U of W Restoration Ecology Network RFP Form

Question 1. Client Name: Jessie Israel, Partnership & Enterprise Supervisor, King County Parks  (project specific Parks contacts will be given once scope is defined by UW Restoration Ecology)

Question 2. Organization: King County Parks, White Center Community Development Association (WCCDA), Cascade Lands Conservancy (CLC)

Question 3. E-mail address: jessie.israel@kingcounty.gov, frana.milan@metrokc.gov  King County Parks

Question 4. Phone number: Jessie Israel, cell | 206-913-7412

Question 5. FAX: 206-296-8868

Question 6. Mailing Address:  201 South Jackson, Suite 700, Seattle WA  98104

Question 7. Name of Project: White Center Heights Phase 2: Environmental Improvements & Curriculum

Question 8. Site Location (city, county, watershed, cross-streets, section, township, range):  8th Ave SW and SW 102nd Street, White Center

Question 9. Site Description: (Size of project area, topography, watershed positioning, level of disturbance, existing land use):

Conditions:
The White Center Heights Park is divided into two parcels. White Center Heights Park northern parcel contains a large open playfield and recently improved park surrounded on three sides by a class II wetland. Until recently the northern parcel of the park contained significant invasive weeds, and dead and hazardous trees (see photos below). There was no visibility into the park and the lack of amenities contributed to public safety concerns and discouraged enjoyment of this public open space. Through a partnership with the White Center Community Development Association, Starbucks Coffee Company and the University of Washington School of Architecture a multi phased design was developed that honors the community and provides a safe, fun and beautiful place for kids to learn, play and gather. (see site suitability and photo analysis below)
Phase I Implementation NORTHERN parcel (March - July 2007)

In January of 2007 King County Parks received a $550,000 contribution from the Starbucks Coffee Company for an ‘Ultimate Park Makeover’ to be implemented in June of 2007. These funds were used to leverage community contributions of time, materials and labor to implement Phase I of the community design. This phase implemented all of the active recreational amenities at White Center Heights Park. These amenities are focused on the northern portion of the park and include; a plaza, community gardens, ADA parking and pathway accessibility, a picnic shelter, rainwater cistern, benches, picnic tables, children’s explore area and locally inspired public art projects. This phase also had a focus of removal of invasive weeds around the perimeter of the park and some native plantings for site-lines, improved public safety and wetland health.

For more information or photos about this phase visit: [http://www.metrokc.gov/parks/wch/](http://www.metrokc.gov/parks/wch/)
Phase II Implementation SOUTHERN parcel (Oct 2007 – October 2009)

In Phase 2, the transition and convergence of the urban and natural environment culminates at the southern end of the park. This phase focuses on removing invasive species and increasing the habitat value of the wetland. Park visitors are encouraged to appreciate and experience the wetland through the installment of a low-impact boardwalk and viewing platform. Opportunities for education are incorporated by including an outdoor class room for creative and interpretive learning. New access points connect previously inaccessible entrances to the park from 7TH AVE S.W. and S.W. 104TH ST.

State of Washington grant funds will support the removal of invasive weeds around the pond, native replanting and incorporate additional natural systems to improve water quality and return this wetland to a quite and serene urban oasis.

After the invasive weeds and blackberry’s are removed (ensure this is completed per DDES regulations) and area is replanted with appropriate wetland plants King County will move onto the construction part of the project. Per DDES guidelines, the existing path and open areas on the southern parcel will be maintained.

King County will work with partners to design, plan, permit and construct a boardwalk and viewing platform as well as an improved natural walking paths to an outdoor classroom. The goal is that natural walking paths would also re-engage the community that lives at the southern end of the park by allowing connected access into the park.

**Question 10. Project Goals & Objectives (What is to be accomplished and why):**

Phase II implementation will focus on improvement to the class II wetland and water quality that ultimately drains into Salmon Creek and Puget Sound. These goals would be
accomplished through creation of a natural storm water filtration system in the western portion of the site possibly including removal of the existing culvert, and water quality improvements adjacent to the pond at the southern end of the site. Both of these would be complimented by wetland and stream channel restoration on site. Because this is a category II wetland time and effort will need to be spent gathering drainage, soils, hydrology and water quality data for both Federal Army Corps of Engineers and state Department of Ecology permit requirements before any built walkway construction can take place within the wetland.

This phase of the project implementation would also focus on development of environmental education curriculum in conjunction with White Center Heights Elementary School and Highline School district. One deliverable of the phase will be the creation of educational curriculum about wetlands, watersheds, water flow and the importance of water quality. We would coordinate this curriculum development with the science program at White Center Heights Elementary so this could truly become an integrated outdoor science classroom. These interactive science lessons reinforce concepts and improve learning, enhancing feelings of neighborhood pride and stewardship. King County DNRP staff will work with UW students to develop and finalize curriculum.

**Question 11.** Deliverables (What are the deliverables you expect from the UW-REN student Group):

**Environmental Improvements** | Identify a section of the southern parcel for invasive removal and wetland replanting. Work with King County Parks staff (Larry Kimble), volunteer groups and impacted neighbors to design and implement invasive removal plan and replanting plan. Ensure plan involves identifying site boundaries and that all permit requirements are planned for. Leverage volunteer support and in-kind donations to enlarge the project area as much as possible within the time/budget constraints.

**Educational Curriculum** | Work with King County educational curriculum lead (Saffa Bardaro) to develop classroom curriculum and on-site signage for elementary students. Research and work with local teachers and school district on what makes award winning curriculum. Create recommendation to King County and Cascade Land Conservancy for a curriculum outline. Once the outline is approved, work with students, teachers, WC Boys & Girls Club and other UW resources to design, test and write curriculum draft. End of year deliverable to King County will be final curriculum and sign copy ready for translation and graphic design treatment.

**Coordination with Capital Construction Team** | Some resources may be available in 2008 for the implementation of the UW Restoration Ecology project deliverables if they meet the requirements of the State of Washington grant. Coordinate with the capital construction design team and other project partners to ensure a streamlined process. Work with all project partners to communicate both the macro vision for the entire site and micro goals for each discreet part of the project that is currently underway including:

- Phase One completion punch list team
- Phase Two western edge replanting & Japanese knotweed removal
- Phase Two southern parcel wetland restoration & curriculum development (**this is you!**)  
- Phase Two Capital Construction – viewing platform, entry enhancements, wetland boardwalk
- Potential grant application for adjacent land acquisition
- Ongoing volunteer projects on-site
**Question 12. Reference Material** (what reference information can be provided to assist in the research and development of the project goals/ baseline data, reports, site reconnaissance information):

Attached is the original concept design poster (UW-LARCH_winning concept) for phase 2 and phase 3 of the project developed as a result of a community process (NOTE: phase 2 & 3 were merged and modified slightly from this initial concept plan but the intent of the community and UW-LARCH team are still relevant and consistent with our general project direction). The Phase 1 Web Parks site and UW-LARCH site also have links to a significant number of resources and presentations which may be relevant and give context:

- King County Parks Ultimate Park Makeover: [http://www.metrokc.gov/parks/wch/](http://www.metrokc.gov/parks/wch/)
- Tactical Landscapes: White Center Community Open Space Dept. of Landscape Architecture, University of Washington: [http://courses.washington.edu/whitectr/](http://courses.washington.edu/whitectr/)

Phase 1 of this concept plan was modified incorporate the Category 2 wetland reality which came to light after the concept design. Phase 2 and phase 3 will be merged due to the generous support of the State of Washington with a $500,000 grant. The majority of these grant funds will be spent for design, permitting and constructing the walkway and viewing platforms that traverse the wetland.

**NOTE:** The permit window for Phase 1 of this project was very tight. Any action that must be permitted for Phase 2 **must** give DDES a long runway for processing. **For restoration and invasive removal, work closely with Parks staff to define project scope that is under the thresholds for sensitive areas or in close collaboration with DDES permitting authorities.**
Question 13. Volunteer Resources (If volunteers are going to assist in aspects of the project does your organization have access to a volunteer resource pool):

King County Parks and the White Center CDA are committed to using volunteers in our efforts at White Center Heights Park. The UW student team may meet with and coordinate with King County Parks and Cascade Land Conservancy volunteer coordinators with their projects volunteer work plan proposal. Phase 1 of the project engaged 1,500 volunteers over 7 days – many of whom have asked when they can come back to help out again at White Center Heights Park.

Question 14. Other Relevant Information:

Some resources may be available in 2008 for the implementation of the UW Restoration Ecology project deliverables if they meet the requirements of the State of Washington grant. The budget below will generally go toward the capital construction costs, design and permitting that is being managed by King County and Cascade Land Conservancy. Our hope is that the UW team will work closely with the full project team to strategize how to make best use of the below resources as where they pertain to Environmental Improvements and Educational Curriculum.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Environmental Improvements</th>
<th>$50,000</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Drainage, Soils, Hydrology and Water Quality Studies and Data Development needed for Capital Construction</strong> (On Point: Larry Kimble, Don Althauser</td>
<td>King County)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Water quality and Wetland Restoration to Western Portion of Park</strong> (engineering, permits, swales, native plants, additional invasive removal, culvert removal) (On Point: Larry Kimble, Don Althauser</td>
<td>King County)</td>
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<td><strong>Pond Water Quality and Habitat Improvement &amp; Fencing</strong> (On Point: Larry Kimble, Jessie Israel</td>
<td>DNRP – Parks</td>
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<td><strong>Curriculum Development in Conjunction with White Center Heights Elementary Science Program</strong> (On Point: Saffa Bardaro</td>
<td>DNRP-WLRD UW Restoration Ecology)</td>
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<td><strong>Capital Improvements (CIP): Park &amp; Educational Amenities</strong> $130,000</td>
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<td>Viewing Platform, Designed Classroom, Walking Paths Connecting Southern Portion of Park (On Point: King County)</td>
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*Additional CIP budget from grant will be going to the entrance in the northern parcel of the park.*