Conservation Futures
A Community Legacy of Lakes & Streams, Fish & Wildlife, and Outdoor Recreation
CONSERVATION FUTURES:
BUILDING A COMMUNITY LEGACY
FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

In the effort to preserve and enhance environmentally sensitive properties as well as sites providing opportunities for passive recreation, Clark County enacted by resolution its Conservation Futures Open Space Program in 1985. This program places a 6-1/4 cent per thousand dollar assessed value property tax on all taxable properties in the county, and dedicates these funds to the acquisition of farm, forest, open space and recreation lands.

A citizen-based Conservation Futures Advisory Committee reviews and prioritizes all projects submitted by the county, towns, cities and other eligible jurisdictions. Following this review, the Board of Clark County Commissioners makes a final decision on project funding.

Over 3,800 acres acquired to date.

Since its enactment, the Conservation Futures Open Space Program has helped acquire over 3,800 acres of high-quality shorelines, greenways, open space, and fish and wildlife habitat. Acquisitions include property on almost every major lake and river system in the county, and such notable sites as Camp Currie, Eagle Island, Frenchman’s Bar and Lucia Falls. These sites not only protect critical fish and wildlife habitat and preserve our forests and shorelands, they provide excellent opportunities for hiking, fishing, swimming, picnicking, canoeing, kayaking and wildlife viewing.

Agencies and organizations that have received Conservation Futures funds include Clark County, the cities of Vancouver, Camas, Battle Ground and Washougal, and the Columbia Land Trust. In addition, Conservation Futures expenditures have helped generate over $16 million in matching grants to increase the purchasing power of the program.

AN IMPRESSIVE RECORD OF SUCCESSFUL ACQUISITIONS

The figures below are based on total acquisitions since 1985.

Projects: 33
Acres: 3,800

Conservation Futures: $21.7 million
Matching Grants: $16.7 million
Total Expenditures: $38.4 million
1. **Eagle Island** 259-acre island in North Fork Lewis River that provides critical rearing habitat for threatened salmon and steelhead, including the last viable run of wild fall Chinook in the lower Columbia system. The island also supports deer, bald eagles, osprey, river otter, raccoon and many other species. The acquisition includes a 20-acre mainland parcel.

2. **Haapa** 5-acre addition to 15-acre Haapa Park on the North Fork Lewis River. The site provides opportunities for fishing, wading, wildlife viewing, picnicking and boat access.

3. **Paradise Bluffs** 33 acres of wetlands, riparian and upland forests on the East Fork Lewis River across from Paradise Point State Park.

4. **Lower East Fork Lewis River Greenway** 246 acres between Paradise Point State Park and La Center Bridge. The site includes two miles of shoreline and extensive upland forests and meadows, with great views of the Cascade Mountains.

5. **La Center Bottoms** 119 acres of wetlands, meadows and forested hillsides south of La Center. The site offers trails and viewing blinds, and is one of three state-designated “Watchable Wildlife Sites” in the county.

6. **Lower East Fork Lewis Wildlife Area** 735 acres of diverse fish and wildlife habitat that Washington State has designated as priority habitat for wintering bald eagles and large concentrations of migratory waterfowl.

These river sections also support threatened salmon and steelhead.

7. **Lower Daybreak** 112 acres on East Fork Lewis River. The site provides rearing and spawning habitat for salmon and steelhead, and includes over 4,000 feet of bank access for fishing.

8. **Lewis River Ranch** 89-acre riverfront property that extends along the north side of East Fork Lewis from Daybreak to Lewisville Park. This river reach provides critical spawning habitat for Chinook salmon and supports many other fish and wildlife species. The site provides excellent opportunities for outdoor education and wildlife viewing.

9. **Lucia Falls (North)** 26 acres on East Fork Lewis at historic Lucia Falls Park. Lucia Falls is a major staging area for salmon and steelhead, and the park is also now a designated salmon sanctuary, with great opportunities for picnicking, hiking and wildlife viewing.

10. **Lucia Falls (South)** 35 acres of shoreline, hillside and benches, dominated by Douglas fir forest. The site is located immediately across from Lucia Falls Park. County ownerships bracket the river, creating a protected salmon sanctuary.

11. **Upper East Fork Lewis River Greenway** 67.5 acres between Lucia and Moulton Falls on south side East Fork Lewis. The scenic Lucia-to-Moulton Falls Trail runs through the site, which includes forested hillsides and benches – and is part of a larger park and greenway system that includes over 500 acres.

12. **Moulton Falls Addition** 54 acres of forested shoreline immediately downstream of Moulton Falls Park at the Lewis & Clark Railroad crossing. The site, which covers both sides of the river, is a key link in the Lucia-to-Moulton Falls Trail corridor and is also part of a larger park and greenway system that offers many opportunities for hiking, picnicking, wildlife viewing and fishing.

13. **The Oaks** 13 acres of park and open space land north of Maple Grove Elementary and Middle School. Situated in a heavily developed area, the site consists of open fields and a stand of mature oak trees that is a signature feature in the city of Battle Ground.

14. **Lewis and Clark Regional Trail Corridor** The acquisition of reversionary rights in over 25 parcels totaling 122 acres will help allow full use of the railroad corridor for trail and open space purposes. The corridor extends 25 miles from Vancouver to Chelatchie Prairie, and is part of a designated regional trails system.

15. **Frenchman’s Bar** 152 acres on the Columbia River three miles east of downtown Vancouver. With its sand beach, forested uplands, open pasture and more than two miles of shorelands, the site provides opportunities for swimming, wading, picnicking, hiking, fishing and wildlife viewing.

16. **Frenchman’s Bar Trail** 48-acre trail and open space corridor that connects Vancouver Lake and...
22. **Burnt Bridge Creek Greenway**  
14 acres of shoreline and forested uplands along Burnt Bridge Creek between SR-500 and Falk Road. Parcels are a key link in Vancouver’s Burnt Bridge Creek Greenway and are connected by trail to Arnold and Leverich Parks.

23. **Burnt Bridge Creek Lettuce Fields**  
15 acres of bottomlands, farm and uplands in the Burnt Bridge Creek corridor between Divine Road and Meadow Brook Marsh. Properties are key links in the 7-mile Burnt Bridge Creek Greenway System.

24. **East Biddle Lake**  
10 acres at the east end of Columbia Springs Environmental Education Center. The site includes the largest of five ponds that are part of the Vancouver Hatchery and Education Center.

25. **Columbia Shoreline at 164th**  
One-half mile of shorelands and tidelands on the Columbia River immediately downstream of 164th Avenue. The property consists of a sand beach with a 2.5-acre upland parcel at the end of 164th Avenue.

26. **Ostenson Canyon**  
12 acres of open space and urban forest that are part of the City of Camas’s 70-acre Ostenson Creek Greenway. The site includes a year-round stream, heavily forested greenbelt and valuable wildlife habitat inside Camas city limits.

27. **Fallen Leaf Lake**  
43 acres of forested uplands on Fallen Leaf Lake inside Camas city limits. The site is part of a larger park and open space system that includes Lacamas Lake Regional Park, Lacamas Heritage Trail and Ostenson Canyon.

28. **Camp Currie**  
249 acres of riparian and forested uplands, with two miles of shoreline on Lacamas Lake and Lacamas Creek. Camp Currie Youth Camp is located at the south end of the property. The site provides opportunities for picnicking, canoeing, fishing and wildlife viewing.

29. **Washougal River Greenway (Lower)**  
58 acres of gravel beaches and uplands on the lower Washougal inside Camas city limits. Parcels are key links in an 150-acre greenway system that provides opportunities for fishing, wading, swimming, hiking, picnicking and wildlife viewing. Lower Washougal Greenway connects to Lacamas Tree Farm, Lacamas Lake Park and the Lacamas Heritage Trail.

30. **Washougal River Greenway (Upper)**  
10.5 acres of shoreline property between Vernon Road Bridge and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife County Line Access Area, including Big Eddy at the mouth of Winkler Creek. The site supports threatened runs of Chinook and steelhead and many other fish and wildlife species.

31. **Rolling Meadows**  
14.7 acres in northeast Washougal consisting of open meadows and mixed upland forest. Campen Creek flows along the west boundary.

32. **Campen Creek**  
13.7 acres in southeast Washougal. Campen Creek flows through the east edge of the property, which is heavily forested with alder and some Douglas fir.

33. **Whipple Creek**  
60.5-acre addition to Whipple Creek Regional Park. The site is heavily forested and provides opportunities for hiking, horseback riding and wildlife viewing.
The Conservation Futures Program has helped acquire over 35 miles of shoreline on virtually all the major lake and river systems in Clark County. Including:

- Columbia River
- Vancouver Lake
- North Fork Lewis Lake River
- East Fork Lewis
- Lacamas Lake
- Washougal River
- Lacamas Creek
- Salmon Creek
- East Biddle Lake
- Green Lake
- Campen Creek
- Burnt Bridge Creek

SPECIAL THANKS TO PROJECT SPONSORS

Clark County  
City of Washougal  
City of Vancouver  
City of Battle Ground  
City of Camas  
Columbia Land Trust

For more information about the Conservation Futures Open Space Program, please contact Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation Department at 360-696-8171.

Photos of Canada geese and bald eagle courtesy of U.S. Fish and Wildlife.