



LAKE FOREST PARK SEPA CHECKLIST

A. BACKGROUND

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:

City of Lake Forest Park Clearing and Grading, Drainage Regulations, and Environmentally Sensitive Areas Ordinance update

2. Name of applicant:

City of Lake Forest Park

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

Stephen Bennett, AICP
Planning and Building Department
17425 Ballinger Way NE
Lake Forest Park, WA 98155

4. Date checklist prepared:

January 2010

5. Agency requesting checklist:

City of Lake Forest Park, WA Dept. of Ecology

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

Draft language for the municipal code changes was prepared in 2009 and reviewed by both a Citizen Advisory Committee and Planning Commission.

Final adoption by the City Council is anticipated in 2010.

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

If the proposal is adopted by the City Council, future development proposals will be subject to the updated clearing and grading code.

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

The proposed code changes were created by a consultant group based on the requirements of the Department of Ecology's NPDES requirements. There have been no specific documents produced by the City on the environmental impacts

related to this project.

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.**

The City has various proposals for development under review. Proposals received before adoption of the new regulations would be governed by the old code while all applications after approval would be subject to the new requirements. There are no other City-wide proposals that would affect this proposal.

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

Ordinance adoption by the City Council.

11. **Give a 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. (Lead agencies may modify this form to include additional specific information on project description.)**

The proposal is to update chapters 16.08, 16.16, and 16.24 of the Lake Forest Park Municipal Code which regulate clearing and grading activities, environmentally sensitive areas, and drainage regulations. These changes are being made primarily to update the regulations to comply with the Department of Ecology's NPDES Phase II Permit and allow for Low Impact Development throughout the City.

12. **Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposal, 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.**

The updated municipal code chapters will apply to all property in the City of Lake Forest Park. The City of Lake Forest Park (City) is located in King County along a 2.22-mile portion of the northwestern shoreline of Lake Washington. The City is bordered to the south by the City of Seattle, to the west by the City of Shoreline, to the north by the Cities of Mountlake Terrace and Brier, and to the east by the City of Kenmore. State Highway 522 runs parallel to the City's Lake Washington shoreline, adjacent to the eastern edge of the City's business district. The City encompasses approximately 3.59 square miles.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. **Earth**

a. **General description of the site (circle one):** Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other ____.

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

The steepest slope in the City is estimated to be approximately 60-70%. Sites with slopes of greater than 40 percent are covered under the City's Environmentally Sensitive Areas Code (Chapter 16.16).

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 Natural Resource Conservation Service has not mapped soils in Lake Forest Park. Therefore, no information is available.

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

N/A.

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

The adoption of updates to the municipal code is a non-project action. All filling or grading activities permitted by the new code shall be subject the regulations specified in the document.

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

The adoption of updates to the municipal code is a non-project action meant to minimize impacts of erosion due to clearing.

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

The adoption of updates to the municipal code is a non-project action.

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

The Chapter 16.08 (Clearing and Grading Code) proposed updates to the municipal code serve to provide policies and regulations that minimize the impacts of clearing/grading activities. Erosion, sediment, and other impacts resulting from any clearing and grading activity permitted by the code shall be contained on the site. The code requires that check dams, riprap, plantings, terraces, diversion ditches, sedimentation ponds, straw bales, or other devices or methods shall be employed where necessary to control erosion and provide safety. Devices or procedures for erosion protection are required to be initiated or installed as soon as possible during grading operations and shall be maintained

in operable condition by the owner.

2. Air

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

The adoption of updates to the municipal code is a non-project action and not expected to impact air emissions.

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

The adoption of updates to the municipal code is a non-project action.

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

The adoption of updates to the municipal code is a non-project action.

3. Water

- a. Surface:**

- 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 into which it flows.**

The proposed updates to the municipal code address all properties within the City of Lake Forest Park, which includes Lake Washington (a year-round lake) and the associated shoreline. Several streams pass through the jurisdiction and discharge to Lake Washington, including Lyon and McAleer Creeks (both salmon-bearing, perennial streams) and smaller seasonal and perennial streams with unknown fish use.

- 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 adoption of updates to the municipal code is a non-project action. Under the revised Clearing and Grading code (Chapter 16.08), Environmentally Sensitive Areas Code (Chapter 16.16), and Drainage Code (Chapter 16.24), impacts to the function and values of all sensitive areas, including all stream types, geologically unstable areas, critical aquifer recharge areas, frequently flooded areas, wetlands, and fish and wildlife conservation areas or habitats, and their sensitive areas buffers located on or adjacent to the site shall be avoided by appropriate use of setbacks, erosion, and sediment control measures and other appropriate best development and management practices.

- 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.**

The adoption of updates to the municipal code is a non-project action.

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

The adoption of updates to the municipal code is a non-project action. The updates are meant to minimize and control surface water and groundwater runoff and diversion of surface water and groundwater in an effective manner to cause less velocity and erosion/sedimentation damage.

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

Five small floodplain areas of Lyon and McAleer Creeks and one larger floodplain area of both creeks are located in Lake Forest Park. Lake Washington does not have a 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.**

The updates to the municipal code preserve the current LPPMC codes that prohibit the discharge of waste material to surface waters. Any waste material discharges would be accidental and related to otherwise-permitted or exempt activity.

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.**

The adoption of updates to the municipal code is a non-project action. Activities permitted under the code will be designed to minimize and control surface water and groundwater runoff and increase ground water infiltration.

- 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.**

N/A. The adoption of updates to the municipal code is a non-project action and not expected to affect discharge of waste material into the ground from septic tanks or other sources.

c. Water Runoff (including storm water):

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

The adoption of updates to the municipal code is a non-project action and does not have sources of runoff or collection in and of itself. The code aims to promote land development practices that provide for managing surface water runoff on-site and that are consistent with the City's natural topographical features and vegetation and result in a minimal degradation of all watercourses. The City's two major urban streams, Lyon and McAleer Creeks, flow through the City of Lake Forest Park and discharge directly to Lake Washington near the north end of the lake. Several other smaller streams discharge directly into Lake Washington.

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

Entry of any waste material would be accidental and related to otherwise-permitted or exempt activity.

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

Projects permitted under the proposed updated chapters to the municipal code are required to use best management and development practices to minimize potential surface, ground, and runoff water impacts.

4. Plants

a. Check or circle 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
- wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, 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?

The adoption of updates to the municipal code is a non-project action. A Clearing and Grading Permit (associated with Chapter 16.08 of the municipal code) is not required for those emergency or routine activities specified in the document. Under the new code, permitted activities must prevent impacts and minimize the clearing of naturally occurring vegetation and soils disturbed in the site

development process.

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

The adoption of updates to the municipal code is a non-project action. Individual projects submitted for review under the new codes will be required to comply with the revegetation regulations in the document.

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

There are no threatened or endangered plant species known within the City's jurisdiction.

5. Animals

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

birds: hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, other: all
mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other:
fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other:

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

- Dolly Varden/bull trout (limited to occasional straying and/or short-term rearing by juveniles)
- Chinook salmon
- Winter steelhead trout

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

Listed fish species migrate through Lake Washington as adults to reach spawning grounds in suitable tributary streams of Lake Washington, Lake Sammamish or the Sammamish River. Juvenile fish migrate downstream through Lake Washington to reach Puget Sound marine waters. McAleer and Lyon Creeks are reportedly used by chinook, steelhead and/or other salmonids for spawning or rearing.

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

The adoption of updates to the municipal code is a non-project action meant to protect and enhance fish and wildlife habitat by protecting sensitive areas and their buffers. Impacts to these areas shall be avoided by appropriate use of setbacks, erosion, and sediment control measures and other appropriate best development and management practices.

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.

The adoption of updates to the municipal code is a non-project action. No energy will be used.

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

The adoption of updates to the municipal code is a non-project action. It will not affect the potential use of solar energy.

c. What kind 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 adoption of updates to the municipal code is a non-project action. There are no energy conservation features included in the code.

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.

The adoption of updates to the municipal code is a non-project action. Individual projects submitted for review under the new code will be required to comply with the policies and regulations in the City's Municipal Code.

1) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

The adoption of updates to the municipal code is a non-project action. No emergency services are anticipated.

2) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:

The adoption of updates to the municipal code is a non-project action. Individual projects submitted for review under the new code will be required to comply with the policies and regulations in the City's Municipal Code.

b. Noise

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

The adoption of updates to the municipal code is a non-project action and will not be affected by noise.

2) What types of 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 the site.

The adoption of updates to the municipal code is a non-project action. Individual projects submitted for review under the new code will be required to comply with the policies and regulations in the City's Municipal Code.

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

The adoption of updates to the municipal code is a non-project action. Individual projects submitted for review under the new code will be required to comply with the policies and regulations in the City's Municipal Code.

8. Land and Shoreline Use

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

The City of Lake Forest Park is urbanized, with most of the City utilized as single family residences.

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

No.

c. Describe any structures on the site.

The majority of the City is single-family residential with the exception of the Lake Forest Park Towne Center and a small number of residential multi-family and neighborhood businesses.

d. Will any structure be demolished? If so, what?

No.

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

The City's current planning and land use designations can be found in Title 18 of the LFPMC.

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

The City's current planning and land use designations can be found in Title 18 of the LFPMC.

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

All shoreline areas in the city are currently designated as Urban in the adopted King County Shoreline Master Program (Suburban Residential is the designation in the 1995 Draft SMP).

h. Has any part of the site been classified as an "environmentally sensitive" area? If so, specify.

Yes. According to the City's 'Wetlands and Steep Slopes and Landslide Hazard Areas' map, portions of the City are designated as steep slopes and landslide hazard areas.

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

The adoption of updates to the municipal code is a non-project action. No change in residential or commercial occupancy will result from this code.

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

The adoption of updates to the municipal code is a non-project action and will not affect displacement of people.

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

The adoption of updates to the municipal code is a non-project action and will not affect displacement of people.

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

Updates to Chapters 16.08, 16.16, and 16.24 of the LFPMP have been analyzed and compared to the policies and designations in the Comprehensive Plan.

9. Housing

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

N/A. The adoption of updates to the municipal code is a non-project action.

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

N/A. The adoption of updates to the municipal code is a non-project action.

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

N/A. The adoption of updates to the municipal code is a non-project action.

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 adoption of updates to the municipal code is a non-project action. Individual projects submitted for review under the new code will be required to comply with the policies and regulations in the City's Municipal Code.

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

N/A. The adoption of updates to the municipal code is a non-project action.

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

N/A. The adoption of updates to the municipal code is a non-project action.

11. Light and Glare

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

The adoption of updates to the municipal code is a non-project action. Individual projects submitted for review under the new code will be required to comply with the policies and regulations in the City's Municipal Code.

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

The adoption of updates to the municipal code is a non-project action.

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

The adoption of updates to the municipal code is a non-project action and thus would not be affected by off-site sources of light or glare.

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

The adoption of updates to the municipal code is a non-project action.

12. Recreation

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

The City maintains six city-owned parks throughout Lake Forest Park. Eagle Scout Park, Blue Heron Park, Pfingst Animal Acres are all relatively small, passive parks located near the center of the City near the Towne Centre. Grace Cole Nature Park, a 15.2-acre nature preserve, is located on the western edge of the City along the border of the City of Shoreline. Horizon View Park is an 8.4-acre active recreation park located at the highest point in Lake Forest Park in the City's north-eastern corner. Lyon Creek Waterfront is a 0.89-acre city-owned park located at the mouth of Lyon Creek. The park has a natural shoreline and has

largely been restored with native plants.

There are two privately owned recreational properties within Lake Forest Park. The Lake Forest Park Civic Club is a private waterfront recreation club that is a non-profit organization located just south of Lyon Creek Waterfront Park. The second privately owned recreational property is the 0.74-acre Sheridan Beach Community Club also located on the shoreline of Lake Washington.

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

No, the specified updates to the code will not displace any existing recreational uses.

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

N/A.

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, there are no known locations listed or proposed for national, state or local preservation registers.

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

There are no known sites of historical or archeological significance within Lake Forest Park. Nor does the City of Lake Forest Park have any special features that are documented by the Washington State Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (OAHP) (<http://www.oahp.wa.gov/gis/INDEX.CFM>).

Although not documented by the OAHP, the Snohomish tribe maintained a winter village site until approximately 1903, after which they moved to avoid the incoming settlers (http://www.historylink.org/essays/output.cfm?file_id=419). The Muckleshoot Tribe also has a long history of using Lake Washington, which is part of the Tribe's Usual and Accustomed Area, particularly for fish harvest to which the Muckleshoot's have established treaty fishing rights (<http://www.muckleshoot.nsn.us/history.htm>).

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

N/A

14. Transportation

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

State Route 522 (SR522), a major arterial which connects the Cities of Bothell and Kenmore with the City of Seattle, is partially located within Lake Forest Park and traverses the city from northeast to southwest. State Highway No. 114 (Ballinger Way NE) runs through the city from southeast to northwest. Approximately 10 miles of minor arterials, 4.5 miles of neighborhood connectors, and 51 miles of other Lake Forest Park streets extend throughout the City.

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

Yes. King County Metro and Sound Transit provide bus service along SR522, as well as Ballinger Way NE.

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

The adoption of updates to the municipal code is a non-project action. No parking spaces would be created or eliminated as a result of this project.

- 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 new roads, streets, or general improvements will result from this project.

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

Private water transportation occurs along the Lake Washington waterfront.

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

None. The adoption of updates to the municipal code is a non-project action.

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

N/A

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 increase in public services would result from this project.

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

None anticipated.

16. Utilities

a. Circle utilities currently available at the site:

electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other: see below:

All of these utilities are available throughout the City of Lake Forest Park.

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

The adoption of updates to the municipal code is a non-project action. Individual projects submitted for review under the new code will be required to comply with the policies and regulations in the document, and the City's Municipal Code.

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: _____

Date submitted: _____

Supplemental Sheet for Non-Project Actions

Because these questions are very general, it may be helpful to read them in conjunction with the list of the elements of the environment. When answering these questions, be aware of the extent the proposal, or the types of activities likely to result from the proposal, would affect the item at a greater intensity or at a faster rate than if the proposal were not implemented. Respond briefly and in general detail.

- 1. How would the proposal be likely to increase discharge to water; emissions to air; production, storage, or release of toxic or hazardous substances; or produce noise?**

The proposed Clearing and Grading Ordinance update contains policies and regulations designed to reduce discharges to water and impacts on the natural environment. Individual projects submitted for review under the new code will be required to comply with the policies and regulations in the document, and the City's municipal code. The updated ordinance encourages implementation of Low Impact Development techniques that provide for managing surface water runoff on-site and that are consistent with the City's natural topographical features and vegetation. Many of these policies and regulations are included in the document to provide regulatory authority in support of limiting impacts to the environment.

- 2. How would the proposal be likely to affect plants, animals, fish, or marine life?**

The proposed Clearing and Grading Ordinance protects habitat, ecological systems, and functions from clearing and grading activities that will likely result in sedimentation, erosion, and degradation. Such impacts shall be avoided by appropriate use of setbacks, erosion, and sediment control measures and other appropriate best development and management practices consistent with LFPMC Chapter 16.16 Environmentally Sensitive Areas.

- 3. How would the proposal be likely to deplete energy or natural resources?**

The proposed Clearing and Grading Ordinance contains management policies and regulations intended to encourage conservation of natural resources associated with clearing and grading activities. Individual projects submitted for review under the new code will be required to comply with the policies and regulations in the document and the City's municipal code. The ordinance does not have a significant effect on energy use.

- 4. How would the proposal be likely to use or affect environmentally sensitive areas or areas designed (or eligible or under study) for governmental protection; such as parks, wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, threatened or endangered species habitat, historic or cultural sites, wetlands, floodplains, or prime farmland?**

The City addresses the impacts of development on environmentally sensitive areas through the substantive regulations adopted in the City's Environmentally Sensitive Areas Code (LFPMC Chapter 16.16). The amendment proposed to the clearing and grading code will not affect those substantive regulations.

- 5. How would the proposal be likely to affect land and shoreline use, including whether it would allow or encourage land or shoreline uses incompatible with existing plans?**

The proposal will not affect any land uses or shoreline areas because it does not modify the substantive regulations with which those projects must comply under the City's current Planning and Land Use Code.

6. How would the proposal be likely to increase the demand on transportation or public services and utilities?

None of the proposed amendments will change the demands on the transportation or public services and utilities system.

7. Proposed measures to reduce or respond to such demand(s) are: N/A

8. Identify, if possible, whether the proposal may conflict with local, state, or federal laws or requirements for the protection of the environment?

No conflicts are known or anticipated.