

## Icy Creek

A priority acquisition for the Middle Green River Coalition in the Green River Basin. It has been identified as a priority acquisition in King County's "Last Best Places in the Green River State Parks Green River Gorge Preservation plan, the WRIA 9 Steering Committee, and by King County Executive Ron Sims.

## Key Features

**270 Acres of forested uplands along the last wild section of the Green River Gorge.** It protects the instream flows of Icy Creek. Icy Creek is a year round spring fed stream with flows of 40-60 Cubic Feet per Second. It has been classified as a source of clear, cold, pathogen free, water that feeds the Green River. Chinook, Coho, and Steelhead spawn at the mouth of Icy creek as it enters the Green River.

It also protects numerous springs that feed into the Green River. There are 5 or more springs that either directly flow into the Green River or flow into Icy Creek from the gorge walls below the Icy Creek uplands.

**It is also part of the last undeveloped upland view corridor on the Gorge** and would provide an upland wildlife and trail corridor. It is part of a larger band of continuous open space from the Cascade foothills to the Green Valley. Its adjacent to Hanging Gardens State Park to the east and by other land owned by Palmer Coking and Coal to the west. To the west the adjacent land is the Bass Lake / Icy Reach and would serve as the reach between Icy creek and the Bass Lake Complex to the southwest. Both Icy creek and the reach are targeted in King County's "Last Best Places in the Green River Watershed".

By preserving the uplands it would provide a route for a regional trail from Flaming Geyser to Kanasket State park. It would also separate development from the Gorge and enhance the survival of wildlife in a rapidly developing area.

**It is high quality habitat** for bear, cougar, bobcat, elk, deer, coyote, pileated woodpecker, bald eagle, osprey, and hawks.

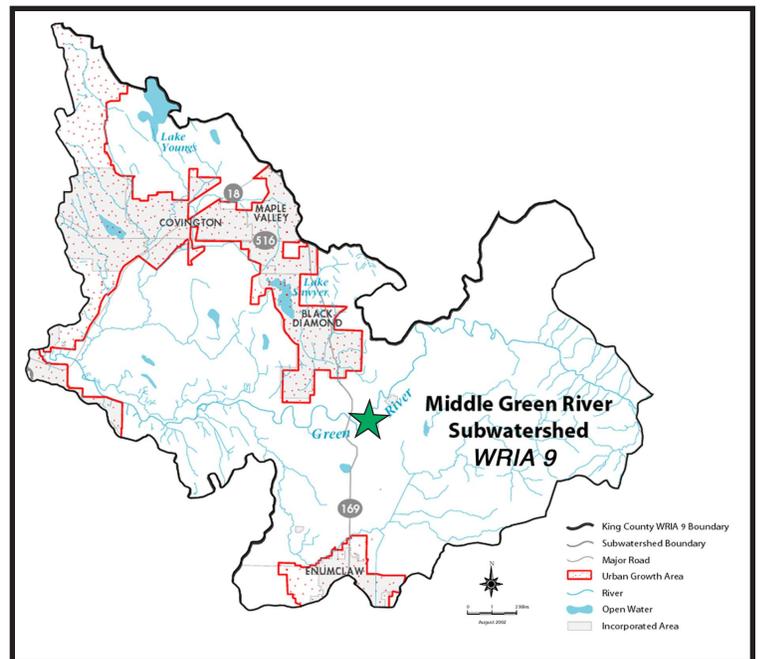
**It has existing historic trails** as well as a network of hunting, horseback, mt. bike, and hiking trails. The trails offer spectacular views of the Gorge, Icy Creek, and wildlife. There are many spur trails that lead to established fishing areas.

The land is currently owned by Palmer Coking and Coal and is planned for development with the permit process on 92 acres complete.

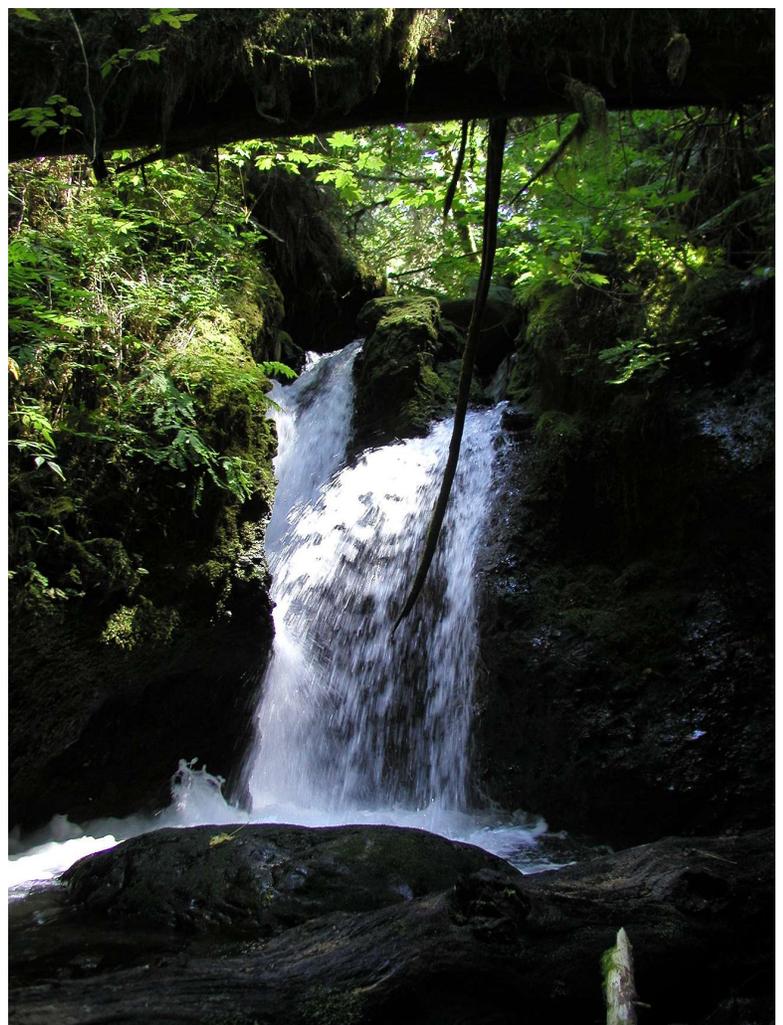
Middle Green River Coalition and King County raised \$500,000 from King County Conservation Futures and \$300,000 in REET (Realestate Excise Tax) funding. State Parks recently received an Interagency for Outdoor Recreation grant of 1.4 million to purchase the area of Icy Creek targeted in their Green River Gorge Preservation Plan.

Project currently under renegotiation. Some of the funding was transferred to alternative projects to avoid losing funds and until agreement can be reached between King County, State Parks, and land owner. Additional funding, including CFT will be pursued when agreement is reached.

The preservation of Icy Creek is currently supported by MGRC, Kent, Auburn, Enumclaw, Covington, Maple Valley, Black Diamond, State Parks, Department of Natural Resources, Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, the WRIA 9 Steering Committee, and King County and State elected officials. It is also supported by many recreation and conservation organizations.



Location of Icy Creek parcel within the Middle Green River Basin



Eight foot waterfall on Icy Creek as it makes its descent to the Green River