

**Attachment 2:
Project Descriptions of DNRP's 2016 Parks Levy – Regional Open Space Acquisition Proposals**

WRIA 9: Big Spring/Newaukum Creek Additions (Josh Kahan, Basin Steward)

<i>PL Request</i>	\$365,000
<i>CFT Request (CFT match status)</i>	\$365,000 (match is requested PL funds)
<i>Subtotal: CFT + PL Request</i>	\$730,000

<i>Total Project Cost</i>	\$830,000
<i>Funding Already Secured</i>	\$100,000 in CFT & PL already allocated towards a priority acquisition
<i>Additional Funding Sought</i>	None
<i>Will current funding request complete priority acquisitions?</i>	Yes – funding request completes current priorities; there may be additional future requests for project.

Project Description: Fee or easement acquisitions of up to 35 acres (6 parcels) as additions to King County Parks' Big Spring/Newaukum Creek Natural Area.

Acquire parcels to build on existing land base at Big Spring/Newaukum Creek Natural Area. These acquisitions support ongoing restoration work in the basin: the major CIP work on Big Spring Creek and the small-scale plantings and restoration which have planted >200,000 trees along Big Spring and Newaukum Creeks since 2007. Building the size of this natural area expands public land where beaver can recolonize sites and act as agents for restoration, thereby potentially reducing future drainage complaints on private lands.

Proposed acquisitions are as follows. The Ag program has approved all these 2015 priorities:

- Malek (~\$175K) builds on fee ownership of the wetland complex along Big Spring Creek.
- Engberg (~\$50K) easement adjacent to other county easements within CIP project area.
- Brewer (~\$50K) partial fee acquisition and Magnuson (~\$350K additional needed to build on existing funds) add to lands protected along Newaukum Creek.
- Steele (~\$60K) and Spindle (~\$45K) extend fee ownership upstream of Newaukum Creek. (Landowner willingness on one parcel still being confirmed at time of writing.)

Habitat Benefit: Acquisitions facilitate restoring parcels through revegetation and placement of instream wood which reduces water temperatures, filters runoff, provides substrate for insects (fish food), and creates instream habitat. Ecology's TMDL report documents that Newaukum Creek has significant shade deficits and high stream temperatures; many of these acquisition targets are prime candidates to increase woody riparian vegetation.

Chinook and steelhead spawn and rear in Newaukum Creek at the confluence of Big Spring Creek; life history types include eggs, fry, sub-yearlings, and adults. Acquisitions protect land used by the Mt. Rainier Elk Herd, White River Unit (one of 10 WDFW-monitored elk herds in the state). Newaukum Creek is part of KC's designated wildlife network.

Recreation Benefit: Passive recreation, nature observation.

Plan Priority: WRIA 9 Salmon Habitat Conservation Plan and Corps Ecosystem Restoration Plan.

Parcels included in Scope: Priority: Engberg 152006-9037 (4 ac portion, easement); Malek 1420069031 (5 ac); Brewer 1420069105 (4 ac portion of parcel); Magnusson (142006-9083, 16 ac); Steele (142006-9052, 4 ac); Spindle (142006-9051, 1.6 ac).