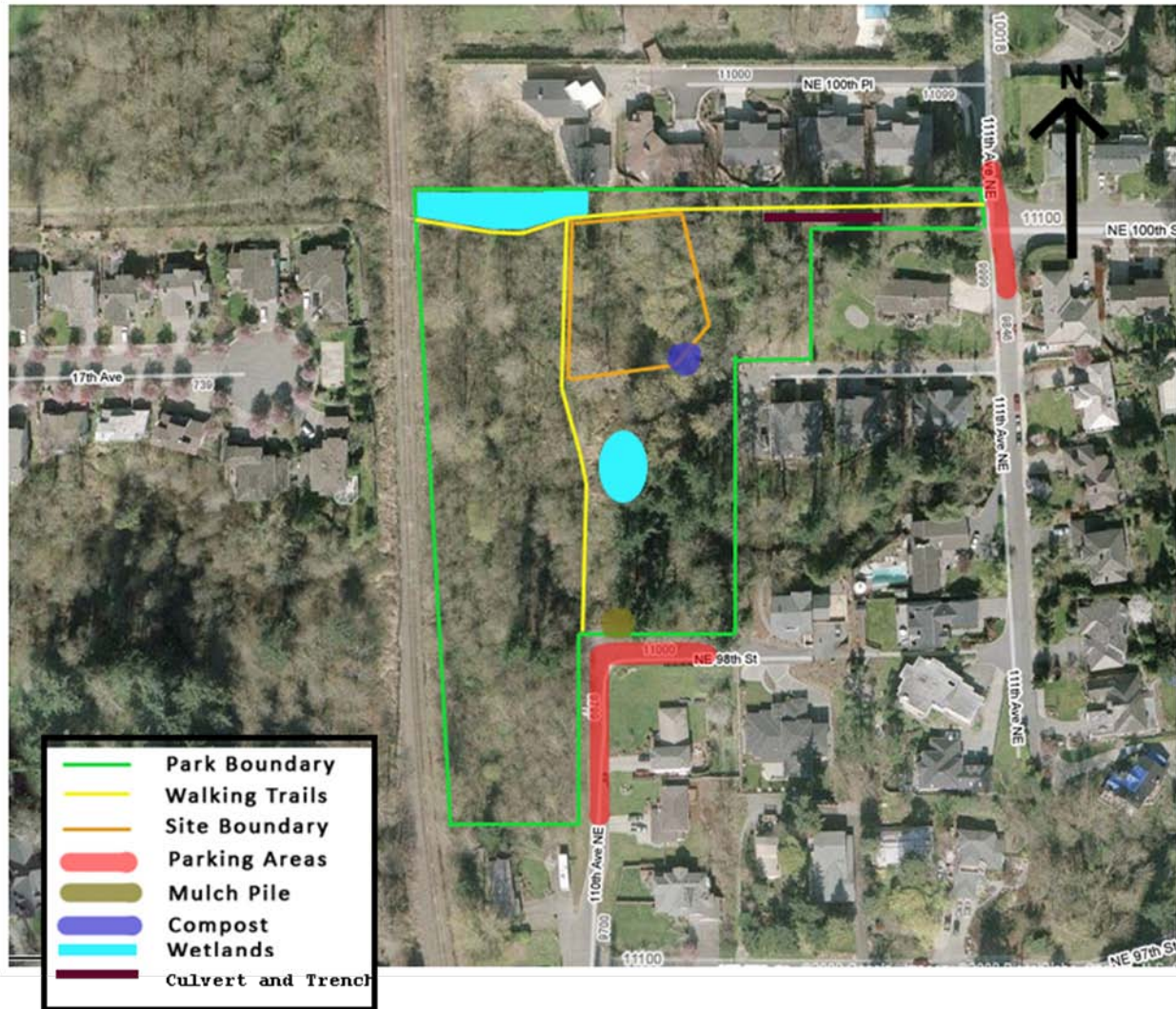


# Map of Cotton Hill Park

Referencing Relevant Features and UW-REN 2008 Site Boundary

Map prepared by 2008 UW-REN students



# U of W Restoration Ecology Network RFP Form

June 2009

**Question 1.** Client Name: Karen Story

**Question 2.** Organization: Highlands Neighborhood Association

**Question 3.** E-mail address: karen@tinyisland.com

**Question 4.** Phone number: 425-576-1269 home 425-821-3906 work

**Question 5.** FAX: none

**Question 6.** Mailing Address: 9017 Slater Ave NE Kirkland WA 98033

**Question 7.** Name of Project: Cotton Hill Park Forest Restoration Project

**Question 8.** Site Location (city, county, watershed, cross-streets, section, township, range):

Cotton Hill Park is located in the City of Kirkland, WA in the Forbes Creek Watershed.

**Driving Directions:** From I-405, take the NE 85th Street/WA-908 exit (exit 18) and go west towards downtown Kirkland on NE 85<sup>th</sup> Street. Continue west – 85<sup>th</sup> St becomes Central Way. Turn right onto 6th Street. Turn right onto 12th Avenue which becomes 110th Avenue NE. Cross the railway tracks. End at **110th Avenue NE & NE 98th Street**, Kirkland. Parking is available along the side of the park.

The site is further described as NW  $\frac{1}{4}$  of NE  $\frac{1}{4}$ , Section 5, Township 25N, Range 5W.

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

The total area remaining to be restored is approximately 3.5. Approximately .75 acres have already been fully or partially restored and will be receiving ongoing restoration and maintenance from the Highlands neighborhood.

This undeveloped park is mostly forested and includes a small stream, a seasonal pond, and several wetland areas. A trail runs east-west along the

northern portion and another runs through the central portion in a roughly north-south direction.

The park is bordered on the west by railway tracks and is surrounded by single-family residences to the north, east, and south. Forested areas of 26.63-acre Crestwoods Park are situated northwest of the railway tracks. A small, unnamed spring-fed stream runs through the central to south part of Cotton Hill Park, flowing from east to west. The stream is associated with wetland areas in the central and western portions of the park. The railway line disrupts the flow of water and diverts water south until it crosses the railway line and continues in a stream through Peter Kirk Elementary School. Water drains to Forbes Creek, which opens to Lake Washington at Juanita Bay Park.

Site topography is fairly level except for steep slopes near the north and east boundaries.

The site is heavily degraded by invasive plant species that have resulted in declining forest health and a reduced canopy cover. The site is estimated to have less than 25% native upper tree canopy cover and greater than 50% invasive species cover.

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

The goals are to restore native vegetation, improve ecosystem functions, and create a more inviting esthetic, by engaging community/volunteer stewardship. Objectives are to remove invasive vegetation and re-establish native trees and other plants, particularly in the northeast and southeast portions where invasive removal efforts by people and goats have already started, and on either side of the trails. The establishment of native vegetation will provide canopy tree and understory species; increase habitat values for wildlife associated with forests, stream, and wetlands; improve water filtration; absorb stormwater runoff; and increase carbon sequestration. Focusing restoration efforts on areas visible from trails will educate walkers on what a healthy native forest looks like.

The area includes several sites with ecological interest and value for a student restoration project. The area to the south of the 2008 UW-REN site is of particular interest for several reasons: because it is contiguous with the 2008 site, restoring it would create maximum visual impact; it is heavily invaded with non-native species; it is heavily invaded with reed canary grass, which could offer opportunities to test different eradication methods; it borders a seasonal pond; it has a variety of soil moisture zones; it borders the trail, so it would be visible to the community; it is easily accessible via the trail; it's one of the most unsightly of the remaining areas to be restored.

However, several other areas would also be excellent candidates for restoration, such as the stream outflow area to the west of the south terminus of the trail.

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

The UW-REN student group would be responsible to produce the following:

1. A planting plan of the enhancement/restoration area. The plan would include appropriate plant species, size (e.g., 18-36"), type (bare root or container), quantity (number of individual plants of each species), and planting densities (e.g., 5' centers for shrubs/15' centers for trees).
2. The information for task 1 would be depicted in both table and schematic map format.
3. A report which documents the following: assessment of existing conditions, weed control methods, site stabilization methods, rationale for selecting the specified plants, and a three to five year monitoring and maintenance plan.
4. Oversee volunteers (provided by the client) during removal of invasive species and for plant installation. Students will briefly explain goals and techniques prior to invasive removal and plant installation.
5. A written report (which could also be presented in person) explaining appropriate monitoring and maintenance methods, as specified in task 3 above.
6. Interpretive/educational sign designs that the client could use to create onsite signs when funds are available.
7. Timesheets listing hours spent on the project, and what was accomplished (area cleared or mulched, plants installed).

**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):

The client will provide a copy of the 2008 Green Kirkland Partnership 20-Year Forest Restoration Plan. The plan includes a map showing tree canopy cover and extent of invasive threat at Cotton Hill Park. The plan gives guidelines for forest restoration methodology. The Plan can be viewed at [www.greenkirkland.org](http://www.greenkirkland.org).

The client will provide a map showing sensitive areas at Cotton Hill Park, including the stream and its buffers, and wetland areas.

The client has copies of all written materials produced by the 2008/2009 REN group, and could provide these.

**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):

The student group should expect 10 to 50 volunteers to participate at most work parties. All equipment and materials, e.g., tools and plants, will be provided by the client. (Plant funds will depend on grant money availability.)

The City of Kirkland Parks Environmental Education & Outreach Specialist will coordinate with the Highlands Neighborhood Association to recruit and manage volunteers in conducting restoration activities. Currently the city has a database of over 1,000 volunteers from which to recruit, and the Highlands Neighborhood has over 400 people on its email list.

The Kirkland Highlands Neighborhood is already active at Cotton Hill Park. In 2008, volunteers constructed a 500-foot long raised (turnpike) trail through the muddiest trail areas at the park. The trail is fairly heavily used by school children (several schools are nearby), walkers, and joggers.

Restoration efforts started in spring 2008 with the removal of invasive species in two portions of the park. Green Kirkland Partnership restoration events included: Earth Day Event April 19 (with 150 volunteers and a herd of 60 goats) and July 12 (with 19 volunteers). The neighborhood organized an additional invasive removal event on Dec. 6.

In 2009, the neighborhood organized the following clearing/mulching/planting events:

Martin Luther King Day of Service, January 19 (over 60 volunteers)

March 7

May 16

**Question 14.** Other Relevant Information:

The clients were extremely pleased with their 2008 UW-REN experience. The students' enthusiasm, hard work, and knowledge resulted in a restored area that's more beautiful than we ever dreamed. This has infused the neighborhood with optimism that we really can restore this park, and seeing what the students accomplished has motivated a lot more people to get involved. It's been a momentum builder. We've also learned a lot from the students, and this knowledge will continue to trickle down through the community. In addition, the students were wonderful ambassadors for the restoration cause. Many people pass through the park at all times of day, and they often stopped to ask questions. This gave the students a chance to do valuable, impromptu education.

The Highlands Neighborhood has applied for a Patagonia Grant to pay for plants and student gas money (the neighborhood was able to give the students \$500 in

gas money from our city grant money in 2008). We will continue to pursue other grants, to ensure that we have enough money to support the REN program, if we are chosen for 2009.