive Areas	Stream, wetland, FEMA floodway and 100-year floodplain, seismic hazard, erosion hazard, landslide hazard

Table 2. Dorre Don Reach Natural Area Parcel Information.

Parcel Number	Name used in document*	Acreage**	Purchase Date	Ownership type/price	Previous Names	Zoning	Funding Source	Recording #
1522069027	Ramer Access Easement	.04	10/8/98	Maintenance Access Easement	Ramer Access Easement; Dorre Don Left Bend Meander	N/A	Open Space Non-Bond ³	199810081466
1522069123 ⁴	Dorre Don-9123	12.65	9/28/98	Owned in Fee; \$123,200	Ramer; Dorre Don Left Bend Meander NA	RA 5	Open Space Non-Bond	199810081465
1522069060	Dorre Don-9060	2.01	9/16/99	Owned in Fee; \$40,000	Andrich – CRL K4 & K5; Dorre Don Left Bend Meander NA	RA 5	CFT	19990916000278
1522069011 ⁵	Dorre Don-9011	41.17	10/18/00	Owned in fee; \$937,000	Watkins, Cedar River Associates; Dorre Don Left Bend Meander NA	RA-5 & R4 (west)	Cedar River Legacy; IAC Salmon Recovery	20001018000675; Deed of Right 20010308000012
2085201036	Dorre Don-1036	12.20 ⁶	1968 ⁷	Owned in Fee; N/A	Dorre Don Park on hillside; Dorre Don NA	RA-5	Dedication	192707142378787
2085200170	Dorre Don-0170	0.44 ⁸	1968	“implied responsibility” ⁹ ; N/A	Rafter Park; Dorre Don NA	RA-5	Dedication	6451738000; 192707142378787

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

**Acreage taken from King County Assessor’s data.

³ Acquired with Ramer Dorre Don-9123 parcel

⁴ Part of Parcel # 1522069027 prior to acquisition

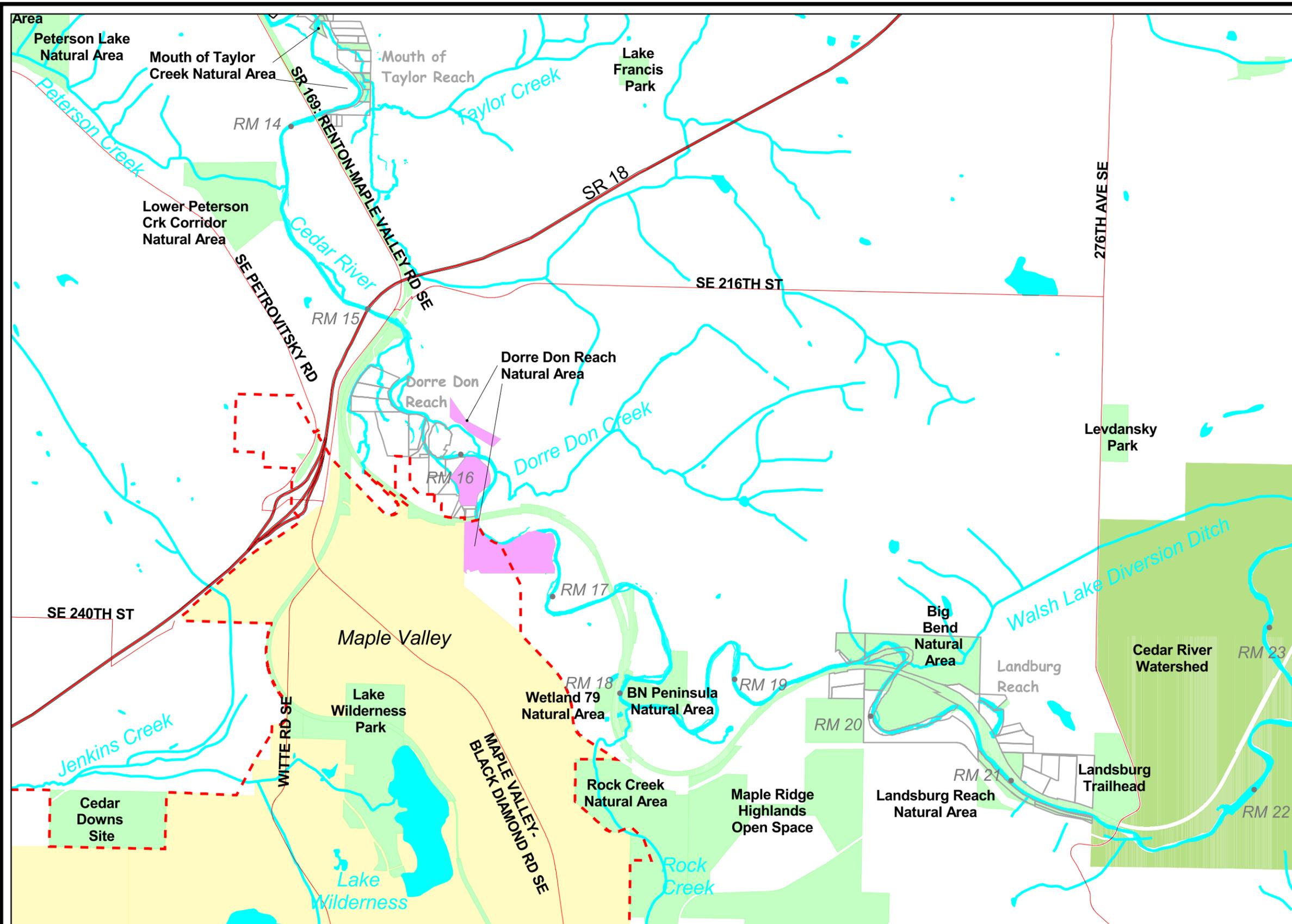
⁵ This parcel was acquired through the purchase of 25.60 acres (#1522069011) with 15.94 acres (#1522069018); parcel numbers changed after purchase to a single parcel.

⁶ Assessor’s Office lists 12.20 ac. King County GIS layer indicates 6.70 Ac. KC Property Services records indicate 8.40 Ac (Gray pers. comm. 12/4/03 email)

⁷ KC Property Services records provide this date (Gray pers. comm. 12/4/03 email)

⁸ 0.44 is former acreage; currently parcel lies beneath the Cedar River.

⁹ See discussion in text about this parcel, per Gray pers. comm. 12/4/03 email.



Legend

- River Mile Markers
- Dorre Don Reach Natural Area
- Selected Public Lands
- ▭ River Reach Boundaries
Lower Cedar River reach extents are designated by Cedar River Legacy Program
- Rivers and Lakes
- ~ Streams
- - - KC Urban Growth Area
- Streets
- Freeway
- Municipal Boundaries

May 14, 2004

800 0 800 1600 2400 3200 4000 Feet

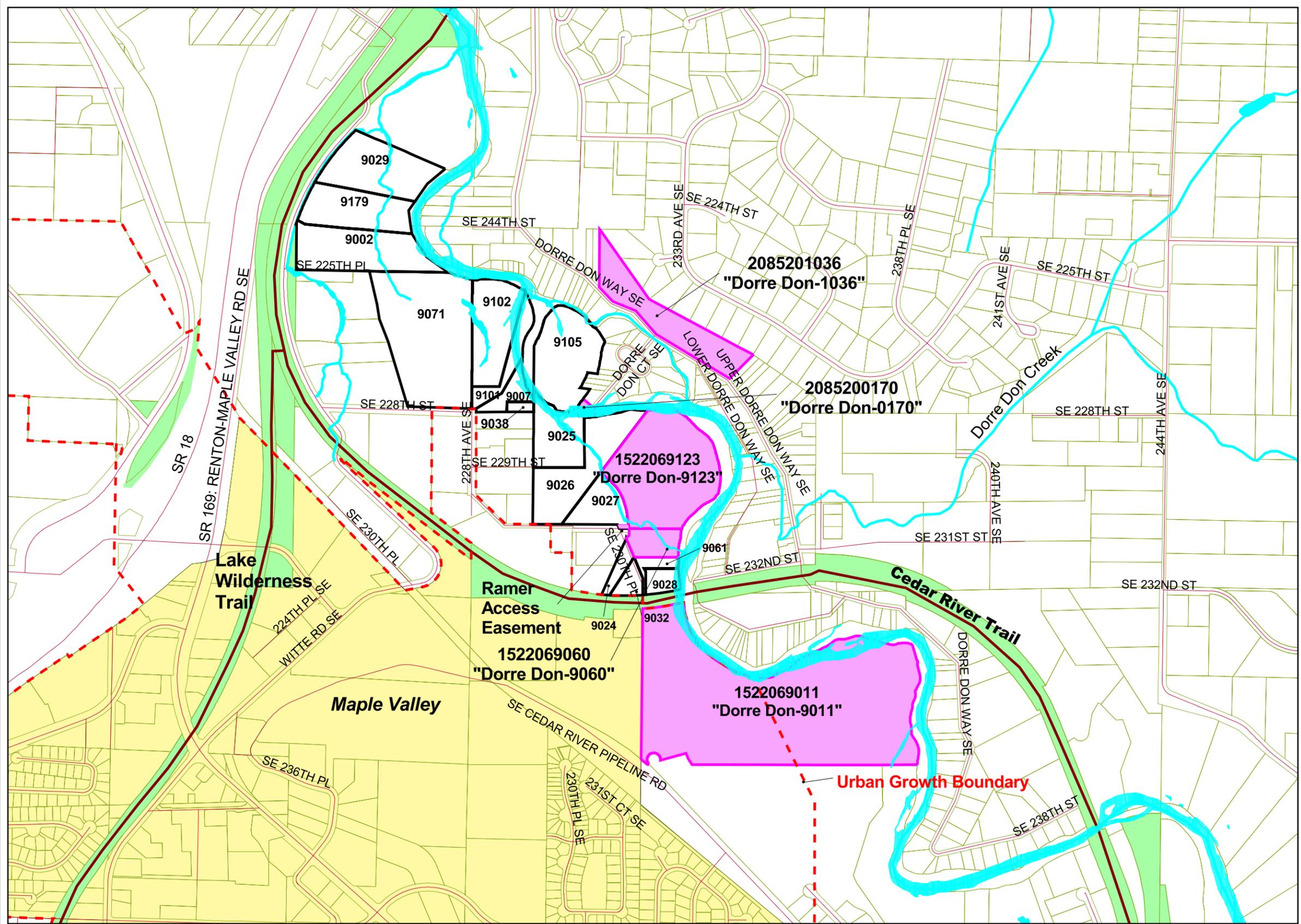
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Figure 1

Dorre Don Reach: Vicinity Map



Legend

Note: Four-digit parcel labels represent the last four digits of the ten-digit parcel numbers. Full parcel numbers are listed in Appendix 1.

- Dorre Don Reach Extent
- Natural Area Parcels
- Parks
- Rivers and Lakes
- Streams
- Trails
- Streets
- King County Tax Parcels
- KC Urban Growth Area
- Municipal Boundaries

N

May 14, 2004

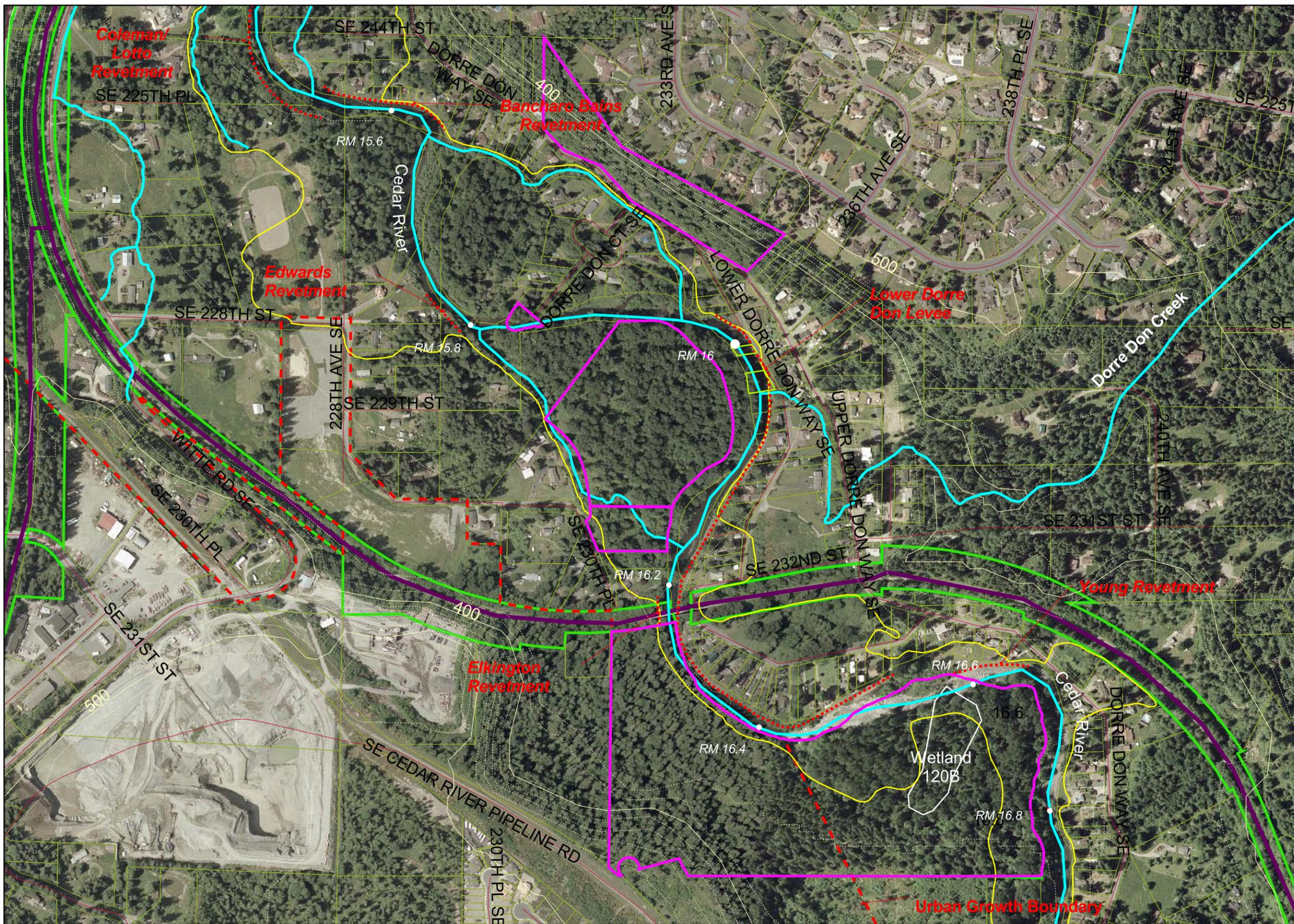
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Figure 2

Dorre Don Reach: Reach Extent and Parcel Numbers



Legend

- ▭ Dorre Don Reach Natural Area
- Cedar River Mile Markers
- Cedar River 1/5 Mile Markers
- ▭ Floodplains - 100 year
- ▬ Streams
- ▭ Wetlands
- ▬ Levees and Revetments
- ▬ 20 ft Contour Lines
- ▬ 100 ft Contour Lines
- ▬ Trails
- ▬ KC Urban Growth Area
- ▬ Streets
- ▭ King County Tax Parcels
- ▭ Selected Public Lands
- ▭ FHRs properties



May 14, 2004
 200 0 200 400 600 800 1000 Feet

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Note: Wetland, Stream, Topography, and Floodplain layers are approximate, mapped from King County GIS.



King County

File Name: \\w\m\5\RL\Users\l\und\ecological site research\parkview projects\new parkview projects (030703)\dorre don lbn fig3.apr

Figure 3

Dorre Don Reach Natural Area: Site Features

Part 2. Acquisition History, Funding Source and Deed Restrictions

The following section describes acquisition information for each parcel within the Natural Area.

Funding Sources

Dorre Don-9060 and -9123

Parcels -9060 and -9123 were acquired using Cedar River Legacy Funds, and were identified as a high priority for acquisition in the Lower Cedar River Basin Action Plan (WMC 1998 p. 4-38). The Statutory Warranty Deed for the Dorre Don-9060 and -9123 parcels contain the following text: “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, and 11168 [sic: 11068].”¹⁰ These restrictions refer to the following documents:

- Ordinance 9071 (July 27, 1989) authorized a public vote on 1989 Open Space Bonds.
- 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.

The following information pertains to the funding sources used for the purchases of parcels -9060 and -9123 and which are referred to in the above deed language:

- *Conservation Futures Tax Levy:* Conservation Futures Tax (CFT) levy is authorized by state statute RCW 84.34.230. A county may place this levy upon all taxable property in its jurisdiction. Revenues may be placed in a Conservation Futures Fund for jurisdictions or nonprofit nature conservancy corporations to acquire open space land or rights to future development within that county (these development rights are termed “conservation futures” in RCW 84.34.220). Open space is defined in RCW 84.34.020 generally as land contributing to natural resources, streams, water supply, public land network, historic sites, visual quality, or as certain agricultural conservation lands. Acquisition criteria identified by King County include: wildlife, salmonid, or rare plant habitat value; scenic resource, community separator, greenbelt, or general park and open space value; or historic and cultural resources. Additional consideration is given to passive recreation opportunity, interpretive opportunity, threat of loss, complexity of acquisition, public-private partnership, regional significance, relationship of proposed acquisition to existing parks, trails, or greenway systems or plans, and short-term and long-term stewardship commitment at the site (KCC 26.12.025).

King County Council directs the spending of a portion of annual CFT funds; a Citizen’s Oversight Committee reviews and approves competitive applications for the remainder of the funds. CFT funds are allocated to sponsoring jurisdictions with the requirement that matching funds from the applicant jurisdiction are of equal or greater value to CFT funding sought (matching funds may be cash, land trade, or value of land purchased adjacent to proposed acquisition). Acquisitions may be fee simple or less-than-fee acquisitions.

Purchases made with Conservation Futures funds are to be used for low-impact, passive-use recreation. Motorized use is limited to parking/staging/maintenance areas. “Non-vegetative impervious surfaces” should cover less than 15% of the site (CFT 2002). Conservation futures interests shall not be transferred except with agreement that land interests shall be preserved in accordance with the intent and language of RCW 84.34.230; uses of lands shall not be altered unless equivalent lands within the geographic jurisdiction are provided (KC Ordinance 10750, p. 10).

¹⁰ Statutory Warranty Deed, Recording # 19990916000278

- *1989 Open Space Bond:* King County voters authorized the \$117,640,000 King County Open Space Bond initiative, described in King County Ordinance 9071, in November 1989 to provide funds for the acquisition, development, renovation and improvement of public green spaces, green belts, open space, parks and trails in King County. Specific goals included preserving wildlife, enhancing scenic vistas, providing access to the water and open space, and providing trail connections between virtually all the cities in King County to a regional trail system and trails within the suburban cities and unincorporated areas of King County (King County Council 1989). King County Ordinance 9071 authorizes reclassification of bond funds in Section 8, part C. Restrictions on land conveyance associated with Open Space Bond funds are identified in Section 8, part D.

Dorre Don-9011

Parcel -9011 was acquired using funds from an “Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation: Salmon Program Federal Recovery Projects” funds (IAC grant #99-1576A).

- *Salmon Recovery Funding Board:* The Washington State Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) was created in 1999 to administer funds for salmon recovery appropriated by the state legislature and Congress (RCW 77.85). (SRFB 2002) SRFB’s mission is to “support salmon recovery by funding habitat protection and restoration projects and related programs and activities that produce sustainable and measurable benefits for fish and their habitat.” SRFB receives administrative support from the State Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation (IAC).

Project sponsors such as cities, counties, agencies, tribes, non-profit organizations, and private citizens submit applications to local lead entities such as Watershed Resource Inventory Area Steering Committees. The lead entities submit prioritized lists of project applications to SRFB for consideration. Sponsors request funds to protect or restore salmon habitat, commit to long-term monitoring, and provide a monetary or in-kind match of 15% or more. Projects may include acquisition; in-stream passage or diversion; in-stream, riparian, upland, or estuarine habitat actions; or assessments and studies.

Lands acquired in fee with SRFB assistance must be dedicated to habitat conservation, outdoor recreation or salmon recovery uses in perpetuity. This is done through a recorded Deed of Right to Use Land for Habitat Conservation, Salmon Recovery, or Outdoor Recreation Purposes. This Deed conveys property interests to the public forever.

Funding for Parcel -9011 was from the IAC from its “Federal Funds for Salmon Habitat” program, an early inception of the SRFB program. (Kniestedt pers. comm. 2004) Parcel -9011 is subject to a “Deed of Right to use land for public recreation purposes” (Recording number 20010308000012). This deed secures “the right to use the real property described below forever for the outdoor recreation purposes described in the Project Contract...” The available project contract documents indicate that the highest priorities for acquisition include habitat value and connectivity to open space habitat; a secondary priority is benefits to other goals such as passive recreation and flood reduction. (Kniestedt pers. comm. 2004; King County 1999b). This project was funded in the first year of Salmon Recovery Funding Board projects by IAC. That first year, they had not yet developed the Deed of Right for Salmon Recovery as is always filed on SRFB projects in subsequent years. While a standard Deed of Right for outdoor recreation was filed on this project, it was part of the Salmon Recovery Funding Board projects that would subsequently have Deed of Right for Salmon Recovery filed. (Kniestedt pers. comm.. 2004).

Dorre Don-0170 and -1036

Parcels -1036 and -0170 were dedicated to the County (details provided below).

Easements and Acquisition Information

Dorre Don-9060

The title documents note that there is no recorded means of ingress or egress from the parcel to a public road. There are two easements recorded for a public road on the southwesterly 20 feet, for electric transmission line, and for water systems facilities.

Dorre Don-9123 and access easement

The title of the Dorre Don-9123 parcel contains an easement for an electric transmission line. Parcel 9123 was originally part of parcel 152206-9027 prior to purchase; the current parcel number was created upon purchase in September 1998.

The Ramer access easement across the south 10 feet of parcel 152206-9027 (a private parcel with a house at 23108 SE 230th Place) is described as follows:

“Such easement shall be solely for the purpose of pedestrian ingress and egress to Grantee’s adjacent property by Grantee, its employees, contractors and agents to enable Grantee to maintain Grantee’s Property as open space. The Easement shall not include any rights of access by the general public over the easement area. Such easement shall terminate in the event the Grantee shall acquire the adjoining property to the south for open space purposes [i.e. Parcel 152206-9047 at 23111 SE 230th Place].”¹¹

Dorre Don-9011 and access easement

The Dorre Don-9011 parcel was acquired in October of 2000 as two parcels (152206-9011 and 152206-9018). These two parcels were combined into this single parcel by means of a boundary line adjustment in August 2000 to the original 152206-9011 parcel, creating the present keyhole-shaped southern lot line.¹² Surveys conducted in 1999 and 2000 are on file at the recorders office from 1999 and 2000.¹³

The Dorre Don-9011 parcel contains right-of-way and electric transmission line easements, and has been subject to plat and lot line adjustments.¹⁴ There is a 48-foot wide “non-exclusive perpetual easement” from SE 243rd Street¹⁵ which extends through the parcel to the south (parcels 152206-9117 and -9020) to the southern boundary of Dorre Don-9011. The easement is, in part, “for the purpose of creating a private right-of-way for ingress and egress to and from said property.” If this parcel to the south were to be developed in the future and a road were placed through this easement, this road could be used for access.

A Development Agreement¹⁶ (King County 2000) between the King County Executive and Cedar Valley Associates, LLC, indicates that an amendment to the 1994 Comprehensive Plan¹⁷ attached to parcels 152206-9011, -9018, and -9117 (totaling 72 acres) a set of P-suffix conditions that require enhanced protections for any development, “premised on securing a high level of benefit for the public in terms of open space and habitat protection.” (King County 2000, p. 2)

- Two of these parcels (-9011 and -9018) comprise what is now Dorre Don-9011; these parcels were purchased by King County for fish and wildlife habitat protection and open space.

¹¹ Maintenance Access Easement Recording # 199810081466

¹² Boundary Line Adjustment # L00L0047, dated 8/22/00, Recording # 20001012900008. This BLA adjusts the southern property line to a keyhole shape.

¹³ 1999 survey (map recording # 199903029016): <http://146.129.54.93:8193/imgcache/OPR199903029016-1-2.pdf>; 2000 survey (map recording # 20001012900008): <http://146.129.54.93:8193/imgcache/OPR20000306000794-1-4.pdf>

¹⁴ Boundary Line Adjustment #L00L0047 on p. 2 lists an easement for roads, gates, and fences (#199312171164); an underground electric distribution line parallel to SE 243rd St (#199611080247); various reserved mineral rights, and various conditions from short plats and lot line adjustments.

¹⁵ Discussed in Agreement 9/21/00 between Spoerer and Cedar River Associates. Described in Recording #20001018000676; mapped in #20001018000679 and in recorded survey #20001012900008

¹⁶ Development agreement contained in Acquisition Files, signed 2/11/2000, although there is no recording number on document.

¹⁷ Ordinances 11653 Amendment 96 as amended by Ordinance 12061, amendment T-6/96AA

- The third parcel, 152206-9117, situated immediately south of the Dorre Don-9011 parcel, may be developed at urban densities but any future development shall adhere to “Open Space Protection Conditions” including dedication of an open space tract on the property that is to include a steep slope, wetlands, and a 100-foot buffer to the Dorre Don-9011 parcel.

King County’s intent “is that the open space tract ensure all of the following: protection in perpetuity for riverine-dependent fish and wildlife habitat; passive recreation and scenic opportunities associated with the Cedar River Trail; and buffering the effects of non-point pollution and human encroachment associated with the proposed high density urban development.” (Watkins/Spoerer Development Agreement 1997, p. 1)

Future developers will be required to post signs, the design of which must be negotiated with King County, along the open space tract. (King County 2000, p. 3) The Development Agreement between the King County Executive and Cedar Valley Associates states that “Monitoring of habitat features and processes in the open space area...and of problems caused by homeowners [erosion, clearing trees, encroachment, dumping]...shall be funded and conducted by the homeowner’s association according to a monitoring plan to be developed jointly by King County.” (King County 2000, p.3) This monitoring would be administered by the King County Department of Development and Environmental Services (DDES) rather than by the Water and Land Resources Division.

The Development Agreement also indicates there will be “an access easement in favor of King County and in the approximate location of the existing roadway.” (King County 2000, p. 3) This easement is as discussed on previous page.

Dorre Don-0170

Dorre Don -0170 and -1036 were first platted in the 1927 Dorre Don Campsites Plat (Recording #192707142378787).

Parcel -0170 was platted as Tract 29, labeled “Community Beach: Reserved as Private.” The Plat states in its Dedication that certain areas were dedicated to the public “except that Tracts **29**, 68, 71, 82, 109, and 138...together with all easements shown hereon, are dedicated as community property of the owners of all the individual tracts within this plat.” [emphasis added]

Parcel 0170 came into King County ownership when the parcel was dedicated by a Quit Claim Deed from Mr. Philip C. Rafter to King County Parks 1968. The Quit Claim Deed #6451738 (12/23/1968) donated this land and a Board of County Commissioners Resolution #36512 accepted this property “to be used for park and recreational purposes.”

This parcel was located at the terminus of Dorre Don Court SE. In 1975, the property was washed away by the Cedar River in a flood; the area where the park used to be is now within the river or part of the adjacent left bank. At that time, “Parks assumed that according to accretion and avulsion rules the river bottom and far bank were no longer Parks property and removed the park from Parks records.” (Gray pers. comm. 12/4/03) However, this Dorre Don-0170 parcel is still mapped on King County DNRP’s GIS layer and is included in the Parks database as an “implied responsibility” of the County. A 2004 site visit revealed that there appears to be no physical access remaining to the parcel (if indeed any land still remains); Dorre Don Court SE terminates at a house well north of the parcel and it appears that any unopened right of way leads to the river well before it would reach where County property should be located.

Although there originally was no parcel number assigned to this site (it was labeled ‘community beach’ on parcel maps (Gray pers. comm. 12/4/03), in April 1997 it was assigned its current parcel number (Hauck pers. comm. 12/4/03 email).

Dorre Don-1036

Dorre Don -0170 and -1036 were first platted in the 1927 Dorre Don Campsites Plat (Recording #192707142378787).

Parcel 1036 was identified on map as “Public Park..” The Plat states in its Dedication that “...the owner in fee simple of the land hereby platted hereby dedicates to the use of the public forever all...public property there is shown on the plat, and the use thereof for any and all public purposes not inconsistent with the use thereof for [road purposes]...”

Property Services records indicate that this site was acquired in December 1968, although this acquisition date has not been confirmed by any other sources (Gray pers. comm. 12/4/03 email). There are no known easements or use restrictions at the site.

Part 3. Ecological and Physical Setting

This section describes the existing natural resources and ecological processes associated with the Dorre Don Natural Area. Additional analysis is presented in Part 6 below. Figure 3 depicts site features including topography, streams, wetlands, and floodplains.

Topography and Soils

The Cedar River valley in the vicinity of Dorre Don Natural Area is approximately 1/3 mile wide. The east valley wall lies just east of Dorre Don Way SE, including Dorre Don-1036 parcel. The west valley wall lies immediately west of the Cedar River Trail and along State Route (SR) 18/169.

The Dorre Don-9123 and -9060 parcels are very flat, lying close to the elevation of the river and completely encompassed by the mapped FEMA 100-year floodplain. These parcels have one soil type (Snyder et al. 1973):

- Pilchuck loamy fine sand (Pc), which is located on terraces adjacent to streams, found at low elevations, with 0-2% slopes and rapid permeability. Common inclusions are high amounts of riverwash, Puyallup, and other soil types.

The western portion of the Dorre Don-9011 parcel consists of steep slopes along the Cedar River Pipeline Road, and gently sloping terrain that extends to the river. Acquisition documents describe the Watkins property as follows: “There are approximately 19.51 acres of upland and 21.76 acres of wetland. Most of the usable level upland consists of a 500-foot wide section, which runs from the northeast corner to the southeast. The excess portion in the northeast corner is generally level but is at FEMA 100-year floodplain elevation. The southwest corner of the property is very steep with an approximately 25% slope. The Cedar River pipeline abuts the extreme southwest corner.” (King County 1999a)

Dorre Don-9011 has three soil types:

- Everett gravelly sandy loam 0-5% slopes (EvB) on most of the property. This is soils “nearly level to very gently undulating” on terraces. The soil series is “somewhat excessively drained,...formed on very gravelly glacial outwash deposits, under conifers.” Runoff is slow and erosion hazard is slight.
- Alderwood and Kitsap very steep, 25-75% slopes (AkF) on the southwest corner of the property. Runoff is rapid to very rapid; erosion hazard is severe to very severe; slippage potential is severe. Alderwood soils are moderately well-drained soils located at upland sites, formed under conifers in glacier deposits.
- Puyallup fine sandy loam (Py) located in the northeast corner of the property in the flood hazard area. Puyallup soils are well-drained, located on “the natural levees adjacent to streams in river valleys,” found at low elevations with 0-2% slopes. Permeability is moderately rapid, but they may contain poorly drained inclusions of soils.

The Dorre Don-1036 parcel is extremely steep, and consists of steep slopes that form the eastern extent of the Cedar River wall. The elevation of this parcel rises from 380 feet at the western edge to 480 feet at the eastern edge, across a horizontal distance of only 200 feet. The slope supports the above-mentioned AkF soils.

Hydrology and Channel Morphology

Cedar River

Using maps and aerial photographs, Perkins (1994, cited in Blair 2003a) described historic changes in channel characteristics between the reach extending from RM 15.0 to 17.0. This reach was identified based on channel morphology and slope (see Figure 3). The Cedar River Current and Future Conditions Report (King County 1993a) describes historic conditions in this reach as follows:

“[This reach] was characterized by some multiple channels and major changes in position between 1865 and 1936; in 1865 the river flowed across what is now the Lower Dorre Don neighborhood. The width of the meander belt exceeded 500 feet in this reach in 1936...Although revetments at least partially armor the outside banks of every bend in this reach, numerous old channels still exist on the nearly-undeveloped left bank floodplain, The potential exists for the river to switch course into one of these old channels.” (King County 1993a p. 5-29)

Perkins noted that the 1895 active channel width was 230 feet, and in 1989 the active channel width was only 80 feet. She also characterized the natural degree of confinement as “unconfined,” but characterized the current level of hydrological modifications as “high.” The wetted channel width has decreased from a maximum 150 feet and minimum 80 feet in 1895 to a maximum 72 feet and minimum 60 feet in 1989. During this same time period the historic pool frequency decreased from “high” to “low.” (Perkins 1994, Blair 2003)

The Cedar River Trail, built on an old Burlington Northern railroad grade, crosses the Cedar River at approximately River Mile 16.4. The trail and bridge crossing may constrain the natural movement of the Cedar River through this part of this reach.

Floodplain and channel migration hazard areas

The mapped FEMA 100-year floodplain for the Cedar River depicts areas predicted to be inundated by a flood event of a severity that has a 1% chance of occurring in any given year (Faegenburg, pers. comm. 2004) (Figure 3). The FEMA floodway is the area within and adjacent to the channel that is subject to the deepest and fastest flood flows. Although the FEMA floodway is not shown on Figure 3, it is contained entirely within the mapped 100-year floodplain. The 100-year floodplain and floodway maps for this reach of the Cedar River have been recently updated and are considered best available data, but are awaiting adoption by FEMA (Faegenburg, pers. comm. 2004).

The mapped FEMA floodplain upstream of Dorre Don Reach is approximately 500 feet wide and mainly consists of the river corridor. The floodplain widens to approximately 1,000 feet within the Natural Area reach. The floodplain and floodway encompass the Dorre Don-9060 and -9123 parcels, the toe of slope within Dorre Don-1036, and portions of the valley floor extending ½ mile upstream until the point where the floodplain narrows at the SR 18 bridge.

The Dorre Don neighborhood along the left bank of the Cedar River from RM 15.0 to 16.2 has been identified in the Lower Cedar Basin and Nonpoint Action Plan as a Channel Migration Hazard Area (WMC 1998, p.4-90). The Basin Plan notes that although the left bank of the Dorre Don area “is largely or entirely undeveloped at the present time, future subdivision is possible...[the area] is privately held and potentially at risk, although most current and past property owners have obviously recognized the risk by avoiding construction to date in the most hazardous areas” (p. 4-92). The location of “abandoned channels (which favor shifting) and revetments and levees (which inhibit shifting) allow for good estimates of the

river's likely course into the future.” (WMC 1998, p. 4-91) The side channels along the left bank suggest significant channel migration hazard through the Dorre Don Area (WMC 1998).

The Flood Hazard Reduction Services section of King County has purchased two parcels directly across the river from Dorre Don-9123: parcels 208520-0275 and -0260 (see Figures 2 and 3). These are narrow strips of land on the riverward side of Lower Dorre Don Way SE, through which the Lower Dorre Don levee runs.

Levees and Revetments

The following facilities line segments of both banks of the Cedar River near the Dorre Don Reach Natural Area parcels (see Figure 3).

- The Lower Dorre Don Levee is located on the right bank from RM ~16.6 to RM ~16.0, across from the river from the Dorre Don-9011, -9160, and -9123 parcels.
- The Cedar River Trail Bridge Revetment and the Elkington Revetment just downstream from the bridge on the left bank at ~RM 16.3 is vegetated with willows and other native shrubs. Japanese knotweed is also present on these facilities. (Koon pers. comm. 2003)
- The Edwards Revetment is located on the left bank at RM 15.8, just downstream from the Dorre Don-9123 parcel.
- The Banchero Barnes Revetment is located on the right bank between RM 15.7 and 15.6.
- The Coleman/Lotto Revetment is located on the left bank between RM 15.6 and 15.4.

These facilities are maintained by the Flood Hazard Reduction Services (FHRS) section of WLRD, which performs routine maintenance such as periodic vegetation management and post-flood inspections and repairs. Routine maintenance activities on these facilities may include removal of blackberries in order to ensure adequate access and visibility for inspection of the facilities' structural integrity.

In addition to the routine maintenance and repair of these flood hazard reduction facilities, the FHRS Section performs mapping and other flood-related studies and projects on lands adjacent to King County's large rivers, including the Cedar River. FHRS and/or its contracted surveyors may have placed permanent stakes or rebar along the levee or riverbanks to mark sites at which river cross-sections are measured (Koon pers. comm. 2003b).

Side Channels

The Dorre Don-9123 parcel includes at least one main side channel and a number of seasonal river channels. (King County 1998) A percolation side-channel on the left bank at RM 15.9 or 16.0 is designated as a Regionally Significant Resource Area (RSRA)¹⁸ which “has low LWD levels and some runoff from pastures.” (King County 1993a, p. A-4) The main side channel is described in the Cedar River Basin Action Plan as follows:

“The channel has perennial flow. No inventoried or otherwise large wetlands are associated with the channel, although small ones appear to be present. The side channel flows along the base of the left bank terrace of the floodplain across from lower Dorre Don. It is a significant flood flow channel and outlines a meander bend that is well forested with a mix of deciduous and coniferous trees. A right bank spring emanates on the floodplain and enters the side channel about mid-way in the floodplain.” (WMC 1998, A-122)

¹⁸ “RSRAs are those portions of watersheds that contribute to the resource base of the entire Puget sound region by virtue of exceptional species and habitat diversity and abundance when compared to aquatic and terrestrial systems of similar size and structure elsewhere in the region. RSRAs may also support rare, threatened or endangered species or communities.” (King County 2001: Glossary)

Just south of this site on the Dorre Don-9060 parcel, the appraisal notes that “the lower portion of the site near the river has been eroded by changes in the river over the years creating several channels which were dry and appeared to be the result of previous flooding. One channel near the easement road contained flowing water.” (Hurley and Associates 1998)

Other side channels in the vicinity include a right bank side channel near RM 15.8 that is also listed as an RSRA; “this year-round side channel is confined by development but is otherwise healthy.” (King County 1993a, p. A-4) Another right bank tributary percolation side channel at RM 16.2 “is degraded by lack of riparian habitat due to levee construction.” (King County 1993a, p. A-13)

Tributaries

The main tributary in the vicinity is Dorre Don Creek (WRIA #08.0336), a 1.6-mile long right bank tributary that enters the Cedar River directly across from Dorre Don-9123 parcel at approximately RM 16.3. Dorre Don Creek is “dry for extended portions of the year.” (King County 1993a p. 7-70) The Current and Future Conditions Report notes that this stream is an atypical Cedar River tributary in that it “does not traverse any single steep slope face on its way to the river.” The Dorre Don Creek sub-basin is one of the least developed subbasins in the lower Cedar River basin, “with only 35% of its 1.3 square miles developed and fully 60% remaining forested. About ¼ of the developed area is in the Dorre Don community near the confluence of Tributary 0336 and the Cedar River, at RM [16.3].” (King County 1993a, p. 4-28) The headwaters of Tributary 0336 lie within a 14-acre Class 1 wetland.

While the Dorre Don Reach Natural Area may include seeps of emergent sub-surface water, no streams or wetlands are mapped within the site.

An unnamed and unnumbered tributary is mapped on Figure 3 along the Cedar River Trail at the northern extent of Dorre Don reach, but no information is available about this drainage.

Wetlands

A wetland report contained in the Dorre Don-9060 appraisal indicates there are no wetlands on site (Shapiro and Associates 1998). The National Wetlands Inventory maps a palustrine scrub shrub wetland just southeast of this parcel, but this wetland is not mapped in the King County Wetland Inventory layers on Figure 3.

Wetland 120B is located on the eastern part of the Dorre Don-9011 parcel. This wetland is also not described in the King County Wetland Inventory, but the National Wetlands Inventory shows a palustrine scrub-shrub and a palustrine forested wetland on this parcel. The presence of this wetland was not verified during field work conducted during the preparation of this document.

Vegetation

Vegetation on the Dorre Don-9060 and -9123 parcels is typical of the lowland riparian floodplain plant communities along the Lower Cedar River, and consists predominantly of black cottonwood and red alder in the canopy, and lesser amounts of other tree species such as western red cedar, western hemlock, and bigleaf maple (see Figure 4). The understory contains native species such as salmonberry, snowberry, red osier dogwood, and willow, in addition to extensive patches of non-native invasive species including Japanese knotweed, Himalayan blackberry and reed canarygrass (see Figure 5).

The western portion of the Dorre Don-9011 parcel was visited during field research for this document; the south and eastern portions were not visited. The tree species within this parcel include big-leaf maple, red alder, black cottonwood, western red cedar, Douglas-fir, and western hemlock. The understory is composed of relatively dense stands of Indian plum, salmonberry, thimbleberry, vine maple, western hazelnut, snowberry, ocean spray, salal, Oregon grape, huckleberry, blackcap raspberry, and cedar trees in the sapling layer. The forb layer includes several fern species, trailing blackberry, nettles, and false lily of

the valley, with limited amounts of non-native, invasive species such as ivy, foxglove, and herb robert. No noxious weeds for which control is required were noted at the site. Infrequent openings in the canopy exist, in areas that appear to have been disturbed in the past.

The appraisal report for the Dorre Don-9011 parcel notes that “in our original appraisal we were provided with a timber value estimate that noted roughly \$70,000 in excess timber value.” (Bruce C. Allen and Associates 1999, p. 29) There is no further information on potential timber value at the site; timber harvest would not be appropriate on this Ecological Land.

Vegetation on Dorre Don-1036 is similar in species composition to that of the Dorre Don-9060 and -9123 parcels described above, consisting of a mixture of deciduous and coniferous trees and an understory mainly comprised of native shrubs and forbs.

Figure 4: View of Dorre Don-9123 from across Cedar River. Photo taken March 2003.



Figure 5: View of Dorre Don-9123 from west, across side channel. Photo taken March 2003.



Fish and Wildlife

No information was gathered on wildlife use of the Dorre Don Natural Area parcels during the field survey for this report. The Lower Cedar Basin Plan describes the side channel of Dorre Don-9123 parcel as being used by sockeye, coho, steelhead, and cutthroat trout. When water levels are high, Chinook may also use the side channel.

Tributary #08.0336, Dorre Don Creek, has limited fish use due to its intermittent flow. “Utilization by anadromous salmonids is further limited by a culvert under Upper Dorre Don Road at RM 0.17... The lower section of the stream runs through backyards, through two culverts, and over highly porous gravel that probably allows all but the highest flows from upstream to infiltrate. This lower reach is primarily used in the winter by anadromous salmon for spawning and refuge.” (King County 1993a, p. 7-70)

Part 4. Public Use and Infrastructure

There is no parking nor are there established public access points at Dorre Don Reach Natural Area. The Ramer access easement provides access to the Dorre Don-9123 parcel only for public employees, not the general public, and parking is unavailable at this site. The stream channel across the southern portion of the Dorre Don-9123 parcel also limits access to most of the property. A small A-frame structure built by

previous property owners has never presented a problem for management and therefore has not been removed (Harig pers. comm. 2003).

The southern portion of the Dorre Don-9011 is accessible to users of the Cedar River Trail and, potentially, the Cedar River Pipeline Road. There are no signs indicating that the parcel is publicly owned. An informal trail extends south from the Cedar River Trail along either the west part of Dorre Don-9011 parcel or the adjacent privately owned property to the west (the boundaries are not marked, so it is unclear where the trail lies). This trail may cross the parcel to meet the Cedar River Pipeline Road. Additional side trails branch off from the main trail. Although the trail appears that this trail is not heavily used, there is some evidence of foot and horse traffic as well as a limited amount of garbage dumping along and near the trail (note that dumping may not be on County land since location of trail is uncertain). In addition, an old overgrown road grade parallels the river in the northeast sector of the site.

The northeastern part of this parcel does not provide ready access to the river due to the riverbank being elevated above the water level; there may be informal trail access to the water at some point along the riverbank.

Future access to the Dorre Don-9011 could be provided through SE 243rd Street on the south side of the parcel if the road were to be extended to the property in the event of future development (King County 1999a). A development agreement governing an adjacent parcel to the south indicates that access to the King County parcel is to be granted as part of future development (described in Part 2 above). However, “The southernmost 800 feet of this access road will negotiate land having 40% slopes. The total length of the access across the [property to the south] is estimated to be approximately 1,300 feet in length.” (Bruce C. Allen and Associates 1999 p. 13)

The eastern portion of Dorre Don-1036 extends along several residential backyards. In the past, yard wastes have been dumped on this portion of the parcel. Due to inaccessibility of this portion of the site there has been no recent inspection of this portion of the property by Parks property management.

There is no known information about public use at the site, nor are there facilities to support public use at the site.

Part 5. Known Site History

The previous owner of the Dorre Don-9123 parcel grazed mules on the site, and had established a series of single wire electric fences on the property (King County 1998). The previous owner may also have mowed the knotweed to facilitate grazing (Harig pers comm 2003).

All known details of development negotiations at the Dorre Don-9011 parcel were provided in Part 2 above.

As noted in Part 4, the Dorre Don-1036 parcel has been the site of illegal dumping and tree cutting by neighbors.¹⁹ Currently DDES has a code violation case open for this site (Order # E02G0498).

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 the Dorre Don 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.

¹⁹ DDES Code Violation # E02G0498

Information Gaps and Development of Management Recommendations

There are significant gaps in how much is known and understood about ecological conditions and physical processes in this Natural Area 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. Consideration should also be given to impact on flood characteristics.

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. Such assessment or evaluations of proposed actions should be conducted by staff with appropriate expertise (e.g. Watershed and Ecological Assessment Team staff). Information from the 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, provide substantial inventory and assessment information about Lower Cedar River sites.

Prior to minor management activities (e.g., small planting project), the proposed activity should be evaluated to determine whether or not the activity could do harm to existing 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 these sites, 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 Processes

Though little current information exists for restoring the ecological processes within this Natural Area, the primary restoration goal for the mainstem sites should be to reconnect the river channel with its floodplain. Although this action could be accomplished in various ways (e.g. by removal or modification of the existing levees and revetments to trigger channel migration and reestablishment of connections between the main channel and off-channel floodplain) in-depth analysis of historic river conditions, hydraulics, and hydrology would be needed to determine the best approach for improving the channel-floodplain connection and ensuring that the project does not result in adverse flood impacts.

Recommendations made in current planning documents are listed in Part 7: Recommendations; additional plans may be generated by the Flood Hazard Reduction Services staff (Schaefer pers. comm. 2004).

Restoring Structure and Function

In order to restore riparian habitat conditions, it may be necessary to control invasive, non-native species, and actively promote establishment and growth of a native riparian plant community, where possible, given site and budgetary constraints. Plantings should represent the historic vegetative communities commonly associated with forested riparian areas in western Washington and at this site in particular. Inherent in the restoration should be efforts to maintain structural complexity, historic levels of 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.

Public Use

The southern Dorre Don-9011 parcel may be accessed by pedestrians off of the Cedar River Trail, where informal trails lead to the south across the parcel. Future access from the south could be provided in association with future development of an adjacent privately owned parcel.

The northern parcels have limited opportunity for public use due to limited access, topographic, or hydrologic features. There is no legal access for the general public to the northern parcels; the importance of these areas as off-channel spawning and rearing areas for salmonids and seasonally flooded forests make them inappropriate for extensive public use. The right bank hillslope parcel is extremely steep and not conducive to use.

The parcels are not marked as King County property, nor are there parking or access points to the site.

Flood Hazard Reduction

The King County Flood Hazard Reduction Plan (King County 1993b) states that the Dorre Don Reach is subject to overtopping of both leveed and unleveed riverbanks and deep, fast flows even during moderate flood events. Portions of Lower Dorre Don Road and several homes in this reach are located in a high-velocity floodway and have been repeatedly damaged by flooding. The lack of emergency access to the area during severe flooding poses a significant hazard to human health and safety. Because of these factors, the FHRP recommends purchase and removal of up to 50 homes from the floodway in this reach as the best approach for protection of human safety. In addition, implementation of this recommendation would provide additional open space for recreation, fish habitat enhancement and floodplain management.

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 Dorre Don 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 Dorre Don 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 this Natural Area.

Management Objectives and Recommendations

Objective: Maintain ecological integrity of the site

Recommendation: Ensure that management and public access support the regional ecological value of site

Decisions about site management and public access should consider the ecological role of, in particular, the northern parcels supporting lowland riparian forest and side channels, and should preserve and protect ecological integrity. This overarching recommendation is carried out through the various recommendations below.

Objective: 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. The Ecosystem Diagnosis and Treatment study, and past and future work by King County Ecological and FHRS staff, 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 projects to achieve a set of goals and objectives consistent with those identified for King County Ecological Lands.

The Cedar River Basin Plan and Flood Hazard Reduction Plan (FHRP) contain a number of recommendations for the Dorre Don reach that can be considered for future recommendations. These general proposals are aimed at the multiple objectives of the basin plan (flood hazard reduction, habitat quality and salmonid health, and water quality and quantity) and FHRP, though they are not prioritized or scheduled for implementation in the near term.

As projects on the Natural Area are prioritized and funded by King County agencies outside of the Natural Resource Lands group (or by other implementing agencies), projects should be reviewed by NRL through the “Application to Alter Parks Division and NRL Managed Properties” process to coordinate site management with project work.

Basin Plan Recommendations

- Two areas were identified as high priority acquisitions: Dorre Don Left Bend Meander (21 acres between RM 15.9 and 16.2), and Lower Dorre Don (5 acres between RM 16.1 to 16.5). (p. 4-38)
- Mainstem Recommendation 6 identifies the Dorre Don area (left bank, RM 15.0 through RM 16.2) as a severe channel hazard migration area. The several capital projects proposed in this area (listed in following bullets) “would not be undertaken if, during their design, the risk of their being damaged by channel migration were judged to be significant.” (p. 4-92)
- Capital Project 3103: Dorre Don Court Flood-Damage Reduction/Floodplain Restoration (right bank at RM 15.8) would purchase and remove three houses and restore up to nine acres of floodplain. Additional work would excavate groundwater habitat (Dorre Don Meander B).
- Capital Project 3102: Dorre Don Flood-Damage Reduction (right bank at RM 16.4) would purchase and remove 20 houses at risk from flood damage, restore ~six acres of floodplain, and elevate approximately 600 linear feet of Lower Dorre Don Way to one foot above the 100-year flood stage. “Funding may be available from Parks to purchase this land as open space” (p. 4-4)
- A number of proposed projects would affect the channel on Dorre Don-9123 (left bank, RM 15.8). Dorre Don Left Bank Meander Habitat/Open Space would deepen an existing groundwater-fed side channel, add LWD and boulders to enhance pools and increase cover, and revegetate disturbed areas, and excavate additional pools and groundwater-fed habitat. Other projects include Dorre Don LB Meander, Side Channel Enhancement, and Side Channel Ponds. (p. 4-43 and 4-87, and A-121, A-122)
- Lower Dorre Don, Lower Pond/Habitat (right bank, 15.9) to excavate groundwater-fed pond and channel to Dorre Don Creek. (p. 4-43 and A-124)
- Watkins Restoration/Open Space (left bank, RM 16.2/16.6) to excavate groundwater-fed habitat in the floodplain. (This project would occur on Dorre Don-9011) (p. 4-43 and 4-87)

The WRIA 8 Chinook Salmon Conservation Plan Draft Work Plan (WRIA 8 Service Provider Team 2004) made several flood control and habitat enhancement recommendations for this vicinity (Appendix F, p. 2, Reach 14 and 15).

- Dorre Don Area Side Channel Enhancements, enhance protected side channels as needed (see above)
- Dorre Don Area flood buyouts: acquire developed properties in lower Dorre Don area and modify levees and restore floodplain where feasible.

- Lower Dorre Don Reach Left Bank Meander Reach and Upper Dorre Don Meander Reach: Protect 71 acres, 14 parcels, rural residential, riverfront with flooding issues. Includes an extensive floodplain riparian forest, numerous valley floor spring-fed features including side channel, stream, and oxbow habitats. This is good opportunity to work with private property owners to protect habitat on their property, especially on left bank.
- Explore protection of left bank forested floodplain area adjacent to property already in King County Ownership (Watkins, see above)

There are no specific plans or timeframe for implementing these Basin Plan or Draft Plan Framework recommendations at this time.

Objective: Contain spread of invasive vegetation

Recommendation: Monitor and control invasive vegetation

Park staff should monitor and contain the spread of noxious and invasive plant species that are present at the sites. Limited amounts of invasives have been identified along trails in Dorre Don-9011 parcel. Knotweed on northern parcels may require more extensive, separate capital project work. Control is primarily through manual removal of plants by Park staff.

Objective: Protect the site from inappropriate public uses

Recommendation: Control litter/dumping and encroachment activities

Park staff should monitor the site for encroachment, dumping, and other trash and respond as necessary to maintain a clean and safe property. Monitoring should occur at least monthly. Park staff should consider installing litter/dumping policy signs on the property if litter activity increases.

Recommendation: Verify boundary of Dorre Don-9011 parcel

Park staff should verify existing survey information, or GPS-locate the western edge of the Dorre Don-9011 property to determine actual boundaries of the site. If privately owned parcel to the south is developed, ensure that boundaries are verified and marked as appropriate.

Objective: Allow current level of passive recreation opportunities at the sites

Recommendation: Monitor public access

At the current time, there is limited use by the public, mainly occasional pedestrian use off of the Cedar River Trail through Dorre Don-9011. If access is opened on the south side through future development, monitor level of usage from local residents and Cedar River Pipeline Road users to determine necessary changes to trail management in this area. Use should be directed to the upland areas of Dorre Don-9011, since the northern parcels provide environmentally sensitive salmonid and wildlife habitat and have no legal public access.

Park staff should note changes in visitor numbers and types of recreational activities at these sites, and observe any noticeable visitor impacts on the ecological values of the site. This information should be reported annually to King County Natural Resource Lands Management Staff responsible for updating site management guidelines.

Implementation

Many of these recommendations pertain to 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, and FHRS). As new information is gathered for the site, restoration projects may be developed following

adoption of these site management guidelines. 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	Park Re-source Staff	Basin Steward	NRL staff	WRIA Project Coord.	CPOSA	WEAT	FHRS
Priority One								
Monitor and control invasive vegetation	At least monthly	X						
Control litter/dumping and encroachment activities	At least monthly	X						
Monitor public access	At least monthly	X						
Survey boundaries of Dorre Don-9011	2004	X		X				
Priority Two								
Perform baseline inventories and assessments	As prioritized and funded			X			X	
Develop recommendations from inventory information	As prioritized and funded		X	X	X	X	X	X
Update Site Management Guidelines	Within at least five years			X				X

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Appendix 1: List of all parcels in Dorre Don Reach

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

Dorre Don Reach			
Assessor's Parcel #	Acreage	Ownership	
092206	-9029	6.49	Private Ownership
	-9179	5.28	Private Ownership
	-9002	6.92	Private Ownership
162206	-9071	14.16	Private Ownership
152206	-9102	5.45	Private Ownership
	-9101	1.90	Private Ownership
	-9007	1.30	Private Ownership
	-9038	0.35	Private Ownership
	-9025	3.23	Private Ownership
	-9026	6.43	Private Ownership
	-9027	2.65	Private Ownership (King County access easement on site)
	-9123	12.65	King County Ecological Land
	-9060	2.01	King County Ecological Land
	-9024	0.72	Private Ownership
	-9032	0.78	Private Ownership
	-9061	0.70	Private Ownership
	-9028	0.91	Private Ownership
Total		71.93 Acres	
Other King County-Owned Land Nearby			
Assessor's Parcel #	Acreage	Ownership	
152206	-9011	41.17	King County Ecological Land
208520	-1036	12.10	King County Ecological Land
208520	-0170	0.44	King County Ecological Land
Total		53.27 Acres	