

VASHON: Island Center Forest Additions – Cemetery Trailhead (David Kimmett, Parks)

PEL Request (2014)	\$200,000
CFT Request (CFT match status)	\$0 (N/A)
Subtotal: CFT + PEL Request	\$200,000

Total Project Cost	\$225,000
Funding Already Secured	\$25,000 PEL grant (2013); \$34,000 PEL/CFT may be available from earlier ICF acquisition (Montana) but TBD.
Additional Funding Sought	None
Will current funding request allow project completion?	Yes for current priority – and there may be additional acquisitions in future

Project Description: Acquire 5-acre parcel (012202-9003) adjacent to Cemetery Trailhead as an addition to Island Center Forest. Target parcel is adjacent to the Cemetery Trailhead at Island Center Forest and is cleared but undeveloped. Acquisition would create a significant buffer between the nearest neighbor and the trailhead, reducing potential for landowner conflicts and protect a vacant 5-acre lot from development. There are no structures on the parcel. Proposal has support from Friends of Island Center Forest, Vashon – Maury Island Land Trust, Vashon Forest Stewards, Vashon-Maury Horse Association, and Vashon-Maury Audubon. Owner had listed parcel on open market and has been patiently waiting the past two years while we secure funding. If the owner does not receive an offer from King County she will re-list it.

Habitat Benefit: The target parcel is 650 feet from Judd Creek, Vashon Island’s largest single source of fresh water to Puget Sound, and provides habitat for cutthroat trout, Coho and chum salmon. The aquatic resource value of this acquisition is high as much of the area is in a high groundwater recharge area. Groundwater provides base flow for all Vashon streams. The target parcel will help reduce impervious surfaces in the Judd Creek watershed, can be easily restored and reforested, will protect the island’s groundwater recharge capacity and water quality, and preserve Judd Creek’s critical natural hydrologic function. Overall, contributes to Judd Creek riparian protection to retain undeveloped parcels as public open space.

Recreation Benefit: Island Center Forest’s 10-miles of trails are Vashon Island’s most highly used and appreciated trail network. The trails are enjoyed by people of all ages, including hikers, equestrians, mountain bikers, dog walkers, runners and naturalists. The Cemetery Trailhead is the second most used trailhead at Island Center Forest. If needed, the target parcel provides an opportunity to add more parking in the future. The target parcel could also help meet the growing demand for off-leash “voice control” dog areas. Intended future public use of the site includes park open space, forest restoration and passive recreational trails.

Plan Priority and Goals: The acquisition meets the goals of the *King County Parks Open Space Plan* and the *Island Center Forest Site Management Guidelines*. Island Center Forest and Natural Area (ICF), the largest public open space preserve on Vashon Island, is a 409-acre complex of forest and ecological lands owned by King County. In 2004, at the request of Vashon Island citizens, 200 acres of Washington State DNR Trust lands were transferred to King County. In 2004 and 2005, King County and the Vashon Maury Island Land Trust collaborated on the CFT funded acquisition of 83 acres of forest and wetlands known as Mukai Pond and Meadowlake Pond. An additional 86 acres of forest land owned by King County’s Solid Waste Division was also incorporated into

Island Center Forest. King County collaborated with Vashon citizens and stakeholders, now known as the Friends of Island Center Forest, and in 2006 completed the *Island Center Forest Site Management Guidelines*. With ongoing public input and collaboration, ICF will be managed to “protect and restore wetlands and riparian areas, conserve and restore wildlife habitat for a diversity of species, conduct ecologically sustainable forest management and provide opportunities for low impact recreation and natural resource education”.

Stewardship and Maintenance: The target parcel will become part of the Island Center Forest and Natural Area. Using an adaptive management approach, the properties will be stewarded and maintained by King County Parks’ staff in close collaboration with the Friends of Island Center Forest per the *Island Center Forest Site Management Guidelines*.

Greenprint Value: Medium (ecological)

Parcels included in Scope: 012202-9003 (5 ac).

Are the landowners willing? Yes

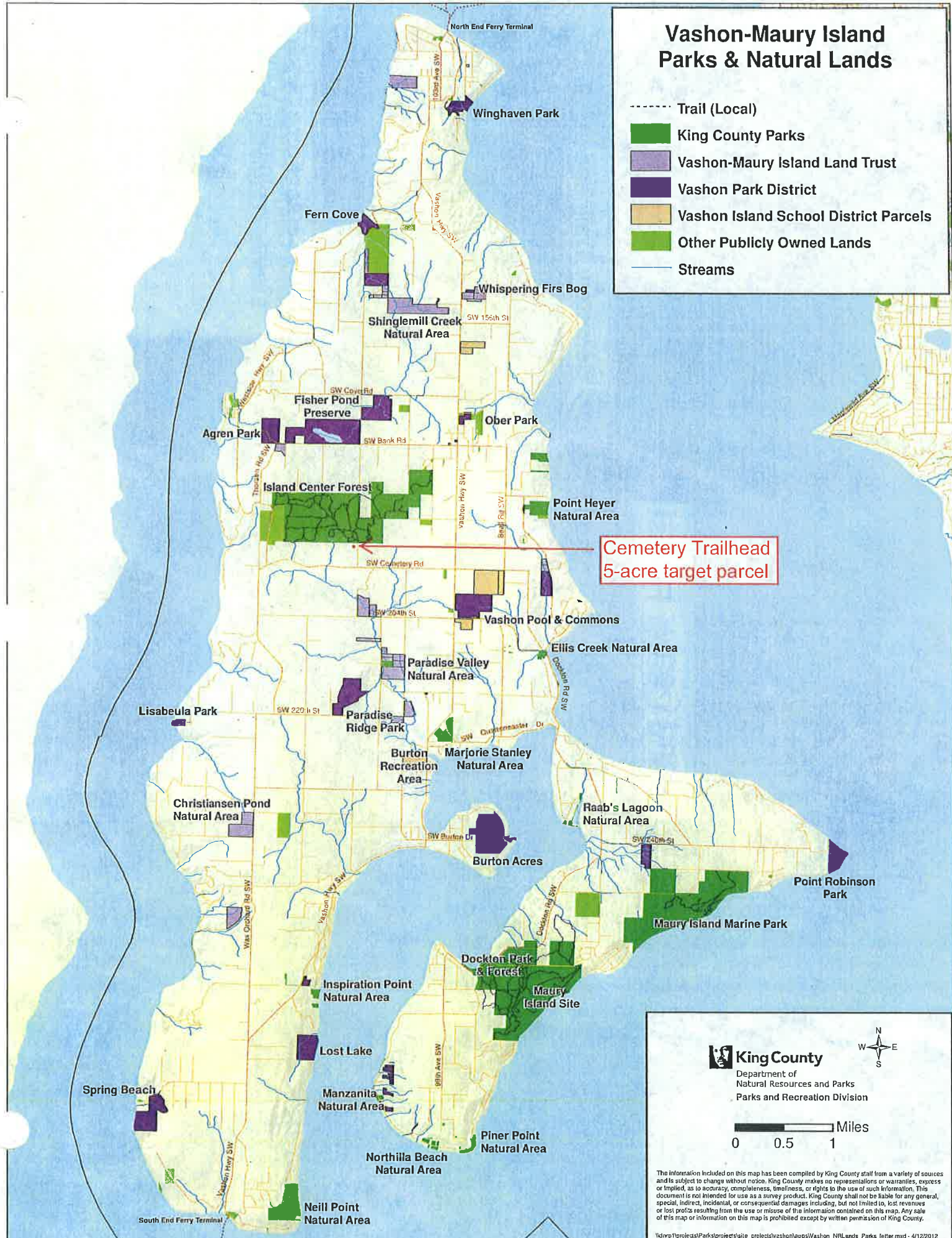
Is there urgency for this project? Yes, the owner has been waiting for two years while we secure funding and is very anxious to sell.

What are the consequences of receiving partial funding? The project must be fully funded at this time. The owner is seeking a commitment from King County to complete the purchase of the parcel by early 2014. If not funded, the owner will re-list the parcel.

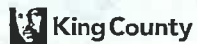
Structures? There are no structures on the parcel.

Vashon-Maury Island Parks & Natural Lands

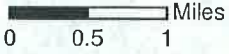
-  Trail (Local)
-  King County Parks
-  Vashon-Maury Island Land Trust
-  Vashon Park District
-  Vashon Island School District Parcels
-  Other Publicly Owned Lands
-  Streams



Cemetery Trailhead
5-acre target parcel



Department of
Natural Resources and Parks
Parks and Recreation Division



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Island Center Forest

Cemetery Trailhead

9003

Cemetery Road

Judd Creek

Island Center Forest Additions 5 acres - Cemetery Trailhead



King County

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Natural Resources and Parks
Parks and Recreation Division

March 12, 2013

