



King County

Water and Land Resources Division

Department of Natural Resources and Parks

King Street Center

201 South Jackson Street, Suite 600

Seattle, WA 98104-3855

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TTY Relay: 711

Determination of Non-Significance

Name of Proposal: Lower Russell Levee Setback Project

Description of Proposal:

The Lower Russell Levee Setback project will replace the existing flood containment system of levee and revetments along the right (east) bank of the Green River within the 1.4 mile project reach to provide long-term flood protection, improve riparian and aquatic habitat, and enhance recreational opportunities. The existing flood containment system is being replaced because it does not meet current engineering design standards and is prone to scour and slope instability.

The project will set the levee back to the maximum extent practicable, improve aquatic, floodplain, and riparian habitat, and enhance recreational opportunities. The project has the following main components:

1. Improve flood protection by replacing and upgrading 1.4 miles of existing levee and revetment with a new flood containment system that meets current engineering design standards and the Lower Green River System Wide Improvement Framework 500-year (18,800 cfs) level of protection standard.
2. Reconnect about 40 acres of floodplain that is currently isolated from the river by the existing levee and Russell Road by setting the new levee back from the river bank and excavating portions of the hydrologically isolated floodplain down to an elevation that is inundated under the river's altered flow regime.
3. Restore aquatic and riparian habitats, with focus on the following elements:
 - a) Restore an annual flood regime in select locations by excavating portions of the reconnected floodplain to create about 15 acres of rearing and refuge habitat for juvenile salmon;
 - b) Shade the river and enhance and restore riparian functions and the recreational experience by planting about 24 acres of the riparian corridor adjacent to the river;
 - c) Install large wood in habitat areas to create and enhance rearing and refuge habitat for juvenile salmon, provide immediate shade and thermal refuge for fish, and create holding pools for adult salmon migrating upstream.

4. Improve recreational features:
 - a) Relocate and enhance Van Doren's Landing Park to allow for habitat restoration in the existing park location;
 - b) Enhance the Green River Regional Trail by constructing about 1.4 miles of separated multi-purpose trail through the relocated park and along the northern levee;
 - c) Construct nearly a mile of secondary trails for passive recreation within enhanced habitat areas.

5. Achieve multiple objectives by integrating the new levee, road, and reconnected floodplain with existing and enhanced parks, trails, and open space, thereby creating a unified landscape that offers opportunities for active and passive recreation while at the same time restoring aquatic and riparian habitats and providing flood protection.

Location of Proposal:

The project is located between River Mile 17.85 (S. 212th St) and river mile 19.25 (Veteran's Way/S. 228th St), on the east (right) bank of the Green River within the City of Kent.

The project is located in Section 15 NW, Section 10 SE, and Section 11 SW and NW, Township 22 North, Range 4 East of the Willamette Meridian.

North End of Project Site: Latitude: 47.41233, Longitude: -122.26468

South End of Project Site: Latitude: 47.39587, Longitude: -122.27326

Responsible Official: Josh Baldi
Position/Title: Division Director, Water and Land Resources Division
Address: 201 South Jackson Street, Suite 600
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DATE: 10/25/17 SIGNATURE: 

Proponent and Lead Agency: King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks
Water and Land Resources Division

Contact Person(s): Kerry Bauman, Project Ecologist, 206-477-4637

The lead agency for this proposal has determined that it does not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required under Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 43.21C.030(2)(c). This decision was made after review of a completed environmental checklist and other information on file with the lead agency. THIS INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC ON REQUEST (for a nominal photocopying fee).

THIS DETERMINATION OF NON-SIGNIFICANCE (DNS) is issued under Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 197-11-340(2); the lead agency will not act on this proposal until after **November 28, 2017**. Comments must be submitted or postmarked by that date.

For additional information, please contact:

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Or visit: <http://www.kingcounty.gov/rivers>.