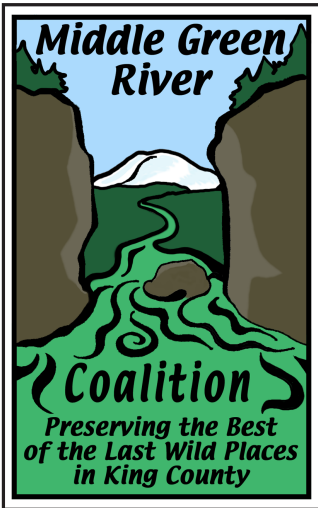


Update 09/05/06



Green River Gorge Mountains to Valley Greenway

Middle Green River Coalition (MGRC), an organization working on land preservation in the Middle Green River watershed, is working to create a Mountain to Valley Greenway. This greenway is made up of the scenic Green River Gorge and surrounding uplands. The Greenway will tie the foothills of the upper Green river watershed to Flaming Geyser State Park in the Green Valley. It represents an incredible opportunity to tie the foothills to the lowlands of the Green river valley. "This is one of the most significant east / west greenway corridors left in the Puget sound area" says Lisa Parsons, executive director of MGRC.

The Greenway will protect an existing wildlife corridor from the foothills to the lowlands. It will provide for a route on State Parks land for a multi-use recreational trail from Kanasket State Park to Flaming Geyser State Park. This trail will provide a route to hike, horseback ride, and mountain bike along the rim of the gorge. It will maintain access for fishermen along key points along the gorge. Uplands protection will maintain the view corridor along the Green River Gorge which is one of the premier whitewater rivers in western Washington.

The Greenway will protect one of the most important recharge areas in the Green river. 5 major springs feed the Green river from the southside of the gorge between the Green River Gorge resort to the east and Icy Creek to the west. These are the major sources of cold, unpolluted water that feed the Green and are key to protecting salmon runs in the Green river system. This underground spring network lies in one of the least developed sub basins along the Green river and is key to protecting water quality and quantity in the river. "By tying together existing public open space on the south side of the river we can help to ensure that these springs remain a viable source of cold, unpolluted water recharge into the Green river."

The Middle Green River Coalition has received official letters of support from Kent, Covington, Maple Valley, Auburn, Black Diamond, Enumclaw, Friends of Cedar Creek Park, Trout Unlimited, and Friends of the Green River Springs. They also have support from State Parks, King County, Department of Fish and Wildlife, Department of Natural Resources, and the WRIA 9 Steering Committee for Salmon Recovery.

Middle Green River Coalition is a group made up of a larger coalition of people, community and regional organizations, recreationists, private land owners, government, and others whose goal it is to protect the Middle Green River and its tributaries. By identifying and preserving key natural areas we ensure the protection of wildlife and fish habitat and recreational opportunities .

For additional information, maps, and supporting documents please contact Lisa Parsons.

Visit our website at: www.mgrc.org

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Middle Green River Coalition
"Preserving the Best of the Last Wild Places in King County"