



NORTH CLACKAMAS PARKS AND RECREATION DISTRICT

Development Services Building
150 Beavercreek Road, Oregon City, OR 97045

Michael Bork, NCPRD Director

June 22, 2022

Board of North Clackamas Parks and Recreation District

Members of the Board:

Approval of NCPRD Letter of Support for Clackamas Water Environment Services Grant
Application to National Fish Wildlife Fund

Purpose/Outcome	Recommendation to approve NCPRD write a letter of support to be submitted with the WES grant application to the National Fish and Wildlife Fund to support the Water Environment Services (WES) 3-Creeks restoration project.
Dollar Amount and Fiscal Impact	There is no financial impact to the budget.
Funding Source	N/A
Duration	N/A
Previous Board Action/Review	WES has discussed this project and grant application with the Board.
Strategic Plan Alignment	<p>1. How does this item align with your department's Strategic Business Plan goals? The WES 3-Creeks site is both adjacent and upstream of many NCPRD open spaces and facilities. NCPRD provides parks and recreational programs to the community. It is in the interest of the NCPRD's mission to support the shared and adjacent services that WES seeks to enhance and restore.</p> <p>2. How does this item align with the County's Performance Clackamas goals? Supports investment to ensure that the public land and natural resources, in which we are entrusted, promotes community needs.</p>
Counsel Review	
Procurement Review	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Was the item process through Procurement? No 2. If no, provide brief explanation: This is a letter of support for a grant application that WES is submitting.
Contact Person	
Contract No.	N/A

BACKGROUND: The 3-Creeks Natural Area (3-Creeks) is the largest, most significant natural area that Clackamas Water Environment Services (WES) owns; the agency has stewarded the site for years, waiting for the opportunity to restore it. NCPRD has collaborated with WES in the management of 3-Creeks, and owns, and manages open spaces and facilities adjacent and downstream of 3-Creeks. WES has \$1.45 million available through a State Revolving Fund sponsorship project, they have produced conceptual designs for a large restoration project that will mitigate flooding while also enhancing water quality and habitat for federally listed endangered fish species.

WES is pursuing a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) National Coastal Resilience Fund grant for the 3-Creeks Floodplain Enhancement Project. WES is submitting a full application, which is due June 30, 2022.

NCPRD proposes to support WES and the 3-Creeks project by the creation of a letter of support, which will be submitted with WES's application to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant. When implemented, the 3-Creeks project will enhance NCPRD's parks and recreation services at both adjacent Harmony Neighborhood Park, North Clackamas Greenway Regional Trail, and the NCPRD Aquatic Park. As NCPRD parks, trail, and natural areas are an interconnected system, the 3-Creeks project will also provide benefits to other local trails like the Phillips Creek Trail, downstream at North Clackamas Park, and beyond.

RECOMMENDATION: NCPRD staff respectfully recommends the Board, acting as the governing body of North Clackamas Parks and Recreation District, approve NCPRD's support for Water Environment Services' grant application to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation National Coastal Resilience Fund for Construction of the 3-Creeks Floodplain Enhancement Project by authorizing staff to proceed forward with creating a letter of support.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Clackamas Water Environment Services National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant application pre-proposal narrative.
2. NCPRD draft letter of support for the WES National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant application.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Bork, Director
North Clackamas Parks and Recreation District



NCRF Project Narrative

Instructions: The page limit for the narrative at the pre-proposal phase is (3) pages.

Part I Pre-Proposal – Project Overview

- 1. Project Context:** Three creeks — Mt. Scott, Phillips and Dean Creeks — converge on the 3-Creeks Natural Area to form Mt. Scott Creek, making it an important location for surface and stormwater management and natural habitat. Mt. Scott Creek flows into Kellogg Creek and then to the Willamette River, which feeds the Columbia River. Urbanization is taking a toll on the site, with streams eroding, habitat changing and flooding of developed properties becoming more common. This project will enhance the floodplain, improve water quality, improve fish and wildlife habitat and provide opportunities for pedestrian access and environmental education on the site. Clackamas Water Environment Services (WES) is the regional sanitary and surface water provider (a “clean water utility”) and owns the property (<https://www.clackamas.us/wes>).

3-Creeks is an undeveloped site surrounded by a heavily developed urban area. In response to area flooding due to urbanization, the site’s position in the watershed and natural, low-lying characteristics made it ideal for a flood reduction facility, which was built here on Mt. Scott Creek in the early 2000s. However, downstream properties continue to flood periodically, as evidenced by claims submitted to FEMA from downstream landowners. As the upstream watershed has continued to develop, increased flooding complaints again led WES to explore solutions with Clackamas County Emergency Management, and to engage an engineering consultant, Parametrix, to evaluate possible solutions. Optimization of the existing structure has been identified as the best, most feasible solution to reduce flooding in this constrained urban setting. Parametrix has completed hydrologic modeling to estimate the improvement in downstream flood conditions. In addition, reconnecting the stream to its historic floodplain and new floodplain enhancements within the natural area will also help store more flood water on site while improving habitat and water quality.

The streams on this site are fish-bearing and home to Threatened and Endangered species of salmonids, including Coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*) and steelhead trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*). Other native fish present include cutthroat/rainbow trout, lamprey, speckled dace, redbreast shiner, largescale sucker, and several species of sculpin. Surveys also found 61 unidentified salmonids (ODFW 2008). The proposed stream restoration and floodplain enhancement address limiting factors for salmon identified by Oregon Dept. of Fish & Wildlife’s Lower Columbia River Conservation and Recovery Plan for Oregon Populations of Salmon and Steelhead: physical habitat quality related to habitat complexity and diversity, including off-channel habitat access. This includes degraded floodplain connectivity and function. WES is a supporting partner in the Clackamas Partnership, which works collaboratively to improve watershed health, restore T&E fish populations, and contribute to economic and social vitality. The Partners have shared resources and collaboratively engaged in restoration efforts for over a dozen years. Their Strategic Action Plan is a comprehensive approach designed in 2018 to accelerate actions that will enhance habitats and provide the largest ecological benefits to the listed fish populations (<https://www.clackamaspartnership.org/>).

The resilience challenges we aim to address include both downstream commercial/ residential property flooding and recovery of T&E fish populations. The project integrates past planning efforts, including WES’ Kellogg-Mt Scott Watershed Action Plan, Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife’s fish habitat survey recommendations, North Clackamas Watershed Council’s (NCWC) Bio Assessment, and the Clackamas Partnership’s Strategic Action Plan. Over the past year, WES has conducted stakeholder outreach, an alternatives analysis, hydrologic modeling, developed a final concept plan, and a pre-design report. WES seeks funding to maximize the opportunities afforded to the community by this site.

This is the largest, most significant natural area that WES owns; the agency has stewarded the site for years,

waiting for the opportunity to restore it. The site has an ardent following of volunteers and interested residents. Now, with \$1.45 million available through a State Revolving Fund sponsorship project, the time to advance this project has come.

- Proposed Solution:** The project site is an 89-acre natural area containing a large natural floodplain and available flood water storage area which is publicly owned, so is well suited for this purpose. The nature-based solution includes optimizing the performance of the existing structure, restoring the stream to its natural elevation to reconnect to historic floodplains, and excavating floodplain and side channels to both maximize habitat improvement opportunities that this site offers and to provide community resilience. Over the past year, WES has conducted stakeholder outreach, site characterization/data analysis, an alternatives analysis, and developed a final concept plan. The project is currently in design development and permitting. The proposed solution consists of filling an incised stream channel with stream bed material and natural large wood, and excavating to create more floodplain storage and side channel/off channel habitat. The concept plan targets 5,000 linear feet of stream restoration, 3.5 acres of new floodplain, 2 acres of wetlands, 9 acres of riparian/floodplain native planting, and 4,000 linear feet of side channel increase. The alternative to fill the incised channel, rather than to grade back the banks, was selected to avoid impacts to existing riparian vegetation that currently provides shade and habitat.

Funding is in place through design and permitting, which are currently in progress. A permit matrix was developed to anticipate required permits, and initial contacts have been made with permitting agencies. Parametrix is leading a multi-disciplinary consultant team with extensive experience in similar projects so that we can be confident in obtaining the necessary permits for this work. While permits may be obtained in time to construct in summer of 2023, WES is planning construction in 2024 to allow some buffer time. The in-stream work must occur between July 15 and September 30, in accordance with ODFW's Guidelines for Timing of In-Water Work to Protect Fish and Wildlife Resources.

- Project Category:** Project Restoration and Monitoring

- Communities to Benefit:** The 2022 population within the site's zip code is 37,559, up 4.21% from 2010. Approximately 83% are white, with other races including Black, American Indian, Asian, and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander. 12% are of Hispanic/Latino ethnicity. The median household income is around \$67,000, with 7.75% of families below poverty (<https://www.blueprintclackamas.com/>).

Surrounding residents in the Linwood neighborhood and other residents in the region who come to visit 3-Creeks will benefit from an improved environment, improved water quality, and less nuisance flooding. A reduction in nuisance flooding will greatly benefit downstream properties, including the Lake Road Courtyard Apartments, Kona Gardens apartments, a street of small single family homes, medical offices, a credit union, realtor office, Stanley Infrastructure hydraulic tool manufacturer, a fire station, railroad tracks, and other low-rise commercial businesses. Previous floods to the area have caused roads to become inaccessible. In 2019, a flood caused 50 people to be evacuated from their homes at Lake and Rusk roads after Mt. Scott Creek surged and spilled over the bank.

Over the past year, WES held meetings with numerous stakeholders and interested parties to get their input, including the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde (site is within ancestral homelands), OR Dept. of Fish & Wildlife, Linwood Neighborhood District, North Clackamas Watersheds Council, environmental educators, OR Dept. of Transportation, North Clackamas Parks & Recreation District, Clackamas Fire, Clackamas County Sheriff's Office, Clackamas Community College, and several commercial entities operating in the area (Bob's Red Mill, Precision Castparts Corp., others). We conducted an online survey to introduce the project and learn more from community members. The survey garnered over 100 responses. We also held an online public meeting for interested parties. Twenty-five people attended the online event (Zoom webinar) in

real time and the video recording of the meeting has had over 60 additional viewings. The survey showed that the public supports the project goals, feels connected to the site, and want opportunities to be involved. A meeting is scheduled with downstream landowners with flood concerns in late April. Continued involvement with these groups will vary from providing opportunity to give input at key points to seeking detailed review of plans to providing volunteer opportunities. We are also discussing the possibility of jointly pursuing grants with NCWC. We also keep local interested government bodies updated, including the WES Advisory Committee, City of Milwaukie city council, and Clackamas County Board of County Commissioners.

Finally, we have included this project in the Clackamas Partnership's list of restoration projects aimed at recovering T&E listed species of Clackamas River fish populations and worked to align the project design with the limiting factors outlined in the Strategic Action Plan.

5. **Anticipated Community and Fish and Wildlife Benefits:** The 3-Creeks Floodplain Enhancement Project is currently in design development; based on the concept plan and pre-design report, the following metrics are estimated. This habitat improvement project, combined with others in the area, will address limiting factors for native fish and improve the positive trends observed in recent years.
- Restoration of about 5,000 linear feet of existing channel (incised channel to be brought up to grade).
 - Installation of approx. 20 riffle structures to near top of bank (no bank grading).
 - Creation of about 15,000 cubic yards over 3.5 acres of new floodplain.
 - Creation of about 2 acres of wetlands.
 - Creation of about 4,000 linear feet of side channels.
 - Approx. 300 pieces of large wood to be placed throughout the restored stream channel to improve in-stream habitat and restore natural stream processes.

The preferred alternative for flood control optimization is to modify the gate on the existing structure to control for the existing 25-year peak flow rate through the facility. With this control strategy, the existing 25--year peak flow would now occur once every 50 years, and the existing 10-year flow of 694 cfs would occur about once every 30 years. This optimization will result in an approximate reduction of 200 cfs in peak flows and a modest reduction of downstream flood levels at similar flow return frequencies. These adjustments will improve community resilience by benefitting 1,000+ people from reduced flood risk.

6. **Other:** WES is in conversation with partners to identify additional funding sources for trails, interpretive signage, and other public recreational amenities. Environmental education groups already visit the site with students and plans are underway to formalize environmental study here. A project website has been established at <https://www.clackamas.us/wes/3-creeks>.
7. **Other Uploads (please answer the following questions you are allowed to upload a 1-page summary to answer these specific questions, where applicable):** N/A



June 7, 2022

Jessica Grannis, Program Director
2022 National Coastal Resilience Fund
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
1133 Fifteenth St. NW, Suite 1000
Washington, DC 20005

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of North Clackamas Parks and Recreation District (NCPRD), this letter conveys support of Clackamas Water Environment Service's (WES) grant proposal, Building Ecological and Flood Resiliency in the Mt Scott Creek Floodplain (OR). The project will restore stream habitat, enhance floodplain and side channel habitat, and optimize performance of an existing flood reduction structure. Funding this project will accelerate the recovery of Clackamas populations of threatened and endangered salmon and steelhead and assist in achieving target goals for the Lower Columbia River Conservation and Recovery Plan. The project is nature-based habitat restoration that will also provide community resilience benefits from reduced risks to coastal hazards like flooding and erosion.

NCPRD is focused on providing parks, trails and natural area access to our District residents, many of whom are also served by WES. The project is aligned with our mission to enrich community vitality and promote healthy living through parks and recreation. Our district residents will benefit from this project's goals to improve habitat and opportunities for recreation and educational access. NCPRD manages parks, trails and facilities directly adjacent to the project at 3-Creeks. We share the value in enhancing habitat for both wildlife and our communities' benefits. We manage additional parks, trails and natural areas downstream of this site and understand the benefits at this site will also benefit other NCPRD sites and communities far beyond the project's boundary. NCPRD has partnered with WES on large restoration projects on Mt Scott Creek and are confident that this project will similarly provide many benefits to our shared community and the environment.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposal and favorable funding determination that will significantly assist in achieving ecological benefits for water quality and habitat for aquatic species including ESA-listed salmon and steelhead.

Sincerely,

[[Board Signatures]]