Legacy Lands

Leadership, partnership, stewardship

A Community Legacy

- Healthy lakes and streams
- Abundant fish and wildlife habitat
- A variety of outdoor recreation opportunities
- Working farms and forests

An Interconnected System

- Parks
- Natural areas
- Open spaces
- Trails
- Greenways
- For wildlife and people

Working Farms and Forests

- Work with the agricultural community to ensure a land base on which to maintain and enhance farming in the county
- Work with DNR, the Gifford Pinchot National Forest, industrial forest owners and small woodlot owners to maintain and enhance opportunities for timber management

Accomplishments

- Over 5,000 Acres acquired
- Several acquisitions have occurred along the East Fork Lewis River, Vancouver Lake, and Lacamas Lake
- Funds have also supported assembly of Burnt Bridge Creek, Salmon Creek and Washougal River greenways
- Eleven salmon habitat restoration projects have been undertaken on our East Fork properties and two in the Vancouver Lake area

Conservation Futures Levy

- County-wide property tax levy of up to 6.25 cents per $1,000 property valuation
- At least 85% of the prior year levy must be used to acquire open space, farm and forest land
- Up to 15% of the prior year levy may be used for program management, maintenance and stewardship
- Enacted by Clark County October 1985
- 2017 revenue estimate is $2.3 million

Acquisition

- Purchase from willing sellers only
- Properties typically have high ecological and/or recreational value and/or are in a key location
- County initiates & completes priority acquisitions independently
- County also solicits acquisition proposals from cities and non-profit conservation partners, executing agreements to allocate county revenue to sponsoring entities

Basic Maintenance

- rough mowing
- hazard tree removal
- toxic/noxious weed control
- garbage cleanup, resurfacing/raking gravel surfaces
- drainage maintenance
- fence/bollard/gate repair and installation
- sign maintenance and installation
- response to complaints and vandalism

Site Enhancements

- No ongoing revenue source for significant public use improvements.
- Grants and partnership projects are critical for large restoration and capital improvement projects.
- Until 2011, real estate excise taxes (REET) were the primary local revenue source for site enhancement. REET funds now appropriated for other county priorities.

Conservation Areas Acquisition Plan, 2014

- Guiding document for the program.
- Divides the county into 19 subareas, generally based on watershed boundaries.
- Identifies high value conservation areas and general priorities for each subarea.
- Includes a more specific list of priority projects to pursue over a six-year period.
- Enables county to remain eligible for several grants through the state Recreation and Conservation Office.

Current Opportunities

- Updating the six year list of priorities.
- Soliciting proposals from cities and other conservation organizations.
- Identifying potential grant opportunities/analyzing other financing tools.
- Review with County Manager later this month and, subsequently the Board of County Councilors
- Some grant applications may be submitted this year and a larger number likely in 2018.