



City of Seattle
Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation

March 9, 2016

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: 2016 King County Conservation Futures Applications

Dear Terry and Committee Members:

Enclosed are 8 Conservation Futures Tax (CFT) applications from the City of Seattle, comprising a total request of \$ 2,830,000. 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 27 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. 2016 marks the final set of applications to supplement Seattle's 2008 Parks and Green Spaces Levy and the first set to supplement Seattle's Metropolitan Park District Acquisition funding.

Two of the projects are for Neighborhood Park additions within our City's Urban Villages; as our urban villages become denser, the need for park space becomes more acute. Because of the escalating costs of urban land in Seattle, we are asking for \$1.0+M in CFT for each of these projects:

- **Bitter Lake Playfield Addition (\$1,000,000):** This project will acquire the Seattle School District property adjacent to the Bitter Lake Playfield in the Bitter Lake Urban Village and add 3.5 acres to the park.

- **Lake City Neighborhood Park Addition (\$1,250,000):** This project will acquire the property adjacent to the new neighborhood park in the Lake City Hub Urban Village and more than double the size of the future park. CFT awards funded the acquisition of first property in 2011.

Six of the projects are for greenspaces:

- **Delridge Open Space (\$40,000):** Seattle Parks has controls over 115 acres of property in the Longfellow Creek Watershed with the goal of preserving and enhancing wildlife and fish habitats. The acquisition and eventual restoration of this surplus City Light property will enhance water quality in Longfellow Creek and provide an important environmental education opportunity for the community.
- **Lakeridge Park (\$30,000):** Lakeridge Park occupies more than 35 acres of the Taylor Creek watershed and Deadhorse Canyon in southeast Seattle. This inholding will add to public ownership, provide additional protection to the watershed and enhance habitat restoration opportunities.
- **Longfellow Creek Greenspace (\$200,000):** Longfellow Creek is one of the major urban creeks in the City and home to several species of salmon. This project would consolidate ownership in the Greenspace and aid restoration efforts of Longfellow Creek by Seattle Public Utilities.
- **Madrona Ravine (\$250,000):** Seattle Parks acquired the Madrona Ravine properties in the early 1990's to protect the forested ravine that extends through Madrona Park to Lake Washington and the creek that runs through it. The acquisition of the remaining underdeveloped property in Madrona Ravine would add to public ownership in this natural area and enhance wildlife habitat and aid restoration efforts and protection of the creek that runs through it.
- **Magnolia Greenbelt (\$30,000):** These to inholding properties will consolidate existing City holdings in the greenbelt and would finish up acquisitions in this greenbelt.
- **North Beach Natural Area (\$30,000):** North Beach Natural Area consists of 2 wooded ravines in northwest Seattle. The acquisition of the in-holding property would consolidate ownership in the natural area; protect the creek and aid restoration efforts.

The Conservation Futures Tax contributes a critical portion of Seattle's parks acquisition funding and is essential to our overall acquisition strategies. The matching fund sources for Seattle's applications are the Parks and Green Spaces Levy passed by Seattle voters in November 2008 and the Metropolitan Park District passed by Seattle voters in August 2014. A basic premise of both the levy and the Metropolitan Park District, from the viewpoint of the voters and the Citizens Committee that drafted the 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 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,



Jesús Aguirre
Superintendent, Seattle Parks and Recreation

Enclosed:
Eight Conservation Futures Tax applications