

# PROPOSED BURNT BRIDGE CREEK PROJECT

January 9, 2004

## **Notice of Application, Public Hearing, and Optional SEPA Determination of Nonsignificance (DNS)**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that Development Review Services has received application on the following:

**Application:** Burnt Bridge Creek Greenway PRJ2003-01122 which includes the following:

ARC2003-00025, CON2003-00087, ENG2003-00164, FLP2003-00003, GEO2003-00002, GRD2003-00088, PSR2003-00044, SEP2003-00058, SHL2003-00005, TRE2003-00195 and WET2003-00006.

**Request:** The project includes the construction of approximately 3 miles of new public trails to create linkages to existing trail segments, a new restroom facility, a vehicle parking lot, five stream crossings, wetland mitigation and habitat improvement areas, wetland fill, and water quality facilities.

**Location:** The project area consists of three separate areas. Area 1 is a small area along NE Leverich Parkway. All work in this area will be on or immediately adjacent to the NE Leverich Parkway. Area 2 extends along Burnt Bridge Creek from Nicholson Road to E. Fourth Plain Boulevard. Much of this area is currently identified as Brookside Park.

Area 3 is primarily within the area known as the Lettuce Fields Greenway District. This portion of the project extends generally from the west side of Devine Road, along Burnt Bridge Creek, upstream to Burton Road.

### **Representatives**

#### **Applicants:**

David Sacamano  
Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation

Victor Ehrlich  
City of Vancouver Surface Water Management

#### **Property Owners:**

City of Vancouver

Clark County Public Works

Bonneville Power Administration

**Neighborhood Associations:** West Minnehaha, Fourth Plain Village, Bagley Downs, Meadow Homes, Northcrest, Ogden, Oakbrook, North Garrison, and Northwood

#### **Public Hearing Scheduled:**

Hearings Examiner

Tuesday, March 16, 2004, 7 p.m.

Council Chambers, 1st Floor of City Hall

210 East 13th Street, Vancouver, WA

Under the authority of VMC 21.03.045, the City of Vancouver will use the Optional Combined DNS and Notice of Application process. Based on the initial review of the proposed project, the City of Vancouver expects to issue a Determination of Nonsignificance on the proposal, finding that the project will not create probable significant adverse environmental impacts. **The comment period for the notice of application may be the only opportunity to comment on the environmental impacts of the proposal.** The proposal may include mitigation measures under applicable codes, and the review process may incorporate or require mitigation measures regardless of whether an Environmental Impact Statement is prepared.

**Comments on the project received before 5 p.m., Monday, February 9, 2004, will be incorporated into the staff report; comments received after that date will be presented at the hearing.**

This notice is intended to inform potentially interested parties about the threshold determination and the public hearing, and to invite them to appear before the Hearings Examiner, to offer oral testimony, or to submit written statements for the record. A decision by the Hearings Examiner may be appealed to City Council by the applicant or any aggrieved person. Such an appeal must be in writing and be filed with Development Review Services within 14 calendar days after the Hearings Examiner's decision is mailed. In the absence of such appeal, the Examiner's decision shall be final and conclusive.

Procedural appeals to the SEPA determination shall be filed in writing within 14 calendar days following the last day of the comment period. For this proposal a procedural appeal must be received by 5 p.m., Monday February 23, 2004. The Hearings Examiner decision of the SEPA procedural appeal shall be final and not subject to further administrative appeal.

Substantive SEPA appeals shall be filed in writing within 14 calendar days of the issuance of Hearings Examiner's decision approving, conditioning, or denying the proposal.

A copy of the final determination may be obtained upon written request. Please include any one of the project numbers listed.

Information regarding this application may be examined at Development Review Services, 1313 Main Street, Vancouver, WA, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

**Case Manager:** Jon Wagner, Senior Planner 360/735-8873, ext. 8314

**Email:** [jon.wagner@ci.vancouver.wa.us](mailto:jon.wagner@ci.vancouver.wa.us)

**Jon Wagner, Senior Planner Date**

Coverage of this hearing is being cablecast live on Clark/Vancouver Television Channel 23 Comcast Cable Television System. For replay dates and times, please check newspaper listings.

Vancouver City Hall is served by C-TRAN Routes 4, 6, 37, and 71. For information, call C-TRAN at 360/695-0123.

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## **Environmental Review Report**

**PRJ2003-01122/SEP2003-00058**

**January 5, 2004**

**Project Name:**Burnt Bridge Creek Greenway

### **Owners:**

City of Vancouver

Clark County Public Works

Bonneville Power Administration

### **Applicants:**

David Sacamano  
Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation

Victor Ehrlich  
City of Vancouver Surface Water Management

**Project Description:** The project includes the construction of approximately 3 miles of new public trails to create linkages to existing trail segments, a new restroom facility, a vehicle parking lot, five stream crossings, wetland mitigation and habitat improvement areas, wetland fill, and water quality facilities.

**Project Location:** The project area consists of three separate areas. Area 1 is a small area along NE Leverich Parkway. All work in this area will be on or immediately adjacent to the NE Leverich Parkway. Area 2 extends along Burnt Bridge Creek from Nicholson Road to E. Fourth Plain Boulevard. Much of this area is currently identified as Brookside Park.

Area 3 is primarily within the area known as the Lettuce Fields Greenway District. This portion of the project extends generally from the west side of Devine Road, along Burnt Bridge Creek, upstream to Burton Road.

**The following is an analysis of the environmental checklist and the potential impacts that may result from the proposed development.**

## **ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS**

### **1. Earth**

The proposed actions will be subject to the requirements of VMC 14.00 Water, Sewer, Stormwater and Erosion Control, which includes standards that adequately mitigate potential earth related impacts associated with erosion.

The checklist indicates that the soils associated with the project include Wind River gravelly loam (8 to 20 percent), Lauren gravelly loam 8 to 20 percent, Lauren gravelly loam 0 to 8 percent Lauren gravelly loam 20 to 45 percent, Hillsboro loam 8 to 15 percent, Hillsboro loam 20 to 30 percent, and Tisch silt loam 0 to 3 percent.

The Tisch and Hillsboro soils have the highest capability rating, indicating that they have the fewest limitations on use. Both soils are suitable for a wide range of agricultural crops.

The checklist indicates that there are indications of unstable soils in the vicinity of the project. There are steep slopes along the steep terrace south of Burnt Bridge Creek. This is especially evident between NE Andresen Road and E Devine Road. There appears to be evidence of old landslides, the checklist indicates that there is no recent evidence of any landslide activity.

The portions of the project that are within the steep slope areas will be subject to the provisions of VMC 20.52, Geological Hazards Combining District.

The project proposes approximately 10,000 cubic yards of rock fill and the removal of approximately 37,200 cubic yards of material will be removed. Approximately 1,000 cubic yards will be removed to enhance existing wetlands.

The project will create approximately 4.3 acres of impervious surfaces and will remove approximately 0.9 acres of existing impervious material. The net increase is 3.4 acres or approximately 2 percent of the 170-acre project site.

The checklist indicates that Best Management Practices (BMP) will be employed during the construction of the project.

## **2. Air**

Vancouver is located within the Portland/Vancouver Air Quality Maintenance Area, which is classified as a marginal non-attainment area for ozone and a moderate non-attainment area for carbon monoxide. Short-term emissions to the air will be those typical of a construction site. These impacts include dust and vehicle and equipment fuel and exhaust.

Long-term sources would be expected to include exhaust from vehicles using the new parking lot. Other than maintenance vehicles or emergency vehicles, no gas or diesel vehicles are anticipated to use the trail.

The proposed actions will be subject to review and approval with VMC 14.24 Erosion Control, which requires the use of BMPs. City construction operation standards, such as watering the site daily to control dust and cleaning roadways of debris, are required of all developments, and will adequately mitigate the short term air quality impacts.

As no long-term or short-term impacts are anticipated, no mitigation measures are required.

## **3. Water**

The project is within in the 100-year flood plain. The site borders Burnt Bridge Creek and two of its tributaries, Headache Creek on the north side of Burnt Bridge Creek near Nicholson Road and Burton Ditch in the Meadowbrook Marsh area near NE 19th Circle. There are several stormwater ponds that will be impacted by the proposed project.

The project will require work over, in, and adjacent to the above-described surface water areas. The work includes the construction of an enhanced stream crossing at NE 65th Avenue, demolition of an existing agricultural bridge east of Andresen Road, construction of a new bridge near 86th Avenue, construction of a new open bottom box culvert at Headache Creek, enhancement of the existing stream crossing on Burton Ditch, and the creation and enhancement of wetlands along Burnt Bridge Creek east and west of Andresen Road.

Approximately 1,350 cubic yards of material will be removed from wetlands for construction of the trail. The project involves the creation of several water quality facilities to treat runoff from existing off-site impervious surfaces. A bioswale/detention pond will be constructed to treat runoff from the trailhead. Surface water from the trail will be directed into vegetated areas along the trail for treatment.

Stormwater from the project is to be treated for both quality and quantity in conformance with the Department of Ecology's Stormwater Management Manual for Western Washington.

#### **4. Plants**

The site contains several types of plants including trees, shrubs and grasses. None of the known plants on the project site are listed as threatened or endangered. The project includes the removal of non-native species including large areas of reed canarygrass and Himalayan blackberries. Approximately 30 acres of vegetation will be impacted.

As mitigation, native plants will be planted throughout the project area. Plantings along streets and in street medians may include horticultural varieties or non-native species. In addition, areas of reed canarygrass will be treated and revegetated with native species.

#### **5. Animals**

The US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) indicated that wintering bald eagles might use the project area or its vicinity from November through March. The USFWS also indicated that bull trout, listed as threatened, and the Oregon spotted frog, a candidate for listing under the federal ESA, might occur in or near the project area. The checklist indicates that no bald eagles or bull trout have been found in the vicinity and that no habitat for bald eagles or bull trout is in the project site.

The checklist also indicates that there is no record of Oregon spotted frogs being found within the Burnt Bridge Creek watershed.

The checklist indicates that the USFWS species of concern that have been documented in Clark County include Cascades frog, Larch Mountain salamander, long-eared myotis, long-legged myotis, northern goshawk, northwestern pond turtle, olive-sided flycatcher, Pacific Townsend's big-eared bat, peregrine falcon, slender-billed white-breasted nuthatch, tailed frog, Van Dyke's salamander, and western toad. It also indicates that none of these species has been documented within a one mile buffer of the project area.

Chinook salmon, coho salmon, and steelhead have been found in Burnt Bridge Creek as far upstream as E. Fourth Plain Boulevard. Chinook salmon and steelhead are listed as threatened and coho salmon is a candidate for listing. The checklist indicates that one 9-inch trout was found upstream of E. Fourth Plain Boulevard and that the existing habitat upstream of Devine Road is poor for salmonids.

The site is within the Pacific Flyway. The Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife has identified a waterfowl concentration area along Burnt Bridge Creek east of Andresen Road as a priority habitat. A portion of this area is proposed as mitigation wetland. The mitigation measures are not anticipated to have a significant negative impact on migratory waterfowl that use the area currently.

As mitigation, the project is designed to minimize tree cutting, avoid wetland impacts, and avoid disturbance of the high quality wildlife habitat. The proposal includes additional plantings in the Meadowbrook Marsh area, within the proposed mitigation site and within the habitat improvement areas.

The proposed project is not expected to significantly impact animal habitat.

## **6. Energy and Natural Resources**

During the construction of the project, gasoline, diesel, and lubricating fluids would be used by the construction equipment. Electricity would be used to provide illumination. Some new lighting will be required for the trailhead area and at road crossings. The checklist indicates that energy efficient lighting will be used on the trail and that the trail itself could encourage alternate modes of transportation. This is assumed to include walking and bike riding.

The proposal is not anticipated to have a probable significant adverse environmental impact on energy and natural resources.

## **7. Environmental Health**

Primary potential environmental health hazards would be related to typical construction activities. Diesel fuel, hydraulic oil, herbicides and other common substances would be used in the construction equipment. The application indicates that the project will be required to meet BMPs and there will be provisions in the contract requiring that these be followed.

Short-term noise impacts would be generated by generated used during construction. Noise from construction would likely occur between 7 a.m. and 6 p.m. No construction is proposed to occur on Sundays and legal holidays.

Long-term noise would be expected to be those associated with a public trail.

All engine-powered equipment can be required to have mufflers installed according to manufacture's specifications and all equipment can be required to comply with pertinent equipment noise standards of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

## **8. Land and Shoreline Use**

The project runs through several zones. These include R1-7.5, R-12, R-22, R-30, ML, GW and Park.

The project is also within Shoreline jurisdiction.

There is one house that will be demolished to allow for the construction of the trailhead at Devine Road. That house is currently vacant.

## **9. Housing**

No new housing is proposed as a part of this application. One existing single-family dwelling will be demolished. The land use designation for the site is Light Industrial, so the site is not designated for housing use. The house is located within the ML zoning district and is considered non-conforming.

## **10. Aesthetics**

The tallest structure proposed is a restroom facility. The height of the building will be approximately 25 feet. The exterior will have a rock veneer and either galvanized or painted metal. No views in the immediate area of the proposed structure would be obstructed. The project will be landscaped to enhance aesthetics and improve wildlife habitat.

### **11. Light and Glare**

Lighting is proposed only at the trailhead facility at Devine Road and at road crossings. The remainder of the trail will not be lighted.

### **12. Recreation**

The project is a recreational facility. It will add approximately 3 miles of improved trails.

### **13. Cultural and Historic Preservation**

The project is subject to the provisions Chapter 20.99 of the Vancouver Municipal Code relating to Archaeological Resource Preservation

### **14. Transportation**

Access to the site is from Nicholson Road, E. Fourth Plain Boulevard, E. Devine Road, NE 65th Avenue, NE Andresen Road, NE 86th Avenue, NE Burton Road, and NE 19th Circle.

Portions of the trail may be accessed by C-TRAN via routes #4, #30 and #32. A Certificate of Concurrency will be required as part of the City's Transportation Concurrency ordinance.

No new roads will be created. However, the project will involve several road crossings. These will be reviewed by Transportation Services.

### **15. Public Services**

Additional public services that may be required include police and emergency services. Park maintenance may also be impacted.

### **16. Utilities**

Electricity, storm and sanitary sewer, natural gas, telephone, water and refuse services will be required and all are available.

## **SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends that a **Determination of Nonsignificance (DNS)** be issued pursuant to WAC 197-11-340