



King County

K.C. Date Received _____

4
**CONSERVATION FUTURES (CFT) 2013 ANNUAL COLLECTIONS
APPLICATION FOR FUNDS**

PROJECT NAME Shinglemill Creek Preserve and Trail

Applicant Jurisdiction(s): King County

Open Space System: Shinglemill Creek Natural Area

Acquisition Project Size: 68 Acres, 1 parcel **CFT Application Amount:** \$162,000

Type of Acquisition(s): Fee Title Conservation Easement Other:

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Seattle, WA 98104 **Date:** March 13, 2013

PROJECT SUMMARY:

Conservation work in the Shinglemill Watershed began with the purchase of the estuary and delta of Shinglemill, affectionately known as Fern Cove, in 1994. In the years since, King County has collaborated with the Vashon Land Trust and the Vashon Park District to conserve and restore twelve parcels totaling 108 acres along the lower main stem of Shinglemill Creek and ten parcels totaling 149 acres at the headwaters of the creek at Fisher Pond. Restoration efforts have included the removal of four derelict homes, the planting of more than 6,000 trees, several erosion control projects, and a large woody debris project that placed 111 logs in Shinglemill Creek.

This King County Roads parcel contains about 790 feet of the main stem of Shinglemill creek, and is bordered on the south side and portions of the west and north sides by conserved properties. The entire ravine is mostly undeveloped – there is only one home remaining. The Shinglemill Preserve and the target property contain mixed forests of cedar, fir, maple and alder. Although the Preserve in general is short on mature conifers, Fern Cove and the uppermost “Needle Creek” parcel contain some of the largest mature second-growth fir and cedar on Vashon.

In 2009, the Vashon Land Trust was able to secure the donation of three trail easements on private property – the first trail easement ever signed on Vashon. The easements allowed for the construction and opening of the Shinglemill Trail in 2010, which runs from Vashon Highway near Vashon Community Care through the subject property and out to Fern Cove. The trail was instantly popular, and has remained so. The target parcel is currently owned by King County Roads and is scheduled for surplus. If successful, King County Water and Land Resources will either purchase the parcel in fee title or purchase a conservation easement over the entire parcel with the Vashon Land Trust purchasing the fee title.

1. OPEN SPACE RESOURCES

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A. Wildlife habitat or rare plant reserve | <input type="checkbox"/> E. Historic/cultural resources |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> B. Salmon habitat and aquatic resources | <input type="checkbox"/> F. Urban passive-use natural area/greenbelt |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C. Scenic resources | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> G. Park/open space or natural corridor addition |
| <input type="checkbox"/> D. Community separator | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> H. Passive recreation opportunity/unmet needs |

Wildlife habitat or rare plant reserve: The Shinglemill Creek Salmon Preserve is part of a cross island wildlife corridor linking Fern Cove estuary up Shinglemill Creek to the Island Center Forest then down the Judd Creek Corridor to the Judd Creek Estuary on Quartermaster Harbor. Bald eagles, pileated woodpeckers, herons, osprey, hawks, owls, mammals, amphibians, and other species utilize this cross island corridor. Various species of migratory landbirds are expected to use the Shinglemill Preserve, especially the more riparian and forest-dependent species such as the olive-sided flycatcher, and the rufous hummingbird.

The subject property is nicely wooded with a higher degree of conifers than the rest of the Shinglemill Preserve. The project partners have worked hard to eradicate English ivy from the Preserve, and at this point the only known remaining ivy is on the subject property.

The ravine is steep and sandy, and because of a shortage of mature conifers it tends to suffer from nick points and stream-bank erosion. The subject property was once owned by a logging company, and because it is un-developed it is possible that a future owner could obtain permits to clear-cut. For this reason, we are interested in protecting this parcel as a part of the larger effort to re-forest and stabilize the Shinglemill Watershed.

Salmon habitat and aquatic resources: The subject parcel contains spawning habitat for both chum and coho salmon and has been identified as one of only three streams on Vashon Island containing critical steelhead habitat. The creek is also host to coastal cutthroat trout. The site also contributes to groundwater recharge on Vashon Island and the sediment from the Watershed contributes to beach forming and littoral drift processes along the western shore of Vashon which is utilized by a number of listed species including Chinook salmon, orcas, and bald eagles. Waterways 2000 listed the watershed and riparian conditions as high.

Scenic resources: The property features beautiful creek, forest and wildlife views.

Park/open space or natural corridor addition: At 68 acres, this parcel stands alone as important open space. When viewed in the context of existing blocks of protected habitat in the area, this project will contribute to a cross island corridor that extends from Colvos Passage at Fern Cove up Shinglemill Creek through Island Center Forest and down Judd Creek to Quartermaster Harbor. This Shinglemill corridor is listed in the 1986 Vashon Community Plan as an acquisition recommendation and is a ten year priority Ecological Focus Area in 2008 King County's Greenprint for Vashon-Maury Island.

Passive recreation opportunity/unmet needs: The Shinglemill Trail has been popular in part because it features such dramatic topography. It runs from sea level to 400 feet, and the views across the canyon and into the creek are impressive. As the trail crosses the subject property it is sandwiched between the creek and the steep slope – there is no alternative trail route through the lower portion of Shinglemill. Should a future owner cut off public access to this trail, it would be sorely missed in the community. Major portions of this trail system are recommended in the 1986 Vashon Community Plan as unpaved for pedestrian recreation.

2. ADDITIONAL FACTORS

- A. Educational/interpretive opportunity
- B. Threat of loss of open space resources
- C. Ownership complexity/willing seller(s)/ownership interest proposed
- D. Partnerships - Describe any public or private partnerships that will enhance this project
- E. Is the property identified in an adopted park, open space, comprehensive, or community plan?
 - F. Transferable Development Credits (TDC) participation

Education/interpretive opportunity: The Project parcel offers access for student educational groups, and good access for stewardship groups. The area is currently monitored for salmon presence through Vashon Nature Center's Salmon Watcher program. Vashon Nature Center will likely involve local school field trips to conduct invertebrate monitoring at Shinglemill. Because of the excellent trail system, this parcel offers exceptional educational opportunities for numerous types of environmental education.

Threat of loss of open space resources: The private development of this parcel could sever the Shinglemill Trail and make access for restoration more difficult. In theory, with RA-10 zoning, the parcel could be subdivided in 6 parcels.

Ownership complexity/willing seller(s)/ownership interest proposed:

King County Roads is selling many of their excess properties including this target parcel. They are holding off on the public listing of this parcel in order to give King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks and the Vashon Land Trust the opportunity to raise the necessary funds to purchase it.

Partnerships: King County is partnering with the Vashon Land Trust for this project. The Vashon Land Trust also owns and stewards adjacent property and performs stewardship maintenance on other adjacent ecological lands owned by the Vashon Park District. This arrangement leverages local stewardship efforts and reduces King County maintenance costs of the properties. The Vashon Land Trust and King County will also partner with community volunteers to conduct future projects to restore property.

Adopted Park, open space, or community plan: Conservation of Shinglemill Creek is identified in:

- 1986 Vashon Community Plan,
- 2002 Vashon Park District Open Space Plan.
- Land Trust (VMILT) internal planning documents since 1999.
- King County Greenprint for Vashon- Maury Island - Ten Year - Priority Focus Area 20.
- 2004 Vashon-Maury Island Rapid Reconnaissance
- 2006 Prioritization of Marine Shorelines of WRIA 9 – recommends the mouth of Shinglemill as a priority for conservation
- The 2004 Partners in Flight North American Landbird Conservation Plan calls for the conservation of wooded riparian habitats within the Pacific Biome. Vashon Island, which lies along the densely developed Tacoma-Seattle corridor, provides a critical feeding and breeding site for migratory songbirds.

3. STEWARDSHIP AND MAINTENANCE

The Vashon-Maury Island Land Trust is interested in taking an active role in stewarding this preserve. This makes practical sense, because they own or manage most of the properties (fee and/or easements) currently in the Shinglemill Salmon Preserve and have already conducted stewardship activities on site including conifer underplantings, invasive weed control and trail construction and maintenance. The Land Trust, where fee owner, will shoulder the responsibility of stewardship and maintenance. King County will be responsible for monitoring the conservation easements, and will have the opportunity on a voluntary basis to participate in stewardship and restoration activities. The Land Trust regularly organizes volunteer stewardship work parties, and hires a four-person work crew each summer.

The Land Trust has established an excellent track record of habitat restoration and project maintenance over the past 13 years. Restoration projects include landslide stabilization, large woody debris installation, and derelict house removals. The Land Trust initiated 60 acres of weed removal and re-vegetation at more than 15 locations, and has monitored and maintained those areas diligently. The Land Trust has partnered with the Vashon Basin Steward and the King Conservation District on a series of projects that will improve habitat on these properties. If for some reason the Vashon Land Trust is unable to take on fee ownership, King County will take on those responsibilities for this critical piece of land.

4. PROJECT BUDGET

1) TOTAL CFT APPLICATION AMOUNT^a	CFT: \$162,000
2) TOTAL PEL APPLICATION AMOUNT^b	PEL: \$162,000

Estimation of property value:

Estimate by King County DNRP Acquisition staff

PROJECT COSTS	ESTIMATED DOLLAR AMOUNT OR RANGE
Total property interest value	\$290,000
Title and appraisal work	\$7,500
Closing, fees, taxes	\$2,500
Relocation	
Hazardous waste reports	\$500
Directly related staff, administration and legal costs	\$23,500
Total Project Costs (CFT and other funds)	\$324,000

MATCHING FUNDS: Existing Sources (CFT can only provide a maximum of 50% of anticipated project costs)	DATE (Expended or Committed)	DOLLAR AMOUNT (Expended or Committed)

2014 Parks Levy – Regional Open Space Acquisition funds.	Request Pending	\$162,000
Total CFT Funds Previously Received This Project		
Total Matching Funds and Past CFT Funds Currently Identified		No additional match is needed beyond 2014 Parks Levy
Unidentified Remaining Match Need		\$0

Unidentified remaining match need: What funds are anticipated and what is the time frame?
All funds needed have been identified

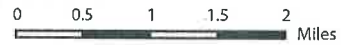
5. IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS FROM PARTNERSHIPS

Brief Activity Description	Dollar Value of In-kind Contribution	Status (Completed or Proposed)	Activity Date Range (Completion Date or Proposed Completion Date)
Vashon Land Trust purchase of fee values of parcels.	~\$10,000	Partially Completed	Proposed December 2013
TOTAL	\$10,000		

6. MAPS

Shinglemill Area Vashon/Maury Island, WA Location Map

-  Focus Area
-  Priority Parcel
-  Streams and Rivers
-  Vashon-Maury Island Land Trust
-  Water Bodies
-  Publicly Owned Land



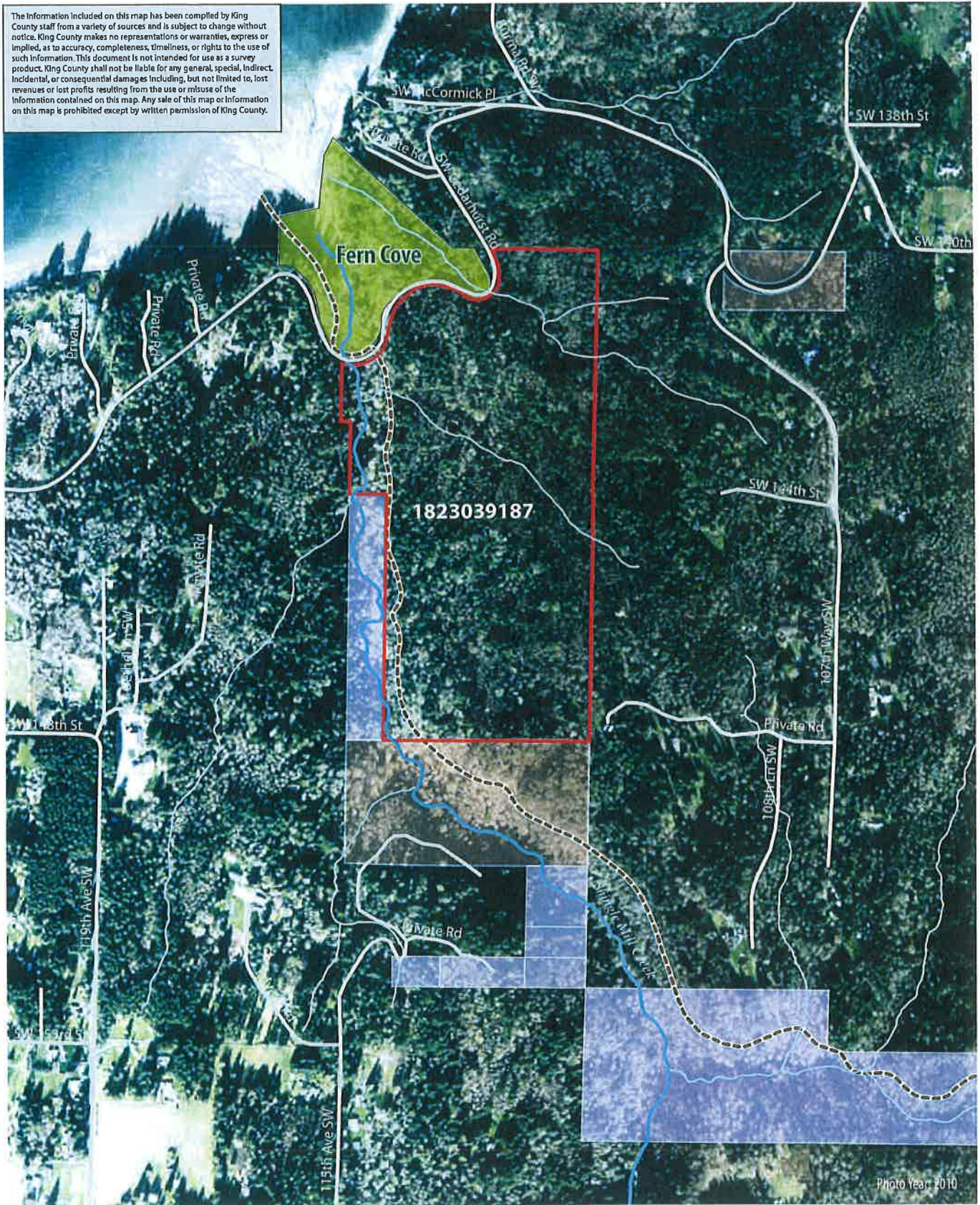
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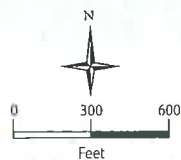


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Shinglemill Target Parcel Site Map

-  Shinglemill Target Parcel
-  Vashon Land Trust
-  King County Park
-  Publicly Owned Land
-  Maintained Trail



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Shinglemill Target Parcel



Shinglemill Creek

