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Director



STATE OF WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON STATE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

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STATE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT

Determination of NonSignificance

Date of Issuance: May 10, 2024

Lead Agency: Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission

Agency Contact: Joelene Boyd, Park Planner
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Project Name: Environmental Education Classroom and Welcome Station at Bridle Trails State Park

Description of Proposal: The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission (State Parks) and the Bridle Trails Park Foundation propose to:

1. Design and construct an Environmental Education Classroom (EEC) and Welcome Station at Bridle Trails State Park,
2. Construct a trail to provide connection among the proposed EEC, Welcome Center and other Park amenities,
3. Install utility lines to service the EEC and Welcome Center, and
4. Update to the land classifications at Bridle Trails State Park to allow development of the EEC and Welcome Station, as this type of facility is not currently allowed in the proposed location.

The proposed construction footprint is anticipated to be approximately 26,500-square feet (sf), including the building footprint (1,432-sf), accessible trail, and utility lines. The proposed EEC will include a 490-sf exterior deck located between the EEC and Welcome Station to foster indoor outdoor connections. In addition, a 175-sf circular outdoor gathering space is proposed to greet people and hold outdoor classes. and a 65-sf ranger gator parking space are included in the proposal. The proposed pervious surfaced and accessible trail (approximately 560-lineal feet) will provide opportunity for interpretive/educational information. Utility lines will extend between 370 to 650-lineal feet.

The proposed project site is currently designated primarily as “Resource Recreation” under the Bridle Trails State Park land classification. Environmental Education Centers are not allowed in the current land classification. As such, State Parks proposes to approve an update to the land classification to increase the amount of acres in the park classified as “Recreation” by 0.52 acres. This action will allow for the proposed EEC and Welcome Center at Bridle Trails State Park.

Location of Proposal: The proposed project is located in Bridle Trails State Park within the NW ¼ Section 16, Township 25N and Range 5E on parcel number 1625059015. The park address is 5300 116th Ave. NE, Kirkland, WA 98033.

Threshold Determination: Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission has determined that this proposal will not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required under RCW 43.21C.030. We have reviewed the attached Environmental Checklist and other information on file with the lead agency. This information is available at:

<http://bit.ly/ParksSEPA>

This determination is based on the following findings and conclusions:

1. The footprint of the proposed project was minimized to the extent required to meet the educational and operational needs at the park.
2. The proposed facility will increase the impervious surfaces at the site by 1,922-sf. Stormwater will be managed:
 - a. Roof runoff will be captured by gutters and routed via downspouts to an underground conveyance system. Once in the piped conveyance system, the stormwater is routed to a 20-ft Dispersion Trench with Notch Board and allows for Basic Dispersion as the runoff flows to the north within a 100-ft native vegetated flow path segment.
 - b. The proposed Welcome Station/Park Office will have a living or “green” roof to reduce stormwater.
 - c. Dispersion or compost amended vegetated filter strips will be used for all hard surfaces on the site to reduce surface runoff water and emulate the existing drainage patterns.
 - d. The proposed outdoor welcome circle, gator parking space, and accessible trails are designed using a geogrid underlayment for the gravel path that will keep the gravel from compacting (and maintaining its porosity) while also providing accessibility. Due to the anticipated porosity, these surfaces were not considered impervious.
3. A Stormwater Pollution Prevention plan (SWPPP) will be prepared consistent with applicable codes and implemented during project implementation.
4. Temporary Erosion and Sediment Control (TESC) plans will be prepared and implemented in accordance with the King County grading permit to minimize the potential for erosion.

5. The project is anticipated to result in the removal of 10,492-sf of vegetation removal and approximately 29,060-sf of habitat improvements. The project will result in the permanent removal of 4,397-sf of vegetation which accounts for 1,950-sf of the buildings and deck footprints (excluding approximately 1/3 of the EEC which will be revegetated beneath) and 2,447-sf of which accounts for the overall trail. Vegetation impacts were minimized and mitigated:
 - a. All disturbed previously vegetated areas (~6,095-sf), excluding the footprint of the buildings, deck, circular gathering space, gator parking, and trail, will be remediated with removal of invasive species and replanted with a diversity of native woodland plant species.
 - b. Invasive species (King County Class B and C noxious weeds) will be controlled over approximately 8,000-sf.
 - c. The project was sited to minimize disturbance to the forest canopy and minimize the number of trees required for removal. Six (6) trees will be removed through the project (16" dbh Cedar, 20" dbh Douglas Fir, 26" dbh Cedar, 21" dbh Cedar, 10" Cedar, and 30" dbh Douglas fir).
 - d. The 6 trees that will be removed will be replaced with 30 trees.
 - e. Trees to be retained will be protected during construction.
6. A Wetland and Stream Delineation Report was prepared in 2018, updated in a Technical Addendum in 2023 and a Critical Areas Report prepared in 2024. These investigations identified 4 water bodies (three wetlands and one stream) within 300 feet of the project area.
 - a. There are no direct impacts to the adjacent wetlands or stream as a result of the project.
 - b. Construction of the trail will result in permanent buffer impacts totaling 1,345-sf.
 - i. Permanent buffer impacts will be mitigated for with wetland enhancement at a ratio of 2:1, which results in 2,690-sf of enhancement within Wetland A.
 - ii. Accessible trails are designed using a geogrid underlayment for the gravel path that will keep the gravel from compacting (and maintaining its porosity) while also providing accessibility. Due to the anticipated porosity, these surfaces were not considered impervious.
 - c. Construction of trails and utilities will result in temporary buffer impacts of 6,610-square feet within the wetland buffer.
 - i. Approximately 3,345-sf of temporary buffer impacts will be restored with native vegetation at a ratio of 1:1.
 - ii. Additionally, 3,265-sf of developed surfaces that will be temporarily

impacted to install utilities within the buffer will be restored in place to match the existing condition.

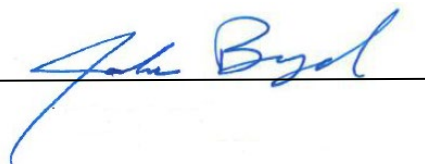
- iii. Wetland A's buffer will be expanded by 12,275-sf to compensate from the permanent impacts of the interpretive trail, utility expansion, and related development impacts.
7. The building was designed to blend into the natural setting of the park. The buildings follow the slope of the land with the siding color chosen to blend with the bark of trees. The EEC roof will be painted a grey/blue color to blend in with the sky color, while the Welcome Station will have a living or "green" roof to mimic the nearby landscape.
8. The increase in the "Recreation" classification was minimized through the reclassification of approximately 0.63-acres of naturalized areas currently designated as "Recreation" to "Resource Recreation". The reclassification will result in an increase of 0.52-acres in land classified as "Recreation". This increase of 0.52-acres accounts for less than 1% (0.22%) of the total 492-acre Park.
9. Measures to avoid, minimize, or compensate for loss, changes to, and disturbance potential to cultural resources in the project site area are described in the cultural resources report (Stcherbinine 2024).

This DNS is issued under WAC 197-11-340 (2) and the comment period will end on **May 24, 2024**.

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Date: May 10, 2024

Signature: _____



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There is no agency SEPA appeal; however all comments are welcome and will be thoroughly considered.