

Conservation Areas Acquisition Plan

2020 update

Public Works Parks and Lands Division

November 30, 2020





Program History

- Conservation Futures Program instituted in 1985, renamed Legacy Lands Program in 2006
- Funded through property tax levy up to 6.25 cents / \$1000 of valuation (RCW 84.34)
- 5,044 acres acquired through 2019
- \$31,087,440 Conservation Futures Fund cost through 2019
- \$38,509,542 leveraged funds through 2019
- Acquisitions have been made inside cities and in the unincorporated area
- Acquisitions have helped to assemble many well known parks and natural areas in the County



Significant Past Acquisitions

- Burnt Bridge Creek Greenway
- Vancouver Lake Lowlands/Frenchman's Bar
- Salmon Creek Greenway
- Whipple Creek Regional Park Additions
- East Fork Lewis River Greenway
- Lucia and Moulton Falls
- Salmon and Morgan Creeks Natural Area
- Camp Currie, Lacamas, Round and Fallen Leaf Lakes
- Washougal River Greenway





Conservation Futures Fund

- Average annual levy collection 2015-2019: \$2.38 million
- Up to 25% of prior year levy used for O & M
- At least 75% must be used for land acquisitions
- In 2017, council approved ten priority projects and authorized sale of bonds. \$7 million bonds sold in 2018 to be repaid over 20 years.
- Fund balance through October: \$11.5 million (includes 2018 bond sale revenue)
- Fund priorities:
 - Debt service
 - Operations & Maintenance
 - 2017 approved bond projects
 - New acquisitions





Why Update the Plan?

- Maintain eligibility for state and federal grants
- Engage partners in the Legacy Lands Program
- Prioritize program work activities
- Plan for the use of the Conservation Futures Fund





Plan Structure

Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) Required Plan Elements:

- Conservation goals and objectives
- Inventory of conservation resources
- Public involvement process
- Conservation demand analysis
- Six-year capital improvement program
- Certification of plan adoption

Manual 2

Planning Policies and Guidelines

April 2019





Current Priorities

- 2017 Conservation Futures bond projects
- Reallocate bond revenues to new or expanded projects
- Compile a list of potential project opportunities to include in the Plan





Status of 2017 Bond Projects

Project	Sponsor	Acres	CF Request	Progress
Lacamas Lake	Camas	70	\$2,580,000	135 acres acquired
Washougal River	Washougal	0.22	\$27,500	Withdrawn
Mason Creek	County	65	\$726,599	PSA for 50 ac. approved
Bolen Creek Trail	La Center	5.48	\$139,000	Extension of time to 2-28-2022
Lewis River Ranch	County	160	\$2,000,000	PSA anticipated in 2021 for 225 ac
Lake River Water Trail	County	81	\$486,000	Lewis & Clark Trail Plan screening
Yacolt Burn Forest #1	Land Trust	8,445	\$1,083,125	Extension of time to 2-28-2022
Rock Creek Forest	Land Trust	362	\$1,332,500	Withdrawn
East Fork – Optimists	Land Trust	65	\$336,500	Extension of time to 2-28-2022
Farm Preservation	County	150	\$1,500,000	Initial landowner contacts made
Fenton Park	Vancouver	45	\$250,000	45 acres acquired





Potential New or Expanded Projects #1

Project	Acres	Estimated Value	Objective
Camp Currie-Lacamas Heritage Trail	NA	\$3,399,148	Trailhead and 1.0 mile trail through Camp Currie to Lacamas Heritage Trail
Cedars Golf Course	105-118	\$1,100,000 to \$2,000,000	Establish an Upper Salmon Creek greenway and trail
Flume Creek Access	15	\$395,000	Public access to the Flume Creek Habitat Area
Hantwick Road to Moulton Falls Trail	377	State conveys property to County	Protect existing trail and trail view-shed
Horseshoe Falls	20	\$268,552	Steelhead habitat protection
La Center Bottoms Addition	10-15	\$150,000 to \$200,000	Acquire East Fork Lewis River frontage to create a trail from La Center to Paradise Point
Three Creeks Greenway	31.5	\$600,000	Acquire a Whipple Creek Greenway north of NE 179 th Street near I-5
Whipple Creek Regional Park to Fairgrounds Park Trail	20	Assessed land value is \$581,884	Establish a trail connection between Whipple Creek Park and Fairgrounds Park



Potential New or Expanded Projects #2

Project	Acres	Estimated Value	Objective
Columbia River Shoreline near SE 192 nd Avenue	20	\$2,518,000	Water access and recreation
Columbia River Shoreline Ackerman Island to SR 14	50	\$1,645,000	Water access and recreation
Green Mountain Addition	55	\$7,250,000	Expand natural area to include Green Mountain summit
Lacamas Prairie Natural Area Additions	300	\$2,250,000	Wet prairie restoration and public access
Lower Washougal Greenway Additions	5	\$560,000	Expand greenway through Camas and Washougal
Ridgefield Pits	125	\$1,588,000	Expand the East Fork Lewis Greenway/Salmon Habitat
Ridgefield Schools to Flume Creek	60	\$950,000	Create trail connection between Ridgefield Schools and Flume Creek
Three Lakes Connections	5	\$910,000	Acquire inholdings among Lacamas, Round and Fallen Leaf Lakes
Washougal River Greenway	20	\$1,156,400	Expand greenway near Hathaway Park
Yacolt Burn Forest #2	5,900	\$6,234,700	Long term forest management and recreational access
Yacolt to Moulton Falls Trail	15	\$250,000	Acquire Chelatchie-Prairie trailhead



Next Steps

- Parks Advisory Board prioritizes short- and long-term project lists
- Work session with council to review project prioritization
- Hearing for Council to consider adoption of plan



Questions?



Salmon Creek

