

KING COUNTY CONSERVATION FUTURES CITIZENS COMMITTEE AND OPEN SPACE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Introduction to Program, Goals, and Highlights

Background on Conservation Futures Tax Levy:

Conservation Futures Tax (CFT) levy funds are collected from property taxes levied throughout King County and dedicated to the acquisition of open space in cities and rural areas. The Conservation Futures Citizens Committee (Committee) makes annual recommendations of project funding allocations to King County based on a review of project applications and site visits. This year's recommendations total \$12.2 million for projects throughout King County.

Project Prioritization Methodology

Conservation Futures Citizens Committee Recommendations Process:

Applications and notice of availability of these funds are mailed out to parks and natural resource directors of King County and its cities at the beginning of each year. In the spring and early summer, preceding the budget submittal, the Committee meets and conducts field trips to develop their recommendations. The Committee reviewed the projects using King County's adopted conservation futures criteria, which the Committee developed at the request of the King County Council in the fall of 2001.

Factors Affecting This Recommendation:

The Committee has worked creatively to adequately fund projects that are initiated from competitive local and countywide planning processes, long-established trail plans, the county's Greenprint plan and other community planning processes and to promote their successful competition for additional state, local or private matching funds. The Committee's recommendations, in some instances, would provide the first public funding commitment, and thus serve as a strong endorsement to other potential funding agencies such as the state Interagency Committee on Outdoor Recreation (IAC). The recommended projects are well distributed geographically throughout King County. These projects are expected to significantly improve the quality of life in King County.

2006 Significant Project Highlights

Maury Island Aquatic Reserve: 2006 Requested Budget \$3,443,690

The Maury Island project has received a federal grant through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) that supports King County's conservation initiative to protect 60 shoreline acres of near shore habitat that are part of a larger 275-acre site.

Discovery Park – Capehart: 2006 Requested Budget \$2,700,000

The Discovery Park project consists of acquisition of an important 23.9-acre in holding in regionally significant Discovery Park in the Magnolia neighborhood of Seattle. The Navy is selling historic buildings and housing in the park, including the Capehart housing tract built as

“temporary” housing five decades ago and still occupied by Navy personnel. By removing the housing and incorporating the land into Discovery Park, this will allow for creation of additional urban wildlife habitat for diverse bird species and other upland fauna currently in the park and not typically found in Seattle’s smaller parks. Seattle has in-hand matching funds from the Pro-Parks levy but will need to seek additional funds to meet the likely cost of acquiring the Capehart housing site.

Shoreline – Conservation Futures Levy (CFL): 2006 Requested Budget \$1,000,000

The 16-acre South Woods property and the 8-acre Hamlin Park addition are recommended for funding. They constitute the two largest remaining unprotected forested tracts in the Thornton Creek watershed. The property is a priority in the city’s adopted CIP plan, and it is listed as a top priority project in the city’s park, recreation and open space plan, which is scheduled for adoption later this year. The project would provide a significant addition to a city park in a growing urban area with increasing park needs.

Cedar River Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) Grant #2: 2006 Requested Budget \$1,000,000

This project consists of the purchase of land along the Cedar River for protection of habitat and ecological processes consistent with the WRIA 8 Salmon Conservation Plan. Acquiring this will help protect a high quality Cedar River habitat and provide opportunities to restore degraded habitat areas. This is funded by a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service grant with a local match (\$1.3M) to be provided by Conservation Futures and Cedar River Legacy funds, or other grant programs to be identified in 2006.

Bellevue CFL: 2006 Requested Budget \$885,000

The Bellevue Greenway system is a multiple-parcel project with a goal of creating a greenway in the Bellevue neighborhoods of Wilburton, Kelsey Creek and Richards Valley. The greenway is a community separator in south Bellevue that is also a scenic resource along local arterial roads and is partially visible from Interstate 405. The city has used several million dollars of its own capital improvement funds to purchase other parcels in the greenway system in recent years. Bellevue has received a total of \$1 million for the greenway over the past two years from Conservation Futures that it now intends to expend on this parcel. This is an excellent public/private partnership, in which the Botanical Gardens will undertake a major fundraising effort of up to \$2 million to help purchase the property.

Open Space Grant Contingency Project: 2006 Requested Budget \$845,500

This appropriation authority will be used for grants awarded for Open Space and Habitat acquisition projects during the course of the year. The projects will provide habitat protection for fish and wildlife. Once grants have been awarded they will be assigned sub-project numbers to account for the grant related expenditures.

Kent CFL: 2006 Requested Budget \$825,000

This is made up of two projects; Kent Confluence of Mill Creek and Green River for \$40,000 and Clark Lake for \$785,000. The Kent Confluence project is 2-acre, 2-parcel located at the confluence of the Green River and Mill Creek off State Route 167 in Kent. The project will fund the purchase of a conservation easement that will allow for additional restoration of forested riparian habitat further back from the creek. This project’s importance to salmon is

demonstrated by its selection last year as one of WRIA 9's top five projects for application to the Washington State Salmon Recovery Funding Board.

The Clark Lake project would add up to 15.5 acres of open space to Kent's Clark Lake Park. Acquisition at Clark Lake began by King County under the 1989 Open Space Bond program and Kent has continued this work over the past several years. This is the last large property remaining to complete the original vision for the park. The project will also ensure completion of a public trail that has long been envisioned by the city around Clark Lake.

The following table displays major projects \$200,000 and greater for which appropriations are requested.

Significant Projects Conservation Futures and Open Space Capital Improvement Projects	2006 Executive Proposed Budget	Continuation of Existing Project
Maury Island Aquatic Reserve	\$3,443,690	
Discovery Park-Capehart	\$2,700,000	
Shoreline CFL	\$1,000,000	X
Cedar River HCP Grant #2	\$1,000,000	
Bellevue CFL	\$885,000	X
Open Space Grant Contingency Project	\$845,500	X
Kent CFL	\$825,000	X
Belmondo Reach Extension	\$650,000	
Des Moines CFL	\$575,000	X
Rainbow Bend Corridor	\$530,000	
12th Ave Urban Center Open Space	\$500,000	
Kanasket Reach Green River	\$450,000	
Sammamish CFL	\$400,000	X
Duwamish Greenbelt/Fairmount Ravine	\$360,000	
Mid Issaquah Creek Conservation	\$350,000	
Taylor Mountain Forest Inholdings	\$300,000	X
Raging River Camp Terry	\$300,000	
TDR Loan Repayment	\$286,982	X
Green River Natural Area	\$275,000	
Issaquah CFL	\$275,000	X
PACIFIC CFL	\$275,000	X
East Cities Transportation Corridor	\$200,000	X

King County Council Changes to the 2006 Executive Proposed Budget

Open Space – 352305 - Cedar River Legacy - \$600,000

Open Space – 352346 - Cedar River Preservation - \$500,000

Open Space – 352349 - The Nature Consortium - \$50,000

Open Space – 352342 - Juanita Woodlands Environmental Ed. Center - \$250,000

Open Space – 352350 - Issaquah/Carey/Holder Creek Acquisition - \$150,000

Conservation Futures – 315100 - County CFL Contingency – (\$150,000)

Conservation Futures – 315727 - Lake Forest Park CFL Wilcox Parcel - \$150,000

Conservation Futures – 315187 - Urban TDR Open Space Acquisition Program - \$1,000,000

Conservation Futures – 315188 - CFT Transfer to Fund 3840 - \$163,000

Farmland – 384006 - Lower Green APD Acquisition - \$488,000

EXPENDITURE RESTRICTION:

Of this appropriation, \$488,000 shall be expended solely for the acquisition and associated costs of purchasing farmland in the Lower Green River Agricultural Production District. Revenues supporting this acquisition shall consist of an interfund loan to be reimbursed by \$325,000 in proceeds from the sale of farmland in the city of Kent, approved by Ordinance 15305, and a transfer of \$163,000 from the conservation futures sub-fund.

PROVISO:

The executive shall certify to the council by June 30, 2006, that the county has made a written offer to the owner related to the disposition of the Wilson house located on the Mount Peak open space property.

CIP Program Accomplishments and Completion Lists

Projects Completed in 2004

315103 Cedar River - Belmondo Reach - Maple Valley
315143 Issaquah Creek Log Cabin Reach
315151 Juanita Woodlands - Kirkland
315164 Judd Creek Headwaters
315405 Fremont Peak Park - Seattle
315413 Greenwood Park Addition - Seattle
315415 Pinehurst Park - Seattle
315711 Western Street Habitat - Auburn
315713 Meydenbauer Bay - Bellevue
315715 Haynes Property - Bothell
315719 Cedar Creek/Jenkins Park - Covington
315722 Lakota Wetland - Federal Way
315722 West Hylebos Habitat - Federal Way
315725 Clark Lake - Kent
315728 Swamp Creek Flood Reduction - Kenmore
315731 Interurban Trail - Milton
315731 Tollgate Farm - North Bend
315736 Edlund Farm - Renton
352335 Lewis Creek - Issaquah
352338 Snoqualmie Forest - Snoqualmie/Carnation/North Bend
384101 Lower Green APD - Auburn

Projects to be Completed in 2005

315123 Shadow Lake Bog
315126 Holder Creek
315145 Middle Newuakum Creek - Phase II
315148 Snoqualmie-Fall City Reach
315150 Judd Creek Headwaters - Vashon
315158 Dandy Lake
315163 Issaquah/Carey/Holder Creek Confluence
315167 Taylor Creek Floodplain
315175 Tolt River - San Souci
315177 Suburban City TDR Incentive Project
315412 SW Alaska Street Park - Seattle
315417 Kubota Garden Natural Area - Seattle
315418 Longfellow Creek/Puget Creek - Seattle
315420 West Capitol Hill Park - Seattle

- 315421 Sylvan Way Open Space - Seattle
- 315713 Maeydenbauer Bay - Bellevue
- 315714 Black Diamond Open Space
- 315715 Kaysner Parcel - Bothell
- 315716 Walker Creek - Burien
- 315722 West Hylebos Creek - Federal Way
- 315724 Whitaker/Fowler Issaquah Creek - Issaquah
- 315728 Urban Nature Trail System - Kenmore
- 315735 Howard Property - Redmond
- 315737 Duwamish River Mini-Park - Tukwila
- 352128 Redmond to Redmond Trail
- 352326 Cougar Mountain - Precipice - Issaquah
- 352401 Bear Creek - Woodinville

Projects to be Completed in 2006

- 315103 Cedar River Legacy
- 315122 Mid-Fork Snoqualmie Oxbow
- 315123 SHADOW Lake Bog - Renton
- 315131 Crowe Marsh Buffer
- 315142 Icy Creek
- 315149 Willows Crossing
- 315157 Mitchell Hill Open Space
- 315158 Dandy/Beaver/Bass Lake Complex
- 315159 Carnation Farmland
- 315160 Cedar Falls Tree Farm