





Table C 3.3.2 Evaluation of Alternative Natural Heritage System Options

| EVALUATION FACTOR | OPTION 1 (No Buffers) | OPTION 2 (30 m Buffers) | OPTION 3 (30 m Buffer, Enhanced Corridor) | DO-NOTHING ALTERNATIVE |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|---|--|
| Description | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development outside staked limits of natural features or regional floodline, whichever is greater, within the subwatershed. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No development within 30 m buffer around natural features, or within regional floodline, whichever is greater. Stormwater management facilities should be located outside buffers where possible; any development within buffers subject to Scoped EIS. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No development other than trails within 30 m buffer around wetland features, or within regional floodline, whichever is greater. Enhancement areas to be naturalized to create overall corridor width of minimum 200 m on Middle Creek, 50 m on East Creek. Permitted uses within Enhancement Areas include active/passive recreation, stormwater management facilities and complementary land uses. Any development within buffer subject to scoped EIS. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No new development; no impacts on existing natural features. |
| Policy Compliance | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not fully compliant with Provincial, Regional, City and/or GRCA policies. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not fully compliant with Provincial, Regional, City and/or GRCA policies. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complies with Provincial, Regional, City and/or GRCA policies. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complies with Provincial, Regional, City and/or GRCA policies. |
| Impacts to Vegetation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> High impacts to edge vegetation, encroachment effects (see text), altered hydrology, altered water quality; likely loss of significant plant species. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low to moderate impacts to existing vegetation due to altered hydrology, potential loss of significant plant species, spread of invasive species. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low to moderate impacts to existing vegetation due to altered hydrology, potential loss of significant plant species, spread of invasive species. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low impact. |
| Impacts to Wildlife | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> High impacts to wildlife due to encroachment effects, loss of edge habitat, reduced landscape porosity, likely loss of wildlife diversity and area sensitive/forest interior breeding bird species. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moderate impacts to wildlife due to encroachment effects, loss of edge habitat, reduced landscape porosity; potential loss of wildlife diversity and breeding bird species. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low to moderate impacts to wildlife due to encroachment effects, loss of edge habitat, reduced landscape porosity; potential changes of wildlife diversity and breeding bird species; potential long term gain in diversity due to creation of upland habitats in Enhancement Area. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low impact. |
| Impacts to Functions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> High impacts to functions: groundwater, habitat diversity, connectivity, seasonal migration and dispersal. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moderate to high impacts to functions: habitat diversity, connectivity, seasonal migration and dispersal. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low to moderate impacts to functions: connectivity, seasonal migration and dispersal; potential gain in function for some forest interior plants. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low impact. |
| Impacts to Future Land Use | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No limitations beyond regulatory requirements. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of development opportunity. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of development opportunity; constraints on land uses in vicinity of wetland corridor, buffers and enhancement areas. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change in land use. Landscape matrix remains largely influenced by agricultural & rural land uses and local industrial. |
| Trail & Recreation Impacts | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trail location constrained by seasonally wet conditions; extensive boardwalks necessary. Trails will create moderate to high impacts on wildlife. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trail location within PSW subject to Scoped EIS. Trails will create low to moderate impacts on wildlife; subject to Scoped EIS. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trail location within PSW subject to Scoped EIS. Trails will create low to moderate impacts on wildlife; subject to Scoped EIS. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No public trail access. No impacts on wildlife. |
| OVERALL EVALUATION |  |  |  |  |

