

KING COUNTY CONSERVATION FUTURES 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 citizen committee recommendations total \$10 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, salmon conservation 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.

2008 Significant Project Highlights

Open Space Grant Contingency: \$1,605,450

The grant contingency project will be used for grants and accompanying match monies awarded during the course of the year for Open Space and Habitat acquisition projects. Applications have been submitted for a number of projects to acquire lands in the Water Resource Inventory Areas (WRIA) from various state grantors. For example, applications for \$765,097 from the Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration fund and \$210,353 from the Salmon Recovery Funding Board have been submitted for a total of \$975,450 in potential acquisitions in the Cottage Lake Creek area. This will provide spending authority once the grants have been awarded.

East Capitol Hill: \$1,400,000

In the East Capitol Hill community, a new greenspace will be created on 16th Avenue in a neighborhood that is zoned for high density housing and is seeing increasing development of multiple-unit apartments and attached town homes. This project will provide needed open space as residential density increases in the neighborhood.

Mount Peak Addition: \$800,000

The southern slopes of Mount Peak are recommended for funding to protect this scenic amenity on the south Enumclaw Plateau. Mount Peak Park is a popular destination for hiking and equestrian users from all over King County. The properties targeted for acquisition have a key trail segment and notable views of Mount Rainier, the lower White River Valley, and the farmlands of the Enumclaw Plateau. This CFT contribution matches a portion of the acquisition budget authority approved in Parks capital fund in 2007.

Bellevue Greenways and Open Space System: \$800,000

Bellevue will make additional important additions to its greenway and open space system, with the first priorities being a property connecting Coal Creek Park to Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park, as well as acquisition of a longstanding inholding in Mercer Slough Nature Park.

East Cities Transportation: \$750,000

This project continues into 2008 due to ongoing negotiations with Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) and includes acquisition related costs for railroad line property interests along the continuous BNSF rail corridor located in east King County and the cities of Renton, Newcastle, Bellevue, Kirkland, Redmond, and Woodinville and Snohomish County.

The total 2008 Executive Proposed CIP Budget for the Open Space Program is \$13,818,422. This includes the citizen committee recommended amount of \$10 million for conservation projects and \$3.8 million for projects such as the Open Space Grant Contingency, TDR Bank and Agricultural/Forest Preservation.

The following table displays major projects greater than \$400,000 for which appropriations are requested.

Significant Projects Conservation Futures and Open Space Capital Improvement Projects	2008 Executive Proposed Budget	Continuation of Existing Project
Open Space Grant Contingency	\$ 1,605,450	X
East Capitol Hill	\$ 1,400,000	
Mount Peak Addition	\$ 800,000	
Bellevue Greenways and Open Space	\$ 800,000	
East Cities Transportation	\$ 750,000	X
Cottage Lake Creek	\$ 500,000	
Grand Ridge Additions	\$ 500,000	
Camp Kilworth Forest and Nearshore	\$ 500,000	
White River PSE Corridor	\$ 445,000	
University District Urban Center Park	\$ 400,000	
Chinatown / Int'l District Urban Center Park	\$ 400,000	
Panther Lake	\$ 400,000	

Council Adopted Budget:

Section 133 ERI EXPENDITURE RESTRICTION:

EXPENDITURE RESTRICTION: Of this appropriation, \$750,000 shall be expended or encumbered solely for the acquisition of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Eastside rail and trail corridor and none of this amount may be expended or encumbered until King County enters into an interlocal agreement with the Port of Seattle for such acquisition.

CIP Program Accomplishments and Completion Lists

Projects Completed in 2006

001784	Cedar River - Ricardi Reach
001853	Big Spring Creek - 4 Parcels
021588	Kanaskat
315103	Cedar River - Dorre Don Meanders - 2 Parcels
315103	Landsburg Reach - 2 Parcels
315123	Shadow Lake Bog
315158	Bass/Beaver/Dandy Lakes
315163	Issaquah Basin - 4 Parcels
315167	Taylor Creek
315171	Griffin Creek - 2 Parcels
315175	Tolt River-San Souci - 6 Parcels
315179	Middle Green/Newaukum Creek - 6 Parcels
315183	Vashon/Maury Island Land Trust
315189	Lower Green APD - 2 Parcels
315714	Black Diamond Open Space - 20 Parcels
316448	Ravensdale FRCV Ballfields
316606	Bryn Mawr
352115	Green to Cedar River Trail
352305	Cedar River - Rainbow Bend - 2 Parcels
352401	Bear Creek - 2 Parcels
384001	Snoqualmie Valley APD - 4 Parcels

Projects to be Completed in 2007

001843	Kanaskat - Upper
315149	Mueller Farm
315158	Bass/Beaver/Dandy Lakes

315163	Issaquah Creek - 4-5 Parcels
315168	Boise Creek Dairy Farm
315171	Griffin Creek - 1-2 Parcels
315173	Raging River - 1-2 Parcels
315183	Vashon Maury Island Land Trust
315195	Zante - Woodinville APD
315196	Lower Taylor Creek
316441	Kanaskat
316717	Mt. Peak - 3-4 Parcels
339101	Taylor Mt. Inholdings - 2 Parcels
352128	Redmond to Redmond Trail - 8 Parcels
352133	Soos Creek Area
352215	Green to Cedar River Trail
352305	Cedar River - Rainbow Bend - 6 Parcels
352305	Cedar River Legacy - 5 Parcels
352338	Maury Initiative - 20 Parcels
384001	Enumclaw Plateau APD
384001	Lower Green APD

Projects to be Completed in 2008

315122	Midfork Snoqualmie - 3 Parcels
315138	Maury Initiative - 30 Parcels
315158	Bass/Beaver/Dandy
315163	Bear Creek - 5-6 Parcels
315173	Snoqualmie - 4 Parcels
315196	Cedar River - Taylor Creek 3 Parcels
316441	Landsburg-Kanaskat Trail - 3-4 Parcels
352305	Cedar River - Rainbow Bend - 4 Parcels
384001	Enumclaw APD