



## 1. OPEN SPACE RESOURCES

Review the attached evaluation criteria. For the **proposed acquisition parcel(s)**, please (1) mark those criteria that apply, and (2) describe **in the space below** how the proposed acquisition satisfies each marked criteria.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A. Wildlife habitat or rare plant reserve | <input type="checkbox"/> E. Historic/cultural resources                             |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> B. Salmon habitat and aquatic resources   | <input type="checkbox"/> F. Urban passive-use natural area/greenbelt                |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C. Scenic resources                       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> G. Park/open space or natural corridor addition |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> D. Community separator                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> H. Passive recreation opportunity/unmet needs   |

**Wildlife Habitat/Plants** – This reach of the Middle Green River provides habitat for 10 Washington State Species of Concern: Chinook salmon, steelhead, bald eagle, great blue heron, pileated woodpecker, big brown bat, fisher, mink, Western toad, and Van Dyke’s salamander. The North Rainier Elk Herd (White River Unit) with 600-900 individuals is one of 10 documented elk herds in state. Birds include turkey vulture, wood duck, western screech-owl, barn owl, goldfinch, blue grouse, violet green swallows. The varied habitat types (riverine, floodplain, steep slopes, streams, wetlands, ravines, riparian zones, uplands) provide food and cover for a wide variety of wildlife. When these ecosystems merge, landscape variations such as “edge habitat” are created.

**Salmon Habitat/Aquatic Resources** - Protection and restoration of refuge habitat (side channels, off-channels, tributary access) is a primary goal of the *WRIA 9 Salmon Habitat Plan (Plan)* (2005) for the Middle Green River subwatershed. These acquisitions would promote the restoration of refuge habitat which has been greatly depleted along the river. These projects were assessed in the recently published *Middle Green River Levee Setback Feasibility Report* (KC 2013). The Middle Green River was identified as one of 10 most important river reaches in Puget Sound for salmon recovery (Trust for Public Land 2001).

**Scenic Resources** - These parcels provide outstanding scenic opportunities associated with the Middle Green River. Observers can see extensive forests, steep slopes, streams, wetlands, and a beautiful and dynamic floodplain of a major river.

**Community Separator** - The reach is within five miles of Auburn, Black Diamond, and the Muckleshoot Indian Reservation. If acquired, these parcels would increase the community separator function currently being provided by the natural areas. Preserving these lands would also increase the linkage of public land along the Middle Green River.

**Park/Open Space or Natural Corridor Addition** - Preserving this reach would provide additional permanent protection for the ~1,000-acre Green River Natural Area, the Porter Levee Natural Area. These natural areas are closely associated with the 2,500-acre Green River Gorge State Park lands. These public lands provide ecological connectivity important for fish and wildlife migration.

**Passive Recreation Opportunity** - Permanently preserving these parcels would enhance passive recreation opportunity provided by the three natural areas, which provide respite for those interested in experiencing natural open space in south King County. Preserving these parcels would enhance the opportunity KC residents have to hike, fish, and bird-watch in a natural setting. Residents in the fast-growing communities of Enumclaw, Black Diamond, Auburn, and the Enumclaw Plateau would benefit from additional permanently protected passive recreational opportunities along the Middle Green River.

## 2. ADDITIONAL FACTORS

For the proposed acquisition parcel(s), please (1) mark all criteria that apply, and (2) thoroughly, yet succinctly describe **in the space below** how the proposed acquisition satisfies each marked criteria.

- A. Educational/interpretive opportunity
- B. Threat of loss of open space resources
- C. Ownership complexity/willing seller(s)/ownership interest proposed
- D. Partnerships - Describe any public or private partnerships that will enhance this project:
- E. Is the property identified in an adopted park, open space, comprehensive, or community plan?
- F. Transferable Development Credits (TDC) participation

**Educational/interpretive opportunity** - Preserving these parcels would provide educational and interpretive opportunities. The properties contain upland, steep slope, and riparian habitat, the benefits of which could be described in educational signage along trails. Reasons why this area is important to fish, wildlife, and water quality could be highlighted with signage. Visitors could also learn about the fish and wildlife habitat restoration projects planned for the three natural areas.

**Threat of loss of open space resources** - Protection of these properties would prevent undesirable management issues associated with residential development (tree clearing, livestock grazing, and in the case of the "Wetland" parcels, commercial development).

**Ownership complexity/willing seller/ownership interest** - King County DNRP has contacted all of the prioritized parcel owners. All are willing to negotiate an acquisition.

**Partnerships** - This acquisition effort is supported by the Middle Green River Coalition.

**Is property identified in adopted park, open space, comprehensive, or community plan?** - Support for acquiring land in the areas where the parcels are found is expressed in: *Waterways 2000* (KC 1995), *Green/Duwamish Ecosystem Restoration Program* (Corps 2000), *Last Best Places in the Middle Green River* report (KC 2002), *WRIA 9 Salmon Habitat Plan* (WRIA 9 2005), and the *Middle Green River Levee Setback Feasibility Report* (KC 2013).

## 3. STEWARDSHIP AND MAINTENANCE

*How will the property be stewarded and maintained? Does the property lend itself to volunteer stewardship opportunities? How will ongoing stewardship and maintenance efforts be funded?*

Agency Participation - The maintenance and stewardship of these parcels will be the responsibility of KC DNRP. Stewardship of these sites will be a partnership between KC staff and community stewardship groups and volunteers. The three natural areas are currently managed exclusively for natural resource protection; the addition of these parcels to the KC natural area system would not change the management objectives of the natural areas or of the acquired parcel. However, the site management plan would be amended to include acquired parcels.

Monitoring and Maintenance - Baseline monitoring will be conducted immediately after property acquisition and include a site inventory. This information will provide a foundation for a site management plan, which will guide long-term monitoring, maintenance, restoration, and overall management. Monitoring and maintenance will be accomplished through volunteer work parties, paid staff, and contract crews. Adaptive management will be implemented to respond to other challenges observed through monitoring.

Signage, Inspection and Enforcement - Like all public land, these parcels have the potential to become illegal dumping areas and may draw partygoers or transients. However, these particular parcels have a fairly low risk of this happening because of distance from urban areas and lack of access. Signage would be placed at the site and regular park inspections would be conducted to discourage misuse. KC staff works closely with the KC Sheriff's Department to ensure enforcement of County Park System Codes.

Volunteers - Volunteers from schools and community groups may be recruited for future restoration efforts.

Trails – KC DNRP will develop a trails plan if one is considered appropriate on-site. Any trails that are constructed would be “soft” and consistent with the primary use of the site as an undeveloped natural area. Trail maintenance would be accomplished by KC staff and volunteers.

#### 4. PROJECT BUDGET

<b>TOTAL CFT APPLICATION AMOUNT*</b>	\$885,000
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*\*Allowable acquisition costs (Ordinance 13717): The disbursement of funds shall be made only for capital project expenditures that include costs of acquiring real property, including interests in real property, and the following costs: the cost of related relocation of eligible occupants, cost of appraisal, cost of appraisal review, costs of title insurance, closing costs, pro rata real estate taxes, recording fees, compensating tax, hazardous waste substances reports, directly related staff costs and related legal and administrative costs, but shall not include the cost of preparing applications for conservation futures funds.*

#### Estimation of property value:

*Briefly describe how land values have been estimated, i.e. appraisal, property tax assessment, asking price, letter of value or other means.*

Budget estimates were correlated through market value comparison in KC appraisal files of comparable properties with similar site influences, and would be confirmed by appraisal prior to acquisition.

<b>ESTIMATED PROJECT COSTS (dollars)</b>	
Total property interest value	<b>\$805,000</b>
Title and appraisal work	<b>\$25,000</b>
Closing, fees, taxes	<b>\$25,000</b>
Relocation	<b>NA</b>
Hazardous waste reports	<b>\$20,000</b>
Directly related staff, administration and legal costs	<b>\$40,000</b>
<b>Total Project Costs (CFT and other funds)</b>	<b>\$915,000</b>

<b>MATCHING FUNDS SOURCES</b>	<b>Date Expended or Committed</b>	<b>Match Funds Expended or Committed</b>
2014 Parks Levy – Regional Open Space Acquisition funds		<b>\$457,500</b>
<b>Total Matching Funds</b> (Based on 2-year requirement)		<b>\$457,000</b>
<i>Unidentified Remaining Match Need:</i>		<b>NA</b>

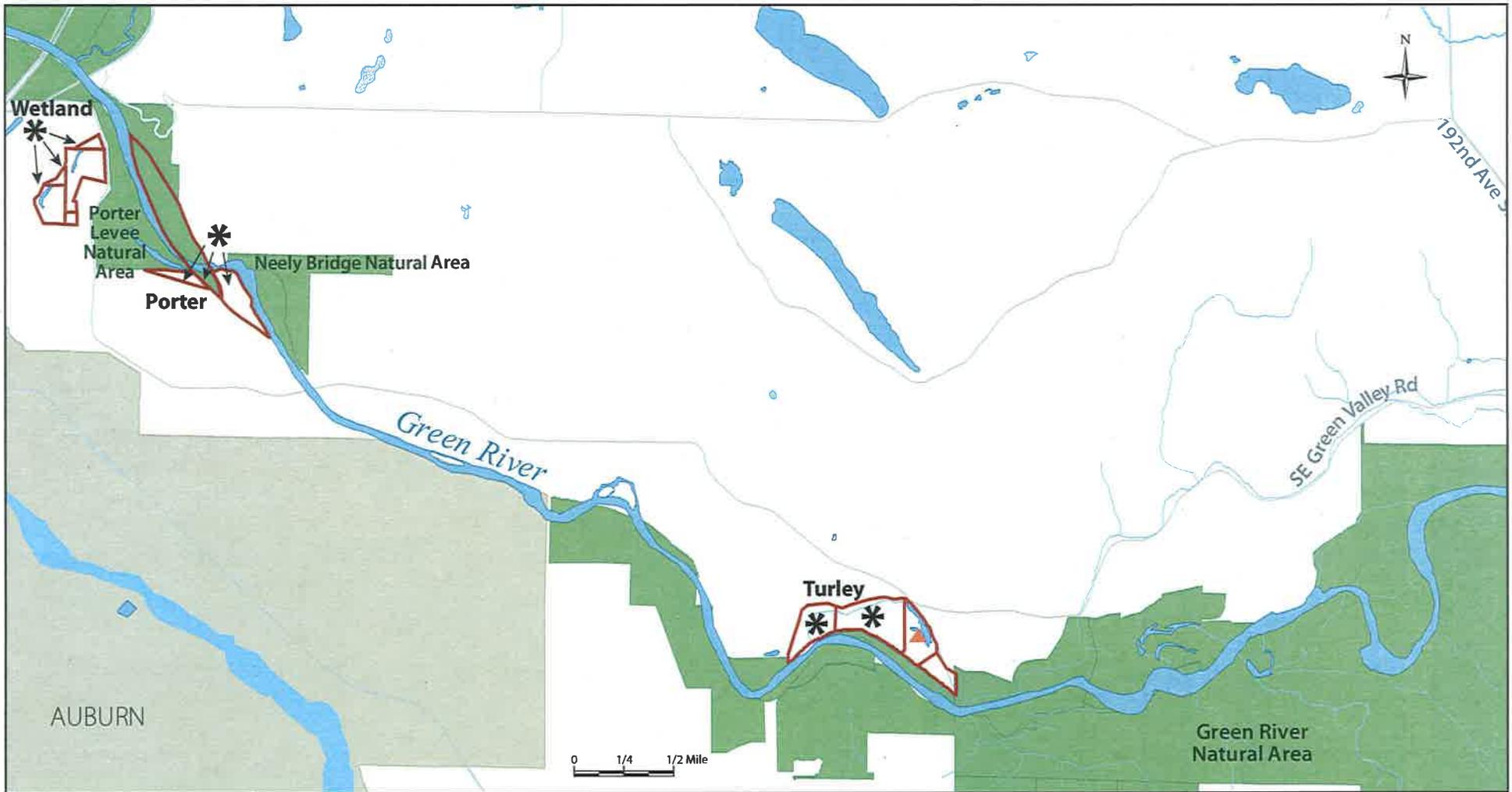
#### Unidentified remaining match need

*Please discuss briefly how the unidentified remaining match need above will be met:*

No additional matching funds are needed if 2014 Parks Levy funds are available.

#### 5. IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS FROM PARTNERSHIPS

<b>Brief Activity Description</b>	<b>Dollar Value of In-kind Contribution</b>	<b>Status</b> (Completed, or Proposed in future?)	<b>Activity Date Range</b> (When was activity completed? Or, date proposed in future)
Middle Green River Coalition	\$5,000	Proposed	Ongoing
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>		



# Middle Green River Restoration

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-  Initial Negotiations
-  Target Acquisition Parcel
-  In Negotiations
-  Public Land or Conservation Easement