

Cheasty Greenspace Trail Project

SEPA Checklist

September 2018

PREPARED FOR:

SEATTLE PARKS AND RECREATION
100 DEXTER AVENUE NORTH
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98109

PREPARED BY:

ESA
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Figure 1. Project Vicinity

Figure 2. Wetland Delineation and Trail Design

Figure 3. Geologic Hazard Areas

Attachment 1. Cheasty Trail Design

Attachment 2. Geotechnical Engineering Report

**Attachment 3. Cheasty Greenspace Trail – Critical Areas Study
and Conceptual Mitigation Plan**

Attachment 4. Arborist Report

Attachment 5. Inadvertent Discovery Plan

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

A. BACKGROUND

1. Name of the proposed project, if applicable:

Cheasty Greenspace Trail Project

2. Name of Applicant:

Seattle Parks and Recreation
100 Dexter Avenue North
Seattle, Washington 98109
(206) 684-4075

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

Seattle Parks and Recreation Project Contacts:

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4. Date checklist prepared:

September 2018

5. Agency requesting checklist:

Lead Agency - Seattle Parks and Recreation

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

Trail design and permitting completed – Fall 2018

Trail construction – Winter 2018 (Pending secured funding)

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

- The construction and use of mountain bikes on soft surface trails is a 15-month pilot project that will start once the mountain bike trails are open. The pilot project involves monitoring the monitoring the mountain bike trails over the 15-month period, evaluating impacts to wetlands, erosion control, habitat disturbance, parking impacts, litter, safety and maintenance. If the pilot is deemed unsuccessful, the trails could be removed or converted to pedestrian use. SPR will make that decision at the end of the pilot along with any necessary environmental review.

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

Attached to this Environmental Checklist are:

- Attachment 1. Cheasty Trail Design
- Attachment 2. Geotechnical Engineering Report
- Attachment 3. Cheasty Greenspace Trail – Critical Areas Study and Conceptual Mitigation Plan
- Attachment 4. Arborist Report
- Attachment 5. Inadvertent Discovery Plan

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 applications are pending that directly affect Cheasty Greenspace.

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

Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections (SDCI) – Grading Permit (which includes critical areas review)

Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) – Hydraulic Project Approval for the construction of the bridge over the watercourse

11. Give brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. 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.

The proposal is to construct a 2.2-mile, two-loop trail in Cheasty Greenspace, with six entry points to allow public access. The greenspace is located in the Beacon Hill neighborhood of Seattle (Figure 1). The current proposal has been redesigned from the 2015 proposal to avoid impacts to wetlands, and minimize impacts to steep slopes, wetland buffers, the watercourse, and the riparian management area (watercourse buffer). The east-west segments of the trail will be multi-use shared trails with 4-foot wide standard park design trails. The mountain bike sections of the trails will be 18-inch wide one-way trails. The bicycle trails will be soft surface, with native mineral soils and the pedestrian trail will be crushed gravel. A bridge is proposed where the trail would cross a watercourse (Figure 2). The trail has been designed as two loops to avoid crossing any wetlands and minimize impacts to wetland buffers. It also avoids crossing the steepest slope to the north of the materials yard (a fenced, open maintenance yard in the west-central portion of the greenspace operated by SPR, as shown on Figure 2). The two loops can be joined by traveling along 28th Avenue South to the east of the greenspace and Cheasty Boulevard South to the west. The trail would be located on existing social trails where possible. The trail would be 2.2 miles long, with 1.1 miles of shared trail and 1.1 miles of mountain bike only (single track) to serve the neighborhood. The 1.1 miles of mountain bike trails are for beginners and are not anticipated to be a mountain biking destination. Attachment 1 contains the proposed trail loop plans, trail designs for different types of trail and bridge design.

	Length (Linear Feet)	Width (Feet)	Area (SqFt)
Multiuse	5,567	4	22,250
Single track	5,662	1.5	8,494
Total	11,229		30,744

Trail construction will be conducted by volunteer trail building crews, directed by SPR. Work will be primarily by hand, due to accessibility. However, a diesel or gas-powered small engine grader or tractor may be used in limited areas close to the road. The trail may be constructed in phases.

Cheasty Greenspace is 28.4 acres in size and owned by SPR. The trail and greenspace will be open dawn to dusk, like other Seattle parks. After construction, SPR will monitor the success of the trail pilot project, including how trail construction and use are affecting drainage. After 15 months, SPR will decide if they will continue to allow mountain bikes in Cheasty Greenspace.

- 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.**

See Figure 1, Project Vicinity, and Attachment 1, which includes location and topographic details.

Parcel #1624049161

Site address: 1635 S Columbian Way, Seattle, WA 98108

Assessor Legal Description: POR OF W 1/2 OF SE 1/4 LY ELY OF CHEASTY BLVD NLY OF COLUMBIAN WAY & WLYOF LN BEG AT PT ON NLY MGN OF COLUMBIAN WAY 511.57 FT NELY OF S LN OF SUBDTH N 22-23-11 W 668.36 FT TH N 09-21-54 E 1745.96 FT TO N LN OF SUBD PLAT BLOCK: PLAT LOT

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. Earth

a. General description of the site (underline):

Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other _____

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

The steepest observed slopes were inclined at approximately 100% (1H:1V) to 40 % (2½H:1V) with heights of 15 to 25 feet, where fill was pushed out from the top of the slope at the materials yard and lawn areas to the south of the yard. The majority of slopes are 10–30%. See Figure 3 and Attachment 2,

Geotechnical Engineering Investigation (HWA, 2018), which shows mapped steep slopes on the site. The trail has been aligned to avoid the steepest slopes on the site.

- 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 agricultural land of long-term commercial significance and whether the proposal results in removing any of these soils.**

According to the Geotechnical Engineering Report (HWA, 2018) (Attachment 2), Cheasty Greenspace is underlain by the typical glacial sequence of the Vashon Stade of the Fraser Glaciation. Preliminary subsurface explorations in 2015 were focused on the three proposed structures on the Site and Exploration Plan. In 2018 four handholes were dug on steep existing fill slopes in the southern portion of the site; another was advanced on a steep existing cut slope by Columbian Way; and two were advanced in the northern portion of the site to assess typical soil conditions for the upper and lower slopes of that area. Soils encountered in our explorations and in existing geotechnical explorations are listed below, see Attachment 2 for details.

Surficial soils as observed and probed predominantly consisted of loose grading to medium dense, brown, silty, gravelly sand. Silt and clay soils were observed in the lower slope, particularly north of the large ravine to the north end of the site, which includes a 2003 slide area retained by a soldier pile wall. A portion of the fill east of the maintenance yard consisted of clay as well. Rubble consisting of concrete, asphalt paving, and crushed rock were present on and within the granular fill slope to the southeast of the maintenance yard.

Probing depths ranged from 0.5 to 3 feet in the portion of the site south of the materials yard, 1 to 3.5 feet on slopes elsewhere, and 2 to 3 feet in wetland and riparian areas. The soil at the surface in most slope areas was not a rich topsoil, nor was much duff accumulated. This lack of organic accumulation and topsoil formation is indicative of persistent erosion or slope instability, which may date to logging before the 1930s. In some areas a portion of critical (over 40%) slopes had surficial soil consisting of gray, plastic silt or clay. This material appears to be fill that was spread over the plateau and its edges, spilling downslope to the north and northeast. Soils encountered in geotechnical field explorations at the site are listed below and described in Attachment 2.

- Buried topsoil
- Fill
- Topsoil
- Organic Silt
- Course Grained Alluvium
- Colluvium
- Weathered Till
- Weathered Advance Outwash
- Advance Outwash
- Lawton Clay
- Glacial Till

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

Yes, the majority of the site is mapped as having mass wasting deposits at the surface, consisting of colluvium, landslide deposits, and alluvium from small streams. The majority of the surficial soils on-site appear to be loose colluvium, typically to depths of 1 to 3 feet. Three areas of recent slope instability were observed. Only the New Rainier Vista Slide, which occurred in 2003, is located in close proximity of the proposed trail alignment. The other observed slide areas are located a significant distance from the proposed trail and will not affect the trail, nor will the trail affect the slope stability at those locations; see Site and Exploration Plans, Figures 2A and 2B, in the Geotechnical Engineering Report for details.

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

The multi-use trails will be built to SPR trail standards which includes a 4-inch thick surface of crushed rock. The mountain bike trail will be exposed, natural mineral soil. Surface duff would be removed and there would be some grading for shaping of the trail, in particular at switchbacks to prevent erosion. See notes and drawings in the attached Cheasty Trail Design plans (Attachment 1) for details. The total area of trail is approximately 30,744 sq ft, including areas where existing trails would be used. The area of trail grading would be approximately 31,000 sq. ft. Additional clearing of approximately 15,000 sq.ft. may be required to construct the switchbacks on the multi-use and mountain bike trails. The total import/fill of 5/8" - crushed rock for the multi-use trail surface will be approximately 300 cu.yds.

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

Trail construction could result in erosion. Standard erosion and sediment controls measures will be implemented during construction. The trails will be designed to minimize erosion both during construction and while being used. (see notes and drawings in Attachment 1 for details).

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

There would be no paved surfaces or buildings. The trail would be compacted native mineral soil with a total area of approximately 30,744 sq. ft, or approximately 2.5% of Cheasty Greenspace. Compacted trail would be less pervious than existing conditions but would not be considered an impervious surface.

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

The project will follow the Stormwater Management Manual for Western Washington (Ecology, 2014) and the City of Seattle Stormwater Manual (2016b) to reduce and control erosion during construction.

2. Air

a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal during construction, operation, and maintenance when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.

The majority of the trail is planned to be built by hand with hand tools. A small engine grader or tractor could potentially be used to help clear portions of the trail near South Columbian Way.

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.

Not applicable.

3. Water

a. Surface Water:

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.

There are 10 wetlands on-site; four are Category III wetlands with buffers ranging from 60 to 110 feet depending on the habitat score, and six are Category IV wetlands with buffers of 0 to 50 feet depending on habitat score. Category IV wetlands smaller than 1,000 square feet do not require a buffer (see Attachment 3). All are slope wetlands, and two are also depressional (slope/depressional wetlands). A watercourse (referred to as Watercourse 1) also crosses the width of the greenspace from west to east. See Attachment 3, Critical Areas Study and Conceptual Mitigation Plan (ESA, 2018) for details of the surface water features and their buffers.

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.**

The trail would cross Watercourse 1 and its buffer, as well as a portion of the buffer of Wetland 8 (see Figure 2 and Attachment 1). All other wetlands and their buffers would be avoided; the trail would not cross any wetlands. Watercourse 1 would be crossed with bridge with pile supports located outside of the ordinary high watermark (see bridge design in Attachment 1).

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.**

There would be no filling or dredging of any wetlands or streams for this project.

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

No; there would be no surface water withdrawals or diversions.

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

No; the project is not within the 100-year floodplain.

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; there would be no discharge of waste material to surface waters from the project.

b. Groundwater:

1. **Will groundwater be withdrawn from a well for drinking water or other purposes? If so, give a general description of the well, proposed uses, and approximate quantities withdrawn from the well. Will water be discharged to groundwater? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.**

No; there would be no withdrawal of groundwater for the project.

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.**

No waste material would be discharged into the ground from any source for the project.

c. Water Runoff (including stormwater):

1. **Describe the source of runoff (including stormwater) 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.**

Existing runoff flows into Cheasty Greenspace from residential areas to the west and exits through culverts and storm drains on the east. Culverts discharge into Cheasty Greenspace from a ditch that runs along Cheasty Blvd S on the west edge of the park. The ditch collects stormwater from the adjacent residential area and golf course.

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

No; waste materials would not enter the ground or surface water as part of the project.

3. **Does the proposal alter or otherwise affect drainage patterns in the vicinity of the site? If so, describe**

No; the trails have been designed and will be located to minimize potential changes to drainage within Cheasty Greenspace.

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

The trails will be constructed without using full bench-cut. Partial bench-cut may be used in some areas along the multi-use trails, particularly at the switchbacks. The trail will be constructed such that it outslopes so that rainfall drains off the side of the trail rather than along it. In addition, flat areas would be avoided to prevent creating collection basins for water.

4. Plants

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

- ☒ deciduous tree: *alder, maple*, aspen, *other*
- ☒ evergreen tree: *fir, cedar*, pine, other
- ☒ shrubs
- ☒ grass
- ☐ pasture
- ☐ crop or grain
- ☐ orchards, vineyards, or other permanent crops.
- ☒ wet soil plants: cattail, *buttercup*, bulrush, *skunk cabbage, other*
- ☐ water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other
- ☒ other types of vegetation

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

In Cheasty Greenspace, trees are “exceptional” based on species, size, condition and/or if it contributes to part of a grove¹. Table 1 lists exceptional trees with/near the proposed trail corridors, and they are shown on Figure 2. SPR’s arborists surveyed trees greater than 6 inches in diameter within 6 feet on either side of the center line of the trails (12 feet total).

Table 1. Summary of Number of Exceptional Trees near the Trail

Species	Exceptional Based on Size (DBH) or Location (Grove)		
	Size	Grove	Total
Bigleaf Maple (<i>Acer macrophyllum</i>)	33	61	94
Red alder (<i>Alnus rubra</i>)	0	4	4
Apple species (<i>Malus</i> sp.)	1	0	1
Black cottonwood (<i>Populus balsamifera</i> ssp. <i>Trichocarpa</i>)	0	5	5
Bitter cherry (<i>Prunus emarginata</i>)	0	1	1
Total	34	71	105

Understory vegetation (shrubs, herbs, invasive species, and small trees) would be removed along the trail alignment and up to one foot on either side if needed. Tree branches which may overhang the proposed trail would be removed for safety up to a height of 8 feet above the trail. No exceptional trees (as defined in Director’s Rule 16-2008) would be removed. Trees larger than 6 inches DBH along the proposed trail alignment have been professionally surveyed, survey results are noted above in Table 1 and the trail will be “field-fit” to avoid exceptional trees and trees larger than 6 inches DBH. See Section 4.6 Tree in the Critical Areas Study and Conceptual Mitigation Plan (ESA, 2018) (Attachment 3) and see Figure 2 and Attachment 1 for the proposed trail

¹ An “exceptional” tree is a tree or group of trees that because of its unique historical, ecological, or aesthetic value constitutes an important community resource (as defined in SDCI’s Director’s Rule 16-2008 and SMC ch. 25.11).

alignment. The area of trails would be 30,744 sq. ft., but some existing trails would be utilized. Up to 31,000 sq. ft. of understory vegetation could be removed for the actual trail construction with an additional 15,000 sq.ft. of vegetation removed as switchbacks are constructed. Areas outside the trails where vegetation is removed or otherwise disturbed during construction will be replanted. Invasive species would also be removed within wetland and stream buffers as part of the mitigation plan. No exceptional trees will be adversely impacted during trail construction and subsequent trail usage.

Some soil compaction would occur with trail construction and use. The response of trees to added disturbance will depend on plant health, age, soil moisture and the presence of native decay organisms. Soil compaction caused by bikes is no more damaging than soil compaction caused by foot traffic, horses or other types of trail usage. Plant roots are damaged by soil compaction when the pore space in the soil is compressed to the point where air and water cannot be retained in the soil for the tree to use or when soils are compressed, and tree root growth is restricted. See the Arborist Report in Attachment 4 for more information.

There are approximately 125 miles of trails in SPR parks, many are adjacent to large (including exceptional) trees. Soil compaction on adjacent trails has not contributed to tree mortality or poor health. A large portion of this greenspace has already been impacted by people recreating through the area, illegal activities, and forest restoration efforts. See Attachment 4 for more information.

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

No listed threatened or endangered plant species are known within or adjacent to Cheasty Greenspace.

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

All vegetation planted will be native plants. Buffer enhancement will also include the removal of invasive species from Cheasty Greenspace. The buffer mitigation plan is described in the Critical Areas Study and Conceptual Mitigation Plan (ESA, 2018) (Attachment 3). Mitigation will be coordinated with ongoing enhancement work in the greenspace being conducted independently by SPR.

Table 2. Wetland and Watercourse Buffer Impacts and Mitigation

	Impact (square feet)	Mitigation (square feet)
Wetland 8 buffer	327	327
Watercourse 1 buffer	1,833	1,833

e. **List all noxious weeds and invasive species known to be on or near the site.**

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| • Himalayan blackberry | • Scotch broom |
| • English ivy | • Herb Robert |
| • English holly | • English hawthorn |
| • Cherry laurel | • Poison hemlock |
| • Bull thistle | • Hedge bindweed |

5. **Animals**

a. **List any birds and other animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site. Examples include:**

birds: hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, other _____

mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other _rodents, coyote__

fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other _____

Wildlife habitat and wildlife species use in the Cheasty Greenspace and vicinity were evaluated in the field during 3 days over the winter and spring seasons. See the Cheasty Critical Areas Study and Conceptual Mitigation Plan (ESA, 2018) (Attachment 3) for results of the wildlife surveys.

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

No listed threatened or endangered species are known within or adjacent to Cheasty Greenspace.

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

Yes, the west coast of north America is on the Pacific flyway.

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

Removal of invasive species and planting of native species as part of the project would contribute to ongoing restoration within the greenspace which is helping to enhance wildlife. See the literature review in the Cheasty Critical Areas Study and Conceptual Mitigation Plan (ESA, 2018) (Attachment 3).

e. **List any invasive animal species known to be on or near the site.**

Eastern gray squirrel, domestic cats, and European starling.

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.**

A diesel or gas-powered small engine grader or tractor may be used for some trail construction. However, this would be limited to areas close to the road to

avoid impacting vegetation along the trail. There would be no energy needs associated with the completed trail project.

b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe.

No; there would be no change in the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties.

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:

The majority of construction would occur by hand. Small trucks would be used to transport materials, such as building materials for the bridge. The completed trail project would not require energy; thus, no energy conservation is proposed.

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.

1. Describe any known or possible contamination at the site from present or past uses.

There are no known contaminants at the site from present or past uses. However, the site has a history of illegal dumping of household items and of homeless encampments. There are currently no known encampments.

2. Describe existing hazardous chemicals/conditions that might affect project development and design. This includes underground hazardous liquid and gas transmission pipelines located within the project area and in the vicinity.

There are no known hazardous chemical/conditions on-site.

3. Describe any toxic or hazardous chemicals that might be stored, used, or produced during the project's development or construction, or at any time during the operating life of the project.

Most trail construction would occur by hand. However, diesel or gas would be used to power a small engine grader or tractor if used for trail construction in limited areas. No toxic or hazardous chemicals would be used after construction.

4. Describe special emergency services that might be required.

No special emergency services would be required.

5. Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:

The City of Seattle (City) will work with the community to discourage illegal dumping of household items. The City is developing strategies to address encampments in parks, as part of a larger effort to address homelessness.

b. Noise:

1. What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)?

The greenspace is in an urban area, and traffic noise can be heard throughout the park. However, this would not negatively affect the project. The trail is intended in part to provide respite from the adjacent urban area.

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

Some noise would be associated with a diesel or gas-powered small engine grader or tractor if used for trail construction. There would be noise (i.e., voices) associated with people using the trail.

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

Trail construction would occur during daylight hours, approximately 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. which would be within the times allowed under SMC 25.08.425: 7:00 a.m. — 10:00 p.m., weekdays, and between 9 a.m. and 10 p.m. on weekends and legal holidays. No additional measures would be needed to reduce or control construction noise. Noise generated by users once the trails are constructed is not expected to exceed that allowed by the SMC.

8. Land and Shoreline Use

a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties? Will the proposal affect current land uses on nearby or adjacent properties? If so, describe.

Cheasty Greenspace is an undeveloped park with some informal trails in the Beacon Hill Neighborhood. It is part of the Cheasty Greenbelt, which extends to the north and south, and is zoned Single Family (SF) 5000. The site is currently undergoing restoration through the Green Seattle Partnership program. The SPR materials yard is located near the southwest corner of the park. The site is adjacent to Cheasty Blvd S and residential development and a golf course to the west, and Seattle Housing Authority property (the Rainier Vista development) to

the east. S Columbian Way runs along the southern boundary, but the greenspace continues to the south on the other side of S Columbian Way (Cheasty Greenspace at Mt. View). To the north is a mix of a greenspace and residential development.

- b. Has the project site been used as working farmlands or working forest lands? If so, describe. How much agricultural or forest land of long-term commercial significance will be converted to other uses as a result of the proposal, if any? If resource lands have not been designated, how many acres in farmland or forest land tax status will be converted to nonfarm or nonforest use?**

Cheasty Greenspace is not known to have been used as working farmland or forestlands. However, it was logged at one time during the development of this area of Seattle. There would be no conversion of farmland or forestland of commercial significance to another use. The greenspace is part of the City's urban forest restoration efforts through the Green Seattle Partnership.

- 1) Will the proposal affect or be affected by surrounding working farm or forest land normal business operations, such as oversize equipment access, the application of pesticides, tilling, and harvesting? If so, how:**

There are no working farms or forest lands near the greenspace.

- c. Describe any structures on the site.**

There are no structures on the site.

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

No structures will be demolished.

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

Single Family (SF) 5000.

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

Cheasty Greenspace is designated as City-owned Open Space in the comprehensive plan (City of Seattle, 2016b).

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

Cheasty Greenspace is not within a designated shoreline area.

- h. Has any part of the site been classified as a critical area by the city or county? If so, specify.**

Yes; the City has mapped the following critical areas in the greenspace:

- Steep slopes
- Potential and known slide areas

- Wetlands
- Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas

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

No people would reside or work in the completed project.

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

No people would be displaced by the completed project.

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

No people would be displaced.

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

The proposed trail project is compatible with the existing urban forested parkland and will comply with critical areas regulations. The project meets and follows the Parks Design and Construction Standards (City of Seattle, 2017), and will also follow the IMBA Bike Trail Standards (IMBA, 2004, 2007). Cycling is not currently permitted on unpaved trails in Seattle parks. However, the Board of Park Commissioners reviewed and accepted this pilot project for a pedestrian and bicycle trail in May 2015.

m. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with nearby agricultural and forest lands of long-term commercial significance, if any:

There are no nearby agriculture or forestry operations. The trail would be constructed to avoid the removal of any exceptional trees and trees greater than 6 inches DBH (Diameter at Breast Height).

9. Housing

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

No housing would be provided as part of the project.

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

No housing would be eliminated as part of the project.

c. Describe proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any.

There would be no impacts to housing.

10. Aesthetics

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

The tallest structure would be the bridge crossing the watercourse and signs. The bridge would be constructed out of wood and left unpainted (see attached Cheasty Trail Design plans). The design and construction will follow SPR's Design and Construction Standards (City of Seattle, 2017). Signs would be erected for directional purposes.

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

No views in the vicinity would be altered or obstructed.

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

Bridges, trails, and signage will be designed to be appealing and natural in appearance. The design and construction of the bridge and signs will follow SPR's Design and Construction Standards (City of Seattle, 2017).

11. Light and Glare

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

No lighting is associated with the project, and thus there would be no light or glare.

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

No lighting is associated with the project, and thus there would be no light or glare.

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

Light or glare from adjacent residential properties would be minimal and would have no effect on the project.

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

No measures would be needed to reduce or control light or glare.

12. Recreation

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

Cheasty Greenspace is an undeveloped park with no designated recreation facilities; however, it has informal recreation trails that are used by some members of the public and for passive recreation activities.

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

There would be no displacement of existing recreational uses.

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

The project would not negatively impact recreation. The project would increase recreation opportunities by providing pedestrian and mountain bike trails to the neighborhood. The trails would be 2.1 miles long, with 1.1 miles of shared trail and 1.1 miles of mountain bike only (single track). The mountain bike trail would be intended for beginners and have no special mountain bike trail features.

13. Historic and Cultural Preservation

- a. **Are there any buildings, structures, or sites, located on or near the site that are over 45 years old listed in or eligible for listing in national, state, or local preservation registers located on or near the site? If so, specifically describe.**

Cheasty Boulevard is a designated City of Seattle Landmark. It was designated in 2003 based on meeting four criteria for listing (Gordon, 2003). Its historical significance is derived from its association with Seattle's Olmsted Boulevard System, which was designed to connect Jefferson Park and Beacon Avenue South, with Mount Baker Boulevard and the Lake Washington Boulevard System. The Seattle Boulevard System was designed by the Olmsted brothers, notable landscape architects, in 1903.

No other buildings, structures, or sites are located in or near Cheasty Greenspace that are listed in or eligible for listing in national, state, or local preservation registers.

- b. **Are there any landmarks, features, or other evidence of Indian or historic use or occupation? This may include human burials or old cemeteries. Are there any material evidence, artifacts, or areas of cultural importance on or near the site? Please list any professional studies conducted at the site to identify such resources.**

As mentioned in 13(a) above, Cheasty Boulevard is a designated City of Seattle Landmark.

There are no recorded cemeteries, archaeological sites, register-eligible properties, or traditional cultural places within or abutting Cheasty Greenspace. No recorded ethnographic places are located in or abutting Cheasty Greenspace (Thrush, 2007). Cheasty Greenspace is within the traditional territory of the Duwamish, whose descendants are members of the federally recognized Muckleshoot Indian Tribe and Suquamish Tribe.

No cultural resources assessments have been conducted within Cheasty Greenspace.

- c. Describe the methods used to assess the potential impacts to cultural and historic resources on or near the project site. Examples include consultation with tribes and the department of archeology and historic preservation, archaeological surveys, historic maps, GIS data, etc.**

A review of the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation's secure database (Washington Information System for Architectural and Archaeological Records Data [WISAARD]) and Statewide Predictive Model (DAHP, 2010, 2017) for known and potential archaeological resources; published ethnographic studies; and historical park records, maps, and aerials was conducted.

- d. Proposed measures to avoid, minimize, or compensate for loss, changes to, and disturbance to resources. Please include plans for the above and any permits that may be required.**

Because the trail entrances along Cheasty Blvd S are in the right-of-way of a designated landmark (Cheasty Blvd S), SPR has consulted with the Seattle Landmarks Preservation Board staff to determine if a Certificate of Approval will be required to identify any adverse impacts on the designated landmark. Three access points to the trail are proposed along the east side of Cheasty Boulevard South. No changes to the west side of boulevard or the sidewalk are proposed as part of this project (see Figure 2). As this is a two-loop trail, users may walk or cycle along Cheasty Boulevard between the Jefferson and 24th Place entries to join the two loops.

There would be minimal excavation for trail construction and most construction will be done by hand. If cultural resources are inadvertently identified during project construction, SPR will comply with state laws requiring the protection of cultural resources and human remains (Revised Code of Washington [RCW] 27.53, RCW 27.44, RCW 68.50, and RCW 68.60). SPR will temporarily halt work in the immediate vicinity of the identified potential resources and notify DAHP and affected Tribes to negotiate mitigation and/or avoidance measures (see the Inadvertent Discovery Plan in Attachment 5).

14. Transportation

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

Cheasty Blvd S is located to the west, with residential streets to the east, and Martin Luther King Jr. Way S, a little farther to the east. S Columbia Way is to the south of the greenbelt, and residential streets continue to the north. The trail would be accessible from six locations, three on Cheasty Blvd S and three from the residential streets to the east (see Figure 2 and Attachment 1).

- b. Is the site or affected geographic area currently served by public transit? If so, generally describe. If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?**

Buses run along S Columbian Way, Beacon Ave S, and Martin Luther King Jr. Way S. Additionally, light rail runs along Martin Luther King Jr. Way S. The Columbia City Light Rail Station is approximately 0.3 mile southeast of Cheasty Greenspace.

- c. How many additional parking spaces would the completed project or non-project proposal have? How many would the project or proposal eliminate?**

No additional parking is associated with the project, and no parking would be eliminated. This is a neighborhood park rather than a destination park, and no parking is provided.

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

The project would not require new roads or improvements to existing roads, sidewalks, or existing bicycle facilities. The project itself is a new 2.2-mile shared (1.1 mile) and mountain bicycle trail (1.1mile).

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

The Cheasty site is close enough to the Beacon Hill Light Rail station such that trail users could access the site via light rail.

- f. **How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project or proposal? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur and what percentage of the volume would be trucks (such as commercial and nonpassenger vehicles). What data or transportation models were used to make these estimates?**

The project is not expected to generate vehicular trips; no parking is provided within the greenspace but there is some on street parking available around the site and parking is available at the nearby Jefferson Park. Six entrances to the trails provide multiple entrance and exit points and will serve to disperse visitors. The trail at Cheasty are expected to primarily serve the surrounding neighborhood. For the most part, park users are expected to walk or bike to the trails. Based on SPR's experience with the I-5 Colonnade mountain bike trails which relied solely on on-street parking, some individuals may drive to the trails at Cheasty, but most will access the trails on foot or by bicycle. It is not expected that the trail users will significantly affect traffic, parking or generate additional vehicular trips beyond existing conditions.

During construction SPR's adjacent maintenance yard can be used for construction parking and equipment and materials staging.

- g. **Will the proposal interfere with, affect, or be affected by the movement of agricultural and forest products on roads or streets in the area? If so, generally describe.**

No; the project is not near agricultural or forestry, nor would it generate associated traffic.

- h. **Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any:**

Additional vehicular trips to the site are not anticipated from the project; thus, no measures to control transportation impacts are proposed.

15. Public Services

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

No; the project would not increase the need for public services.

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

No measures are proposed to reduce or control direct impacts on public services.

16. Utilities**a. Underline utilities currently available at the site:**

electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other _____.

No utilities are available within the greenspace. At the northern end of Cheasty Greenspace, a transmission line runs along the S Andover St right-of-way.

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 the immediate vicinity which might be needed.

No utilities are proposed as part of the project.

C. SIGNATURE

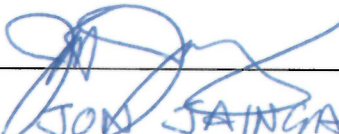
The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.

Signature: _____

Name of Signee: _____

Position and
Agency/Organization: _____

Date Submitted: _____



SEATTLE PARKS & RECREATION

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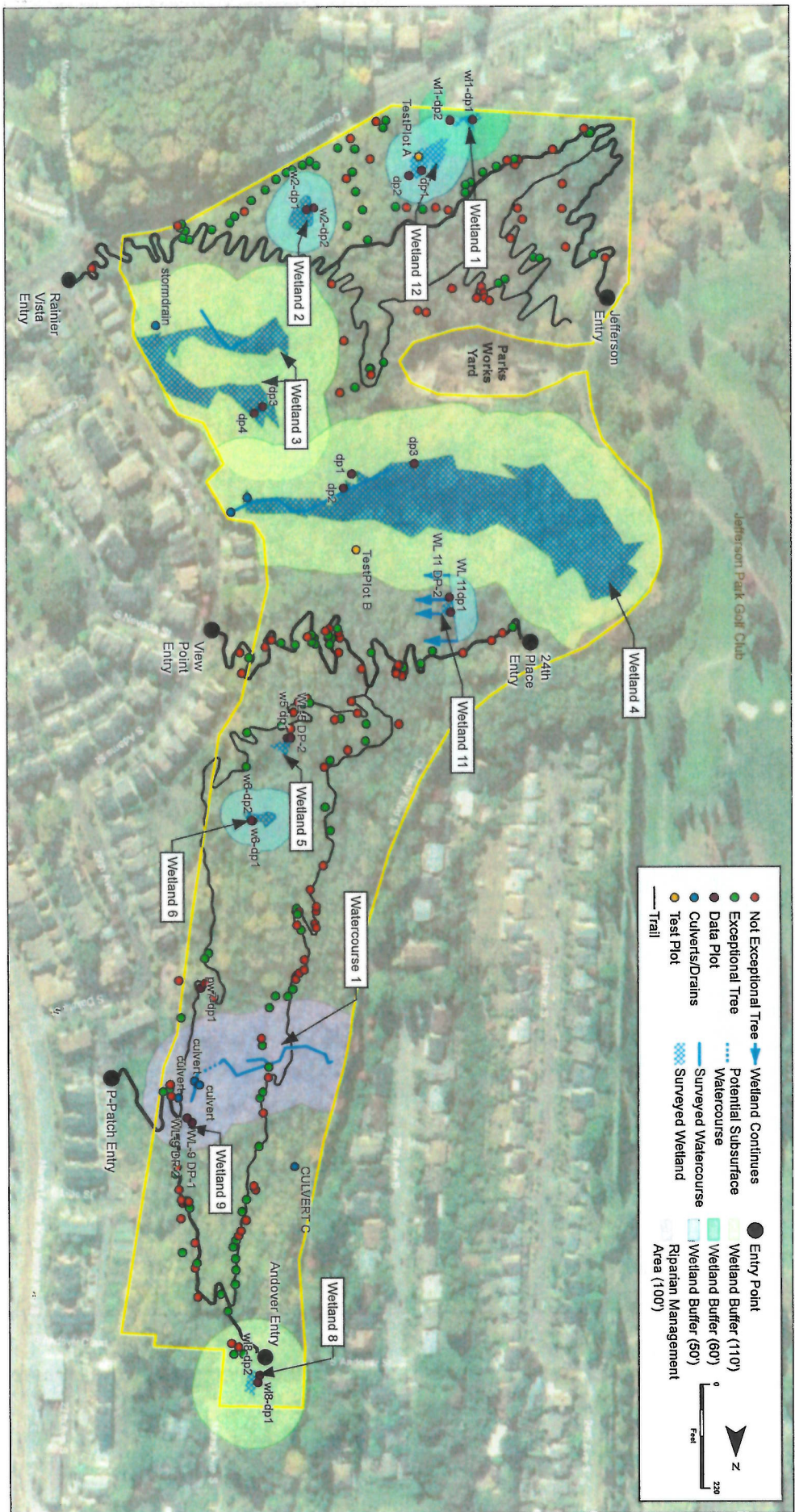
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Figures



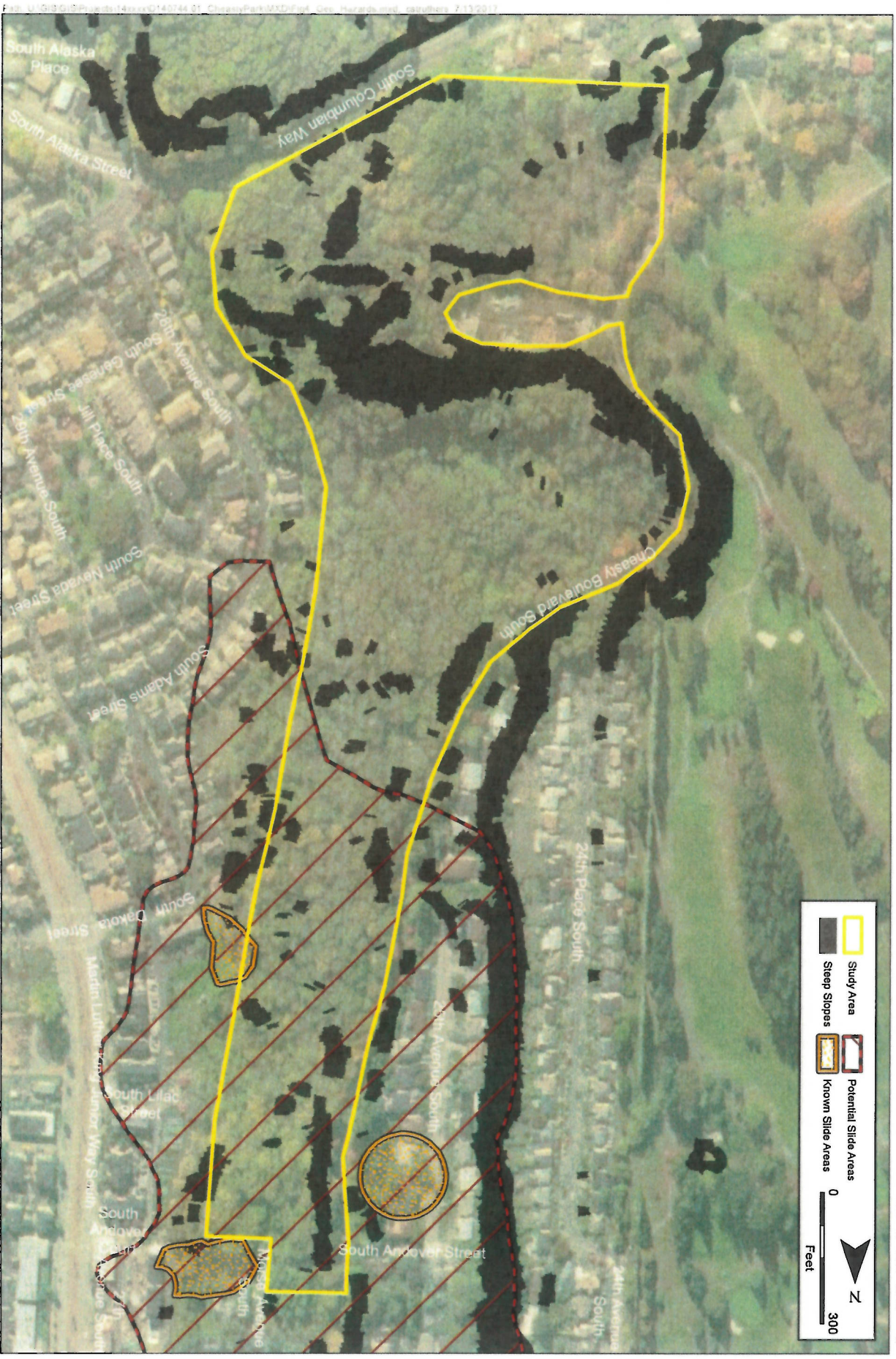
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SOURCE: NAEF, 2015; ESA, 2017; OSM, 2014

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Figure 2
Wetland Delineation and Trail Design

This map displays the study area, including the locations of known slide areas and steep slopes. A north arrow is present, along with a scale bar indicating distances in feet (0 to 300). A legend identifies the symbols used: a yellow rectangle for the Study Area, a grey rectangle for Steep Slopes, a red rectangle for Potential Slide Areas, and a yellow rectangle with a black border for Known Slide Areas.



Cheasty Trail Environmental Review

Geologic Hazard Areas



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