



King County

K.C. Date Received _____

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

PROJECT NAME: South Covington Park/Jenkins Creek Trail Acquisition

Applicant Jurisdiction(s): City of Covington

Open Space System: Jenkins Creek

(Name of larger connected system, if any, such as Cedar River Greenway, Mountains to Sound, a Regional Trail, etc.)

Acquisition Project Size: 5.65 (3 parcels)

(Size in acres and proposed number of parcel(s) if a multi-parcel proposal)

CFT Application Amount: \$630,143

(Dollar amount of CFT grant requested)

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

CONTACT INFORMATION

Contact Name: Scott Thomas

Phone: 253-480-2481

Title: Parks and Recreation Director

Fax:

Address: 16720 SE 271st Street

Email: sthomas@covingtonwa.gov

Covington, WA 98042

Date: March 13, 2013

PROJECT SUMMARY:

(In the space below, provide a brief but comprehensive description of the project. This should include the overall watershed, reach, trail or open space system if appropriate and specific targeted parcels and how they are significant individually and as part of an overall system.)

Covington seeks funding support from the Conservation Futures Trust to preserve three parcels of land. These three parcels play several important roles in Covington's parks, recreation, open space and trail plans. The parcels are part of the Jenkins Creek corridor. The corridor is approximately five miles long in and around Covington, and provides high quality wildlife and salmon habitat. The corridor, which includes several other city and county park properties, is known to support wildlife such as black bears and ESA listed winter steelhead. Further, the creek corridor is the location of an important community connector, the Jenkins Creek Trail. These parcels are particularly important to the trail corridor as they will serve as a trail head and nexus with the city's new town center, which is being developed across the street. Cyclists and pedestrians will be able to arrive at this point from all points around the city, as well as neighboring cities and the unincorporated area due to its connections to other trail systems. These parcels will comprise South Covington Park. The new park will help the city reduce a critical shortage of neighborhood parks by serving new multi-family housing zoned for the area as well as providing a buffer between the unincorporated rural area outside the urban growth boundary immediately east of the parcels, and the newly urbanizing area across the street immediately west of the parcels.

1. OPEN SPACE RESOURCES

Please review the attached evaluation criteria. For the proposed acquisition parcel(s), please mark those criteria that apply and thoroughly, yet succinctly, describe **in the space below** how the proposed acquisition satisfies each marked criteria. Please clearly describe how these criteria might be met at a landscape level, and how they apply to individual parcels. If restoration is part of the plan, please briefly describe the current condition and the hoped for restored condition that is the goal of the acquisition.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> D. Community separator | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> H. Passive recreation opportunity/unmet needs |

Wildlife Habitat – This property is part of the Jenkins Creek corridor, which extends for approximately 5 miles in and around Covington. The parcels are part of a 62 acre class 2 wetland that occupies much of the stream corridor between Covington Way and Hwy 516. The stream channel actively moves around within the wetland corridor, providing a large diversity of habitats. The bulk of the forested stream corridor was present in the 1936 photos of the area, indicating that the most of the forested wetland is in a mature and relatively natural condition. This stream supports coho and Chinook salmon and steelhead, as well as western pearlshell mussels. The densely wooded corridor supports mammals such as black bear, bobcat, deer and coyote, as well as birds such as northern goshawk, bald eagle, pileated woodpecker, wood duck, great blue heron, goldfinch and hummingbirds. As recently as 2005, an eagle was nesting within the wetland, just north of one of the target parcels.

Salmon Habitat and Aquatic Resources – Jenkins Creek is a tributary to Soos Creek and the Green River, and is upstream from the state’s Soos Creek Salmon Hatchery. This portion of Jenkins Creek is known to support western pearlshell mussels and provide juvenile rearing habitat for coho salmon and ESA listed winter steelhead. It likely provides rearing habitat for ESA listed Chinook salmon as well, but their distribution in this stream system has not been actively studied. Jenkins Creek is identified in the WRIA 9 plan for preservation and restoration of existing rearing and spawning habitats and preserving forest cover throughout the basin. The parcels provide shade to help cool stream water temperature and converting residential lawns to native vegetation will help to address temperature TMDL pollution concerns. This property will be accessible by bicycle path and is adjacent to Covington’s developing new town center and thus will provide a high level of appropriate public access for viewing salmon and other wildlife.

Scenic Resources – The stream corridor and this property are natural scenic resources that will become even more important in the future. Currently this area of the city is low density residential development, but was recently up zoned to allow for mixed commercial-residential development. The city is actively in the process of developing a new town center, including a new Town Center Park, across the street to the west of the stream corridor and the proposed acquisition. Protecting the three parcels proposed for acquisition will preserve scenic views from the new Town Center Park and improve the current scenic resource which will become even more important as the area north, south and west of it becomes more urbanized.

Community Separator – This property is part of a greenbelt that helps define King County’s regional form. The east edge of this property is also the city limit and the urban growth boundary line. For a little over a mile the Jenkins Creek corridor defines the edge of the urban/rural boundary. At the location of the proposed purchase the corridor separates the urban look and feel of the new town center from the rural area of unincorporated King County.

Urban Passive-Use Natural Area/Greenbelt – The property itself is part of a larger system of undeveloped, natural land area that is currently used as a wildlife corridor and in the future will be used for the Jenkins Creek Trail corridor. The parcels targeted for purchase total 5.65 acres, the largest is over 3 acres. The Jenkins Creek corridor within and near Covington is over 24 acres, in addition to the adjacent 62 acre class 2 wetland mentioned above.

Passive Recreation Opportunity/Unmet Needs – This property will create the opportunity for passive recreation such as bicycle riding, walking, picnicking, wildlife and salmon viewing as part of the Jenkins Creek Trail, South Covington Park and Town Center Park across the street. Covington’s comprehensive plan identifies a current need to purchase and develop nine acres, or 2-3 neighborhood parks, along with 9 miles of trail. This acquisition will help us meet about 1/3 of our current park need and provides a critical link in the trail. This park will serve the immediate neighborhood of downtown residential housing as well as the rest of the city and regional visitors arriving in the town center via Jenkins Creek Trail. The property also provides one of the few opportunities for the city to provide public access to a Shoreline of the State as called for in the city’s Shoreline Master Plan.

2. ADDITIONAL FACTORS

For the **proposed acquisition parcel(s)**, please mark all criteria that apply and thoroughly, yet succinctly, describe **in the space below** how the proposed acquisition satisfies each marked criteria.

- 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

Educational/Interpretive Opportunity – Due to its location on a community trail and across the street from the new town center and Town Center Park we have a unique opportunity to provide a high level of appropriate public access to the shoreline for salmon habitat and wildlife viewing. The interpretive program being developed for Covington Community Park will be expanded and used on the Jenkins Creek Trail and South Covington Park, providing excellent access by city residents, groups and individuals from throughout the region arriving at the town center via Jenkins Creek Trail.

Threat of Loss of Open Space Resources – This area of the city was recently up zoned from low density residential to mixed use residential-commercial. The city is actively pursuing development of the new town center across the street. New commercial buildings and businesses have already been built and opened nearby. Although the parcels proposed for acquisition do not currently have development proposals this area is being promoted so as to develop quickly.

Feasibility – Three parcels are proposed for fee simple acquisition. The highest priority and focus of this application is the largest parcel, 362205-9071. This parcel has been listed in the parks capital improvement program and comprehensive plan for a decade. These planning documents have been reviewed and updated numerous times and there is wide community support for acquiring trail right of way for the Jenkins Creek Trail and property for South Covington Park. The property owner has been a long standing willing seller. Due to the recent up zoning and the rapidly evolving development plans for the new town center, the two adjacent parcels to the south (362205-9098, 362205-9035) have been added as acquisition priorities.

Partnerships – The city is committed to stewardship of the property and public education programming. We actively coordinate and cooperate with the Middle Green River Coalition at Covington’s Cedar Creek Park and Covington Community Park, as well as King County’s Cedar Downs Natural Area. Both organizations seek additional opportunities to partner on stewardship and public education efforts but there are no plans in place at this time for these parcels.

Identified in Plans –

South Covington Park is identified in the following plans:

- Parks Capital Improvement Program, 2006 (#1019)
- Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan (PROS) Plan, 2010 (NH-2, Map 8 – Potential Acquisition Areas; Table 21 – 6 Year CIP)
- Comprehensive Plan, 2010 (Ch. 6 – Parks and Recreation Element, Figure 6.3, p. 29; Ch. 10 – Capital Facilities Element, p. 11)

Jenkins Creek Trail is identified in the following plans:

- Parks Capital Improvement Program, 2006 (#1087)
- Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan (PROS) Plan, 2010 (Map 9 – Proposed Trails and Bikeways; Table 21 – 6 Year CIP)
- Comprehensive Plan, 2010 (Ch. 6 – Parks and Recreation Element, Figure 6.3, p. 29; Ch. 10 – Capital Facilities Element, p. 11)

3. STEWARDSHIP AND MAINTENANCE

How will the property be stewarded and maintained? Does the property lend itself to volunteer stewardship opportunities? How will ongoing stewardship and maintenance efforts be funded?

The city is committed to the ongoing stewardship of the property. It is a key part of what will become South Covington Park and a portion of the Jenkins Creek Trail, both of which will be part of the City’s routine park maintenance and funded in the Parks Fund. The eastern portion of the property and stream corridor lend themselves to volunteer stewardship. The city currently partners with the Middle Green River Coalition in other parks but we don’t have an agreement for South Covington Park at this time.

4. PROJECT BUDGET

1) TOTAL CFT APPLICATION AMOUNT^a	CFT: <u>\$630,143</u>
2) TOTAL PEL APPLICATION AMOUNT^b	PEL:

^aAllowable CFT acquisition costs (Ordinance 14714): *The disbursement of funds shall be made only for capital project expenditures that include costs of acquiring real property, including interests in real property, and the following costs: the cost of related relocation of eligible occupants, cost of appraisal, cost of appraisal review, costs of title insurance, closing costs, pro rata real estate taxes, recording fees, compensating tax, hazardous waste substances reports, directly related staff costs and related legal and administrative costs, but shall not include the cost of preparing applications for conservation futures funds.*

^bKing County projects only, if applicable.

Estimation of property value:

Briefly note how land values have been estimated (i.e., appraisal, property tax assessment, asking price, letter of value or other means).

The land value estimate is based on the property tax assessment and increased by 25% to account for the real estate market.

PROJECT COSTS	ESTIMATED DOLLAR AMOUNT OR RANGE
Total property interest value	1,173,000
Title and appraisal work	11,800
Closing, fees, taxes	70,086
Relocation	0
Hazardous waste reports	5,400
Directly related staff, administration and legal costs	0
Total Project Costs (CFT and other funds)	1,260,286

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)
King Conservation District, Jurisdiction Funds, 2013 distribution	3-13-2013 Committed	\$ 10,000 Committed
King County Parks Levy, 2013 distribution	3-13-2013 Committed	\$ 30,000 Committed
Total CFT Funds Previously Received This Project		\$ 0
Total Matching Funds and Past CFT Funds Currently Identified		\$ 40,000
Unidentified Remaining Match Need		\$ 590,143

Unidentified remaining match need: What funds are anticipated and what is the time frame?

Please briefly discuss how the unidentified remaining match need above will be met.

Conservation Futures is our first grant request. City staff will continue to seek funding from appropriate park, open space and habitat preservation and enhancement sources throughout 2013 and 2014, and further in the future if necessary. Possible sources include Wa State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) grants, WRIA-9, current and possible future King County Park Levy, KCD jurisdiction and competitive funds, City surface water management funds, and the City's Capital Improvement Program, which is being updated during this timeframe.

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)
No arrangements at this time			
TOTAL			

6. ATTACHED MAPS (Two maps are now required: 1) site map and 2) general location map; you may also include one additional map, aerial photo or site photo)

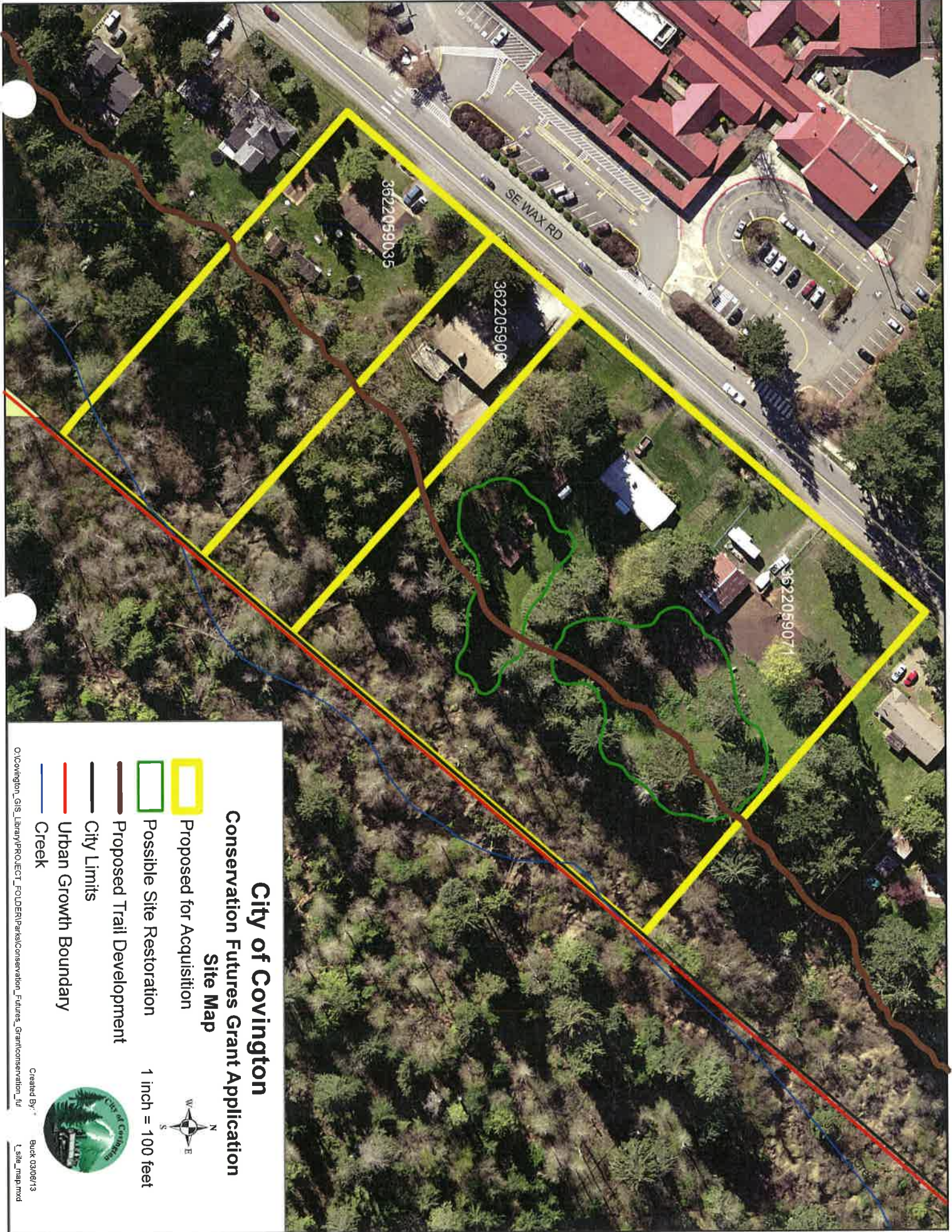
8 ½ x 11" maps are preferred, but 11 x 17" is acceptable if folded and hole-punched for insertion into a three-ring binder.

Site Map that shows the following:

- Each parcel proposed for acquisition in yellow or distinct shading and an indication of any parcel proposed for less than fee simple acquisition, such as a conservation easement;
- Location of any proposed development to the site such as parking, trails or other facilities;
- Location of any proposed site restoration;
- Existing adjacent public (local, state or federal) parks or open spaces labeled and shown in dark green or distinct shading.

Location Map that shows the following:



- Other permanently protected open spaces (private, non profit, institutional, etc.) shown in light green or distinct shading;
- Major water courses such as creeks, rivers, lakes or wetlands;
- Major roads, arterial roads or regional trails.
- *Map scale: This map should show approximately a ten-mile radius around the proposed acquisition(s).*



City of Covington





Conservation Futures Grant Application

Site Map

-  Proposed for Acquisition
-  Possible Site Restoration

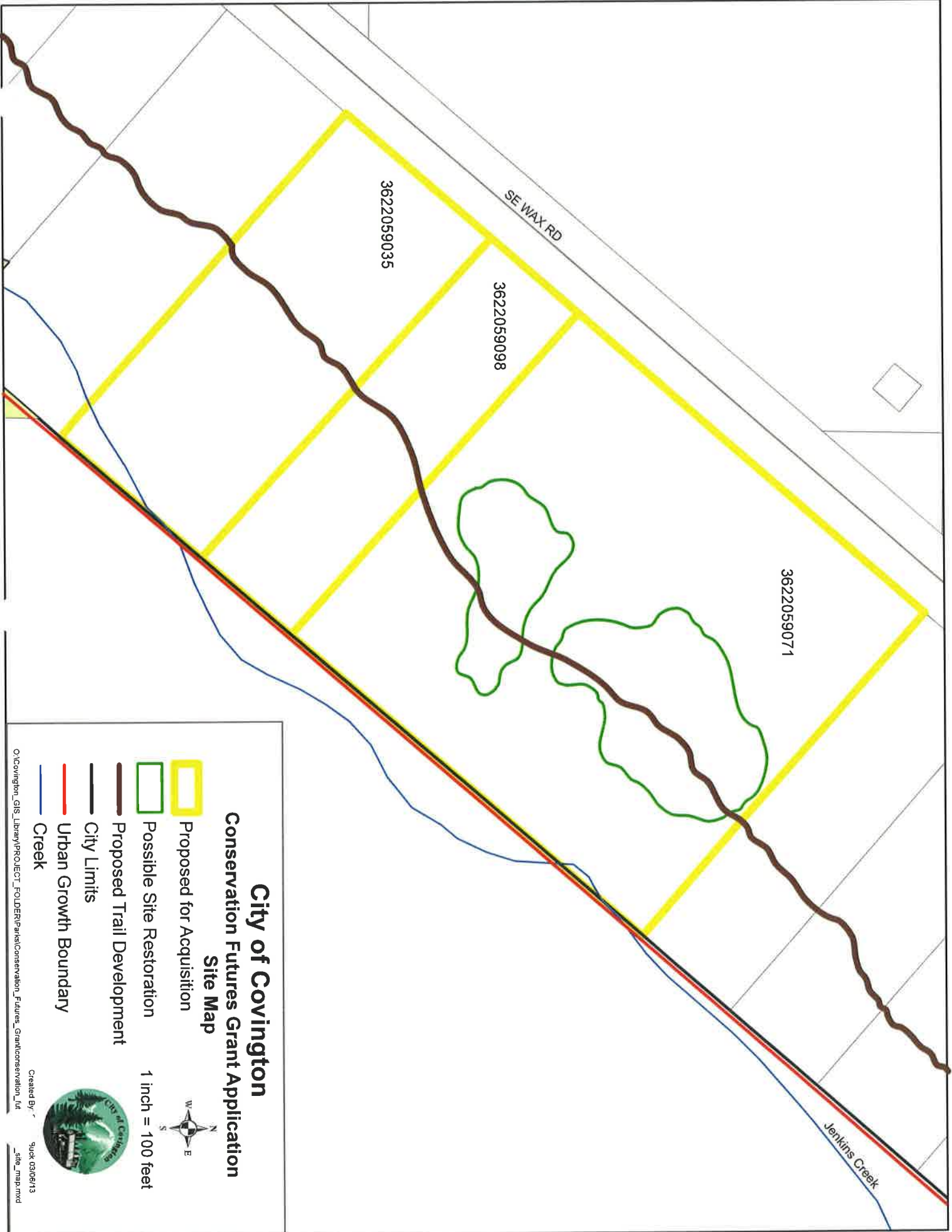
1 inch = 100 feet









-  Proposed Trail Development
-  City Limits
-  Urban Growth Boundary
-  Creek



Created By: Buck 03/06/13
 O:\Covington_GIS_Library\PROJECT_FOLDERS\parks\conservation_futures_grant\conservation_lu_1_site_map.mxd



City of Covington
Conservation Futures Grant Application
Site Map

-  Proposed for Acquisition
 -  Possible Site Restoration
 -  Proposed Trail Development
 -  City Limits
 -  Urban Growth Boundary
 -  Creek
- 1 inch = 100 feet



Created By:
 O:\Covington_GIS_Library\PROJECT_FOLDERS\park\Conservation_Futures_Grant\Conservation_Map_site_map.mxd