



City of Seattle
Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation

March 13, 2014

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: 2014 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 \$2,975,000. 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 25 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.

2014 marks the fifth set of applications to supplement Seattle's 2008 Parks and Green Spaces Levy. Two of these acquisitions (Kubota and Morgan Junction) have received previous CFT funding and we are requesting additional funding to complete the projects.

Three of the projects are identified in the Neighborhood Parks Acquisition portion of the 2008 Parks and Green Spaces Levy:

- **West Seattle Junction: Dakota Place Park Addition (\$375,000):** This project will add to Dakota Place Park, which serves the West Seattle Junction Urban Village. This acquisition will add needed outdoor space to this extremely popular park in West Seattle.
- **Greenwood Park Addition (\$100,000):** This project will acquire one of remaining inholdings in Greenwood Park, serving the Greenwood/Phinney Ridge Urban Village. The

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acquisition of two other inholdings was funded by CFT awards in 2003 and 2004. This acquisition will move us one step closer to fulfilling the long-term goal of acquiring all the inholdings in this park.

- **Morgan Junction Park Addition (\$700,000):** This project will add to Morgan Junction Park, serving the Morgan Junction Urban Village. This acquisition will more than double the size of the existing park. This project was awarded \$500,000 of CFT funding in 2013.

Two of the projects are part of the Greenspace Acquisition portion of the 2008 Parks and Green Spaces Levy:

- **Kubota Gardens Greenspace (\$500,000):** The Kubota Garden Greenspace is located in the Rainier Beach Neighborhood of southeast Seattle. It is a large tract of woodlands and wetlands surrounding Kubota Garden, a beautiful Japanese-American garden that preserves and extends the historic display gardens begun by Fujitaro Kubota and the Kubota Gardening Company in 1927. The targeted properties could be developed with over 40 residential units, which would have a dramatic effect on the hydrology of the area as well as the integrity of the garden's buffer. One of the targeted properties was awarded \$400,000 of CFT funding in 2013.

- **La Villa Meadows Natural Area on Thornton Creek (\$300,000):** Thornton Creek is the primary connected watershed in northeast Seattle, and provides some of the best salmon habitat in the city. This inholding has been a priority for the City for over a decade because it would finish the acquisitions in this stretch of Thornton Creek.

And the final project:

- **Roosevelt Urban Village Park (\$1,000,000):** This project requests support for the acquisition of a neighborhood park in the Roosevelt Urban Village. This urban village is targeted for significant increases in residential density due to recent up-zoning related to the new Sound Transit station opening up in 2018. Seattle has been trying to clean up the area along NE 65th Street in front of Roosevelt High School for years. As part of that effort, the City has collected significant funding for various land-use code violations, which is the match for the requested CFT funding. Approval of this funding is needed so that we can be ready to acquire the identified site.

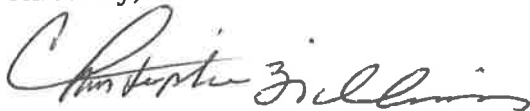
The Conservation Futures Tax contributes a critical portion of Seattle's parks acquisition funding and is essential to our overall acquisition strategies. The primary matching fund source for Seattle's applications is the new Parks and Green Spaces Levy passed by Seattle voters in November 2008 with 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