



ENVIRONMENTAL (SEPA) CHECKLIST

(Revised 2/2/2008)

Purpose of Checklist

The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), Chapter 43.21 RCW, requires all governmental agencies to consider the environmental impacts of a proposal before making decisions. An environmental impact statement (EIS) must be prepared for all proposals with probable significant adverse impacts on the quality of the environment. The purpose of this checklist is to provide information to help you and the agency identify impacts from your proposal (and to reduce or avoid impacts from your proposal, if it can be done) and to help the agency decide whether an EIS is required.

Instructions for Applicants

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Governmental agencies use this checklist to determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant, requiring preparation of an EIS. Answer the questions briefly, with the most precise information known, or give the best description you can.

You must answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. In most cases you should be able to answer the questions from your own observations or project plans without the need to hire experts. If you really do not know the answer, or if a question does not apply to your proposal, write "do not know" or "does not apply". Complete answers to the questions now may avoid unnecessary delays later.

Some questions ask about governmental regulations, such as zoning, shoreline, and landmark designations. Answer these questions if you can. If you have problems, the governmental agencies can assist you.

The checklist questions apply to all parts of your proposal, even if you plan to do them over a period of time or on different parcels of land. Attach any additional information that will help describe your proposal or its environmental effects. The agency to which you submit this checklist may ask you to explain your answers or provide additional information reasonably related to determining if there may be significant adverse impact.

Use of Checklist for Nonproject Proposals

Complete this checklist for nonproject proposals, even though questions may be answered "does not apply". IN ADDITION, complete the SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS (Part D). For nonproject actions, the references in the checklist to the words "project", "applicant", and "property or site" should be read as "proposal", "proposer", and "affected geographic area", respectively.

**LEFT COLUMN TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT.
RIGHT COLUMN FOR DPD USE ONLY.**

A. BACKGROUND

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:

Yesler Swamp Trail

2. Name of applicant:

Friends of Yesler Swamp Trail Foundation

3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:

Applicant:

Friends of Yesler Swamp Foundation, a Washington nonprofit corporation
c/o Carol S. Arnold
3905 NE Belvoir, Seattle WA 98105
206-632-2660 or 206-963-2952
Carol.s.Arnold@gmail.com

Owner:

University of Washington
c/o Fred Hoyt
3501 NE 41st Street, Seattle, WA 98195

4. Date checklist prepared:

February 14, 2012

5. Agency requesting checklist:

Department of Planning and Development, City of Seattle
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):

Construction is planned to take place within 18 months of this date.

7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.

No future plans.

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.

Wetland Delineation Report
Wetland Mitigation Report

**LEFT COLUMN TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT.
RIGHT COLUMN FOR DPD USE ONLY.**

9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain.

No known applications or governmental approvals.

10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.

ACOE Nationwide Permit 14

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife HPA

11. Give brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page. (Lead agencies may modify this form to include additional specific information on project description.)

The purpose of this project is to construct an all-weather, durable, environmentally friendly walkway through Yesler Swamp that provides public viewing, open space, education and restoration access and preserves and enhances the natural shoreline and wetland resources. The trail will include approximately 1,330 LF of raised boardwalk supported on a pin pile system, and 400 LF of a crushed rock surface trail. The surface trail will be located in the upland and upland buffer adjacent to the swamp. In addition, nine raised platforms ranging from 40 to 100 sq. ft. in size will be placed along the trail and boardwalk as observation points and to allow turn-around area for wheelchairs. All trail will comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act regulations and standards.

12. Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit applications related to this checklist.

Yesler Swamp is located at the southwest corner of NE 41st Street and Surber Drive NE in Seattle, Washington. It is adjacent to and east of the Center for Urban Horticulture on the University of Washington Campus at 3501 NE 41st Street, Seattle, Washington 98105.

**LEFT COLUMN TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT.
RIGHT COLUMN FOR DPD USE ONLY.**

Legal description:

A portion of the SW ¼ of the NW ¼ of Section 15, Township 25N, Range 4E, W.M. Parcel number: 162504-9001.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. Earth

a. General description of the site (circle one):

Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other: **gently-rolling
bottom of a sloping ravine**

b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?

Steepest slope on the site is approximately 2:1 along Surber Drive NE.

c. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any prime farmland.

The Soil Survey of King County Area (1973) does not include the City of Seattle. Soils types are taken from the Wetland Delineation Report (2011) and include soil types encountered in both wetland and upland habitat including silt loam, loam, sandy loam, loamy muck, mucky peat and silty clay loam.

d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe.

No.

e. Describe the purpose, type, and approximate quantities of any filling or grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.

No soil will be brought in for fill. New material placed on site soil will be five low bulk-heads in the buffer where the gravel trail meets raised boardwalk trail; and approximately 300 pin piles as footings for the raised boardwalk. Additionally, approximately 48 CY of crushed rock will be used in the development of the surface trail.

f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.

There is potential for minor soil erosion due to placement of gravel trails, pin pile footings and bulkheads.

**LEFT COLUMN TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT.
RIGHT COLUMN FOR DPD USE ONLY.**

- g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)?

No buildings will be constructed on the site. The upland portion of the trail will consist of pervious crushed-rock surfacing. The wetland portion will consist of raised boardwalk and look-out areas. The CMU bulkheads associated with the trail development will require approximately 20 SF of impervious surface.

- h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any:

This project primarily uses raised pin-pile supported trail surfaces to minimize short and long-term impacts to the wetland, wetland buffer and shoreline habitat buffer.

Temporary silt fencing and/or coir logs will be placed down slope from any soil disturbance and soil/gravel placement. No heavy equipment will be used in the development of the project.

Entry trail slopes will be protected from erosion and seeded with native grass species.

2. Air

- a. What type of emissions to the air would result from the proposal (i.e., dust, automobile, odors, industrial wood smoke, greenhouse gases) during construction and when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.

A minor amount of automobile emissions will occur during construction as associated with delivery of construction materials and laborers. Some dust is expected when placing the crushed rock for the upland trails. No additional air emissions will occur following construction since people already drive to this site to walk the informal trails.

- b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe.

No.

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any:

None.

3. Water

- a. Surface:

**LEFT COLUMN TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT.
RIGHT COLUMN FOR DPD USE ONLY.**

- 1) Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into.

Lake Washington lies along the south edge of Yesler Swamp and waters from the lake extend up into the swamp during summer high water. Yesler swamp is a Category III palustrine scrub-shrub wetland. There are no streams in or near this site.

- 2) Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans.

Yes. A raised boardwalk will be placed in areas of the wetland and its buffer, including areas where Lake Washington's summer ordinary high water elevation extends into the wetland. The boardwalk will be constructed using pin piles. The crushed rock surface trail will be constructed exclusively in the upland buffer associated with the swamp.

- 3) Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material.

No fill or dredged materials will be placed or removed from the surface water or wetlands.

- 4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

No.

- 5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan.

No.

- 6) Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge.

No.

**LEFT COLUMN TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT.
RIGHT COLUMN FOR DPD USE ONLY.**

b. Ground:

- 1) Will ground water be withdrawn, or will water be discharged to ground water? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

No.

- 2) Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example: domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals ...; agricultural; etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve.

None.

c. Water Runoff (including storm water):

- 1) Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe.

Trail development will not increase or decrease the existing storm water runoff from the site.

- 2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe.

No waste materials will be generated as part of this project.

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water impacts, if any:

There are no surface or groundwater runoff impacts.

4. Plants

a. Check or circle types of vegetation found on the site:

deciduous tree: **alder, maple, aspen, black Cottonwood**

evergreen tree: fir, **western redcedar, pine, western hemlock, Sitka spruce**

shrubs: **Douglas spirea, willows, red-twig dogwood, Indian plum, Himalayan blackberry, English ivy, English holly, red-flowering currant, ocean spray and salal.**

grass: **reed canarygrass**, red fescue, blue grass sp. ,

pasture

**LEFT COLUMN TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT.
RIGHT COLUMN FOR DPD USE ONLY.**

- crop or grain
 wet soil plants: **cattail, buttercup, panicled bulrush, skunk cabbage, yellow iris, slough sedge, horsetail species,**
 water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other
 other types of vegetation

b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered?

The trail has been sited to avoid impacts on existing vegetation, partly by aligning it along the existing informal trail corridor.

Approximately 7,103 sq. ft. (0.16 ac) of vegetation in both the wetland and upland buffer will be affected by the trail. This includes direct impacts due to placement of the surface trail in the buffer and concrete footings in the wetland; and indirect impacts due to shading under the boardwalk in both the wetland and upland buffer.

In the wetland, approximately 410 sq. ft. (0.0094 ac) of direct impacts will occur in 158 sq. ft. of emergent (groundlayer) habitat and 252 sq. ft. of scrub-shrub habitat. Approximately 3,690 sq. ft. (0.085 ac) of indirect wetland impacts will include 1425 sq. ft. of emergent habitat and 2,265 sq. ft. of scrub-shrub habitat.

In the upland buffer, approximately 1,758 sq. ft. (0.04 ac) of direct impacts will occur including 1,270 sq. ft. of mowed grasses, 109 sq. ft. of native and invasive shrubs, and 379 sq. ft. of forest habitat that also include both native and invasive species. Approximately 1245 sq. ft. of indirect impacts to the buffer will include 54 sq. ft. of mowed grasses, 979 sq. ft. of shrubs and 212 sq. ft. of forest.

c. List threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.

None known.

d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any:

Avoidance and minimization of impacts was achieved during trail design by reducing the width of the trail, re-aligning the existing informal trail to avoid wetland habitat as possible and using pin pile boardwalks in the wetland and the buffer areas immediately adjacent to the wetland.

Pervious crushed rock trails will be used in the upland buffer.

Mitigation will be used where impacts to vegetation is unavoidable and will consist of habitat enhancement through controlling invasive species such as reed canarygrass, English ivy, English holly, Himalayan and evergreen blackberry and yellow iris; removing landscape cloth where it occurs along the previous trail alignment and planting native groundcover, shrub and trees species within specific mitigation areas.

**LEFT COLUMN TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT.
RIGHT COLUMN FOR DPD USE ONLY.**

This will increase species and structural diversity in the wetland and buffer.

Impacts to wetland habitat will be compensated at a ratio of 8.45:1 by enhancing 34,647 sq. ft. (0.8 ac) of degraded habitat, including 15,150 sq. ft. of emergent habitat and 19,497 sq. ft. of scrub-shrub habitat.

Additionally, functional lift of a portion of these mitigation areas will occur as some of the emergent areas will be planted to create scrub-shrub habitat and some of the scrub-shrub areas will be planted to create forest habitat. Upon completion, the proposed mitigation will result in 10,210 sq. ft. of native emergent habitat; 13,923 sq. ft. of native scrub-shrub habitat and 10,515 sq. ft. of native wetland forest habitat.

Impacts to the buffer will be compensated at a ratio of 1.56:1 for upland buffer impacts by enhancing 4,672 sq. ft. (0.11 ac) of degraded habitat, including 705 sq. ft. of shrub habitat and 3,968 sq. ft. of forest habitat.

5. Animals

- a. Circle any birds and animals that have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site:

birds: **hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, woodpeckers, owls, ducks, geese, swans, hummingbirds**

mammals: deer, bear, elk, **beaver, mice, rats, voles**

fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other: **unknown**

- b. List any threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.

A pair of bald eagles nest in a tall black cottonwood tree across from the project site near the intersection of NE 41st Street and Surber Drive NE; approximately 300 feet to the northeast of Yesler Swamp. While no salmon have been documented in Yesler Swamp or the lagoon it is likely that an occasional fish occurs along the Lake Washington shoreline at the southern edge of the swamp.

- c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.

Salmon migrate along the Lake Washington shoreline, through the Montlake Cut and out into Puget Sound. Yesler Swamp is separated from the main body of Lake Washington by a small lagoon. The site is not a significant feature for migrating birds.

- d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any:

The trail will help to preserve and enhance wildlife by keeping people to a single route through the wetlands on the raised boardwalk. Signage will be placed to discourage trail users from bringing dogs to the swamp

**LEFT COLUMN TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT.
RIGHT COLUMN FOR DPD USE ONLY.**

and to help educate visitors about the habitat. The proposed wetland and buffer mitigation consisting of invasives control and native plantings will increase available habitat niches for owls, raptors, songbirds and small mammals.

6. Energy and Natural Resources

- a. What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc.
None needed.

- b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe.
No.

- c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any:
None.

7. Environmental Health

- a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste, that could occur as a result of this proposal? If so, describe.
No.
 - 1) Describe special emergency services that might be required.
None required.

 - 2) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:
None.

- b. Noise
 - 1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment operation, other)?
Local traffic, highway traffic and occasional aircraft can be heard from the site.

**LEFT COLUMN TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT.
RIGHT COLUMN FOR DPD USE ONLY.**

- 2) What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from site.

None.

- 3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any:

None.

8. Land and Shoreline Use

- a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties?

The swamp is undeveloped. It is currently used by neighbors for bird watching and nature walks. It is also used by University of Washington students and others as a hands-on wetland restoration site.

- b. Has the site been used for agriculture? If so, describe.

No.

- c. Describe any structures on the site.

No structures occur on the site, apart from a partially exposed 48-inch concrete drainage mainline that bisects the site in the north/south direction and an abandoned corrugated steel CSO drainpipe entering the lagoon from Surber Drive. No flows have been observed from either pipe.

- d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what?

No.

- e. What is the current zoning classification of the site?

Major Institution, Low-Rise Residential 1

- f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?

The western and northern portion of the swamp is designated as CP Conservation Preservation and the eastern portion is designated CR Conservation Recreation.

- g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?

The western half of the swamp is designated as CP Conservation Preservation and the eastern half is designated CR Conservation Recreation.

**LEFT COLUMN TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT.
RIGHT COLUMN FOR DPD USE ONLY.**

- h. Has any part of the site been classified as an “environmentally critical” area? If so, specify.

Yesler Swamp is classified as an environmentally critical area for Wetland Habitat and Wetland Buffer. Other environmentally critical area classifications at the site are Shoreline Habitat that includes Riparian Management Area and Shoreline Habitat Buffer, Steep Slopes, Peat Settlement Prone Area and Liquefaction-Prone Area.

- i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?

None.

- j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?

None.

- k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any:

None.

- l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any:

None.

9. Housing

- a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

None.

- b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

None.

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any:

None.

10. Aesthetics

- a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed?

The top of the railing on portions of the boardwalk could be approximately 6 feet above the ground surface.

**LEFT COLUMN TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT.
RIGHT COLUMN FOR DPD USE ONLY.**

- b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?

None.

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any:
Emergent vegetation and shrubs associated with mitigation will camouflage the boardwalk structure.

11. Light and Glare

- a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?

None.

- b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?

Does not apply.

- c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?

None.

- d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any:

None.

12. Recreation

- a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?

On the opposite side of the UW Center for Urban Horticulture, the Union Bay Natural Area provides open space and a passive recreation trail used primarily by pedestrians for wildlife viewing. University of Washington play and athletic fields are approximately ½ mile northeast of the site.

- b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.

No.

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any:

**LEFT COLUMN TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT.
RIGHT COLUMN FOR DPD USE ONLY.**

None.

13. Historic and Cultural Preservation

- a. Are there any places or objects listed on, or proposed for, national, state, or local preservation registers known to be on or next to the site? If so, generally describe.

No.

- b. Generally describe any landmarks or evidence of historic, archaeological, scientific, or cultural importance known to be on or next to the site.

None.

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts, if any:

None.

14. Transportation

- a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site, and describe the proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any.

NE 41st Street is north of the site and Surber Drive NE is east of the site. As the project is associated with the Center for Urban Horticulture, the parking and access will be from this facility.

- b. Is site currently served by public transit? If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?

Yes. The nearest bus stop is at NE 45th Street and Mary Gates Memorial Drive, 1/3 mile from the site.

- c. How many parking spaces would the completed project have? How many would the project eliminate?

None/none.

- d. Will the proposal require any new roads or streets, or improvements to existing roads or streets, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).

No.

- e. Will the project use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe.

No.

**LEFT COLUMN TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT.
RIGHT COLUMN FOR DPD USE ONLY.**

- f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur.

Likely no more than what occurs today.

- g. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any.

None.

15. Public Services

- a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe.

No.

- b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any.

None.

16. Utilities

- a. Circle utilities currently available at the site: electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other.

None on site. The site has access to water, electricity and refuse services at the Center for Urban Horticulture (CUH), less than 150 feet from the trail entrance point. Telephone and restroom facilities are available during the opening hours of CUH and its library, which are open to the public.

- b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in immediate vicinity which might be needed.

None.

**LEFT COLUMN TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT.
RIGHT COLUMN FOR DPD USE ONLY.**

C. SIGNATURE

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge.
I understand the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.

Signature:



Date submitted: March 7, 2012

This checklist was reviewed by:

Land Use Planner, Department of Planning and Development

Any comments or changes made by the Department are entered in the
body of the checklist and contain the initials of the reviewer.
