



Community Technical Group Additional Discussions

Draft: 5/23/16

OVERVIEW

During the System Wide Improvement Framework (SWIF) Plan development process, the Community Technical Group (CTG) expressed interest and had discussions on topics outside of the scope of the SWIF or Surface Water Management's (SWM) purview. Because the CTG brought attention to these topics multiple times, the County wanted to ensure that the discussions were adequately documented even though they were not directly relevant to the CTG's scope. These discussions are detailed below and will be included as an appendix to the SWIF Plan.

Using a 200-foot vegetation buffer to provide adequate shade

The CTG discussed how establishing a 200-foot vegetation buffer could provide adequate shade along the river. The CTG identified potential opportunities to pursue this moving forward that include:

- Pursuing these efforts through the Pierce County Conservation District or other land trust groups in the County.
- Working with the Pierce County Council to advocate for more funds for the Flood Control Zone District, so that habitat protection and vegetation restoration can be funded as part of their efforts.
- Pursuing the Conservation Future Fund or other tax incentive programs to acquire easements or encourage private property owners to maintain vegetation on the backside of levees.
- Working with the Pierce County Council to review building and development codes that may have some impact on vegetation (e.g., critical areas ordinance).
- Working with the Pierce County Council to remove the exemption in development code that allow landowners adjacent to levees to build or clear right up to the shoreward side of the levee.

Acquiring property up the valley wall to eliminate the need for levees and improve vegetation

The CTG discussed that acquiring property up to the valley wall may eliminate the need for levees, while simultaneously improving vegetation and providing adequate shade. The CTG identified potential opportunities to pursue property acquisition moving forward that include:

- Pursuing grants to acquire property.
- Conducting a cost assessment for purchasing all properties behind a proposed setback levee up to the valley wall and compare that to the cost of building the levee structure.