



City of Seattle
Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation

March 13, 2013

Terry Lavender, Chair Attn: David Tiemann
King County Conservation Futures Citizens Committee
c/o King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks
Open Space Acquisition Unit
201 S Jackson Street, Suite 600
Seattle, Washington 98104-3855

Re: 2013 King County Conservation Futures Applications

Dear Terry and Committee Members:

Enclosed are six Conservation Futures Tax (CFT) applications from the City of Seattle, comprising a total request of \$3,650,000. These acquisition projects are important priorities for Seattle citizens, because they help to mitigate density in some of the city's fastest growing neighborhoods and continue with the protection of some of the City's priority green spaces, many which are dominate visual landmarks enjoyed by all that work or visit Seattle.

This year's cycle will mark 24 years that Seattle has requested and received funding from the proceeds of the countywide Conservation Futures Tax. We believe approval of the enclosed Seattle project applications would be a worthy extension of this legacy and would be consistent with the expectations for an equitable distribution of the CFT proceeds established in the County's legislation for the CFT allocation process and in the history we have mutually created over two decades.

2013 marks the fourth set of applications to supplement Seattle's 2008 Parks and Green Spaces Levy. One of these acquisitions (Smith Cove) received CFT funding in 2012 with the expectation that we would ask for additional funding in 2013 to complete the project.

One of the projects is identified in the Neighborhood Parks Acquisition portion of the 2008 Parks and Green Spaces Levy:

- **West Seattle Junction: Urban Village Park Acquisition (\$1,125,000):** This project will provide a new .40 acres park to serve the increasing population density in the West Seattle Junction Urban Village. The City found a desirable property in the midst of newly developing properties and closed quickly in December 2012. The City is also negotiating to acquire the adjacent property.

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Four of the projects are part of the Opportunity Fund portion of the 2008 Parks and Green Spaces Levy:

- **South Park Plaza (\$500,000):** The redevelopment of the South Park bridge has been hard on the community. In 2013 the new South Park Bridge will finally be completed and the proposed acquisitions are a chance to revitalize the area. A once in a lifetime opportunity for the South Park community to secure land for future public use that will be a gateway to the business district, community gathering space, park amenity and connection to the Duwamish.
- **Baker Park Addition (\$200,000):** The City acquired Baker Park in 1992 as part of the Opportunity Fund for the 1989 Open Space and Trails Bond program. Since the Park's development, the community has been interested in acquiring the property to the south in order to open up the site. Parks tried to acquire the property in 2005, but the owner was not willing to sell at that time. The owner approached the City earlier this year to say that she was ready to sell the property.
- **NW 65th Street (\$600,000):** The NW 65th Street Park parcels were first identified as an open space acquisition and enhancement opportunity in the 1996 Ballard Open Space Inventory. The properties, once part of Nick's boat yard, would provide a new neighborhood park in an arterial quadrant without public space.
- **48th and Charlestown (\$350,000):** The 48th & Charlestown acquisition would provide a new neighborhood park site in an underserved single-family neighborhood in West Seattle.

And the final project:

- **Smith Cove: West Yard (\$875,000):** The ~4 acre "West Yard" property is located at Terminal 91 and currently owned by the Port of Seattle. King County is in the process of acquiring the property for its combine sewer over-flow project (CSO). The City of Seattle plans to acquire the property the remainder of the property as an addition to Smith Cove Park. This acquisition will also achieve the community's long term vision of having a waterfront park with access to the waters of Smith Cove.

The Conservation Futures Tax contributes a critical portion of Seattle's parks acquisition funding and is essential to our overall acquisition strategies. The primary matching fund source for Seattle's applications is the new Parks and Green Spaces Levy passed by Seattle voters in November 2008 with a 59% majority. A basic premise of the levy, from the viewpoint of the voters and the Citizens Committee that drafted the levy proposals, was that it would identify Seattle's highest priority parks projects and provide significant base funding as a local match to attract additional funding. The 2008 Parks and Green Spaces Levy specifically states: "funding provided by the levy will be supplemented by funding from other sources."

Through neighborhood planning, Seattle's most densely developed neighborhoods are working to plan for the future of their communities. They aim to maintain or enhance livability while also accepting growth that will help relieve the development pressures on greenspaces and other communities elsewhere in King County.

The countywide Conservation Futures Tax combined with Seattle's voter-approved ballot measures has helped the City acquire significant new parks and open space resources. Together, we have preserved extensive creek corridors and forested habitat. We have created new parks in densely developed neighborhood throughout the City. CFT funding has played a critical role in advancing the livability of our city and our region by managing growth with necessary amenities. We appreciate the work of the committee in making this possible.

We look forward to showing you these park sites and greenspaces during your Committee's site tours this spring. Thank you for your continued commitment and hard work on behalf of this region's quality of life and for your consideration of these applications.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Christopher Williams".

Christopher Williams
Acting Superintendent, Seattle Parks and Recreation

Enclosed: Six Conservation Futures Tax applications