



## **APPENDIX I: Funding Programs**

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## **APPENDIX I: FUNDING PROGRAMS**

### **FEDERAL & STATE FUNDING PROGRAMS**

#### **AQUATIC LANDS ENHANCEMENT ACCOUNT (ALEA): WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

This program provides matching grants to state and local agencies to protect and enhance salmon habitat and to provide public access and recreation opportunities on aquatic lands. In 1998, DNR refocused the ALEA program to emphasize salmon habitat preservation and enhancement. However, the program is still open to traditional water access proposals. Any project must be located on navigable portions of waterways. ALEA funds are derived from the leasing of state-owned aquatic lands and from the sale of harvest rights for shellfish and other aquatic resources.

#### **IAC GRANT PROGRAMS: WASHINGTON STATE INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE FOR OUTDOOR RECREATION**

The Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation (IAC) was created in 1964 as part of the Marine Recreation Land Act (Initiative 215). The IAC grants money to state and local agencies, generally on a matching basis, to acquire, develop, and enhance wildlife habitat and outdoor recreation properties. Some money is also distributed for planning grants. IAC grant programs utilize funds from various

sources. Historically, these have included the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund, state bonds, Initiative 215 monies (derived from unreclaimed marine fuel taxes), off-road vehicle funds, Youth Athletic Facilities Account, and the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program. (A separate summary has been prepared for the WWRP.)

#### **WASHINGTON WILDLIFE AND RECREATION PROGRAM (WWRP): WASHINGTON STATE INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE FOR OUTDOOR RECREATION (IAC)**

The IAC is a state office that allocates funds to local and state agencies for the acquisition and development of wildlife habitat and outdoor recreation properties. Funding sources managed by the IAC include the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program. The WWRP is divided into Habitat Conservation and Outdoor Recreation Accounts; these are further divided into several project categories. Cities, counties, and other local sponsors may apply for funding in urban wildlife habitat, local parks, trails, and water access categories. Certain state agencies may also apply for funding in natural areas, critical habitat, and state parks categories. Funds for local agencies are awarded on a matching basis. Grant applications are evaluated once each year. However, in 1999, the IAC limited project review in odd-numbered years to local park acquisition. The State Legislature must authorize funding for the WWRP project lists.

### **SALMON HABITAT RECOVERY GRANTS: WASHINGTON STATE SALMON RECOVERY FUNDING BOARD (SRFB)/LOWER COLUMBIA FISH RECOVERY BOARD (LCRFB)**

The Washington State Legislature established the Salmon Recovery Funding Board in 1999 to help support salmon recovery in Washington State. The SRFB provides grant funding to local, state, and private individuals and organizations for habitat protection and restoration projects and activities that produce sustainable and measurable benefits to fish. Grants are submitted through local and regional “lead entities,” where those have been established in the state. The Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board serves as the lead entity for the lower Columbia region, including Clark County. During the initial grant cycle in 1999/2000, project sponsors were required to provide a minimum 15% local match and monitoring and stewardships programs had to be provided for each project.

### **WETLANDS RESERVE PROGRAM (WRP): NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS)**

The WRP provides landowners the opportunity to preserve, enhance, and restore wetlands and associated uplands. The program is voluntary and provides three enrollment options: permanent easements, 30-year easements, and 10-year restoration cost-share agreements. In all cases, landowners retain the underlying ownership in the property and management responsibility. Land uses may be allowed that are compatible with the program goal of protecting and restoring the wetlands and associated

uplands. The NRCS manages the program and may provide technical assistance.

### **WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION PROGRAMS AND AUTHORITIES: U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers provides funds for environmental and/or ecosystem restoration projects under provisions of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA), as amended. Section 306 of the WRDA of 1990 specifically authorizes environmental restoration as one of the primary missions of the Corps. Environmental and/or ecosystem restoration projects are intended to “improve the condition of a disturbed ecosystem, including its plant and animal communities, or portions thereof, to some prior ecological condition.” Various authorities and programs are established for these purposes. These include General Investigation Studies and “Continuing Authorities” under Sections 206 (’96), 1135 (’86), and 204 (’92) of the WRDA. Generally, projects require the support of a local sponsoring organization and some level of cost sharing is required. The federal share on Continuing Authorities may range as high as \$5 million. For General Investigations there is no per project cost limit.

### **CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP): UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE – FARM SERVICE AGENCY**

The Conservation Reserve Program provides annual rental payments and cost-share assistance to help preserve and

enhance sensitive habitat areas on qualifying agricultural lands. The program, established in 1986, is voluntary. Lands enrolled in the CRP must be used for riparian buffers, filter strips, shallow water areas for wildlife, or other uses that provide beneficial habitat values. Landowners enter into agreements that last 10 to 15 years. Unlike the 1998 CREP, the CRP is not limited to stream areas that support salmon runs listed under the federal Endangered Species Act.

**WASHINGTON CONSERVATION  
RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM  
(CREP): UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE –  
FARM SERVICE AGENCY/NATURAL  
RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE  
(NRCS)/CLARK COUNTY  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

This program is a federal/state partnership, authorized in 1998, that involves the retirement of farmland for conservation purposes. Washington CREP focuses on the preservation and restoration of riparian habitat that supports salmon listed under the Endangered Species Act. This voluntary program provides financial incentives to farmers and ranchers to remove lands from agricultural production. Eligible landowners enter into agreements for periods of 10 to 15 years. Landowners receive an annual rental payment and cost-sharing is available for habitat enhancements. The federal Farm Service Agency is the primary administrative agency; the Natural Resource Conservation Service and Clark County Conservation District provide technical assistance.

**TRUST LANDS TRANSFER PROGRAM:  
WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT  
OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

This program provides a mechanism to protect DNR-managed properties with significant natural, park, or recreational attributes while infusing money into the public school construction fund. The program has been in effect since 1989. The program identifies “common school trust lands” with significant park, recreation, and natural features, which are difficult to manage as income-producing properties for trust beneficiaries and transfers them to more appropriate ownership. The Legislature appropriates funds to “buy out” these properties from the School Trust Program. Revenues equal to the timber value on subject properties are placed in the Common School Construction Account, while the timber is not harvested. The Legislature also provides for the replacement of the land by appropriating the land value of the property to purchase other real property having better income potential for trust beneficiaries. The properties to be preserved may be transferred to local or state agencies. The selection process involves a detailed evaluation system. Key features include: 1) properties must have a high timber value to land value ratio; 2) properties must be of statewide significance for park, recreation, or natural area uses; and 3) the properties must have significant difficulties (e.g., sensitive wildlife habitat) in managing the property for income to trust beneficiaries.

### **JOB FOR THE ENVIRONMENT (JFE): WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

The JFE program was created by the state Legislature in 1993. The program promotes the long-term, stable employment of dislocated natural resource workers in the performance of watershed restoration activities. The program provides minimum funding commitments for salaries and benefits for displaced workers, and funding is also available for training. Since its inception, the program has completed many in-stream, riparian, and upland restoration projects. Entities eligible to apply for funding include state and local governments, tribes, and nonprofit organizations. Funding proposals will focus on limiting factors and recovery strategies within all or a portion of a Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA). Specific projects will then be identified, prepared, and approved for implementation over the life of the grant agreement.

### **FOREST LEGACY PROGRAM: WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES /U.S. FOREST SERVICE**

This program provides funds to acquire permanent conservation easements on private forestlands that are at risk of being converted to non-forest uses such as residential or commercial development. Congress established the program in 1990, and DNR is the lead state agency for the program in Washington State. The program is intended to preserve “working forests,” where forestlands are managed for the production of forest products and where traditional forest uses are

encouraged. These uses will include both commodity production and non-commodity values such as healthy riparian areas, important scenic, aesthetic, cultural, fish, wildlife and recreation resources, and other ecological values. Historically, the program focus has been on the I-90 Highway Corridor east of Puget Sound within the Mountains-to-Sound Greenway area.

### **WASHINGTON STATE ECOSYSTEMS CONSERVATION PROGRAM (WSECP): U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE (USFWS)**

This WSECP was established in 1990 and is divided into federal- and state-managed components. The federal program focuses funds on projects that help restore habitat for threatened, endangered and sensitive species and, secondarily, for species of concern. In addition, the program attempts to concentrate funds within a limited number of watersheds to maximize program benefits. The program provides funds to cooperating agencies or organizations. These grants, in turn, can be distributed among project sites. The program requires a 50% cost-share from cooperating agencies, and individual landowners at project sites must enter into maintenance/management agreements that have a 10-year minimum duration.

### **WASHINGTON STATE ECOSYSTEMS CONSERVATION PROGRAM— UPLAND WILDLIFE RESTORATION INITIATIVE: WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE (WDFW)**

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife will purchase important upland

habitat, or provide technical and/or financial assistance to protect, restore, or enhance such habitat on private property. The program emphasizes certain target species including pheasant, quail, and turkey, but also emphasizes protecting and enhancing habitats that support species diversity. The program covers the entire state, with an emphasis on eastern Washington. Private landowners who volunteer for this program enter into agreements that outline protection and maintenance programs. The program includes both agricultural and forestlands.

#### LOCAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS: WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON DISTRICT

The Southwest Washington District of the Washington State Department of Transportation undertakes a variety of multi-modal transportation construction and improvement projects. These include non-motorized transportation improvements that target pedestrian, bicycle and other non-motorized methods of transportation. For example, the department started in 1999 a large-scale interchange realignment and widening project along I-5, between Main Street and N.E. 78<sup>th</sup> Street. The project includes a pedestrian overpass that will facilitate a connection of the Burnt Bridge Creek trail system, which is currently divided by the freeway. In general the cost of the improvements directly associated with the bicycle/pedestrian element can be utilized as a source of local matching funds for grant application purposes.

#### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANTS: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Clark County and Vancouver receive funds each year from the federal Community Development Block Grant Program. These funds are intended to develop viable urban communities by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment, and by expanding economic opportunities, principally for low and moderate income persons. Vancouver distributes its annual allocation among community development projects (streets, parks, sidewalks, etc.), housing projects and administration. City policy has placed an increasing emphasis on using CDBG funds for housing-related projects, with an allocation goal of 40%. Both city agencies and qualifying non-profit organizations apply for project funding during an annual review process. Funds received by Clark County are administered by an Urban County Policy Board whose membership is made up of the mayor or a designated representative from each town and city in the county (not including Vancouver) and one county commissioner. Agencies and jurisdictions submit projects for consideration during an annual review process. Funds are awarded on a competitive basis. Policy divides project allocations evenly between infrastructure and social service projects.

#### BOATING FACILITIES PROGRAM

Funding for this program comes from gas taxes from Washington boaters. Eligible projects are those that feature acquisition, development, planning, and renovation that relates to boat ramps, transient moorage, or upland support facilities.

Projects that mix planning with acquisition or development may be allocated up to \$1,000,000, while projects that involve planning only may be allocated up to \$200,000. These grants are made by the IAC and require a minimum 25% match from a local agency.

### **NATIONAL RECREATIONAL TRAIL PROGRAM**

This program, administered by the IAC, is funded by federal gasoline taxes attributed to recreation on non-gasoline tax supported roads. Funded projects include upkeep and repair of recreational trails that provide a “backcountry experience,” as well as safety and environmental programs. The IAC will contribute \$5,000 to \$10,000 to education programs and up to \$50,000 to others. At least 20 percent of the project funding must come from the application sponsor in the form of cash, bond, or an approved contribution of labor or materials.

### **NON-HIGHWAY AND OFF-ROAD VEHICLES ACTIVITIES PROGRAM**

These program grants are funded by off-road vehicle (ORV) gas tax and permits. Acceptable uses for funds include the acquisition, development, maintenance, and management of opportunities for ORVs, hikers, equestrians, bicyclists, and other users of non-highway roads. Depending on the project, maximum grants are between \$50,000 and \$100,000.

### **PRIVATE FOUNDATIONS**

Private foundations provide money to a wide variety of agencies, as long as the work of those agencies advances their specific missions. A number of foundations do not provide grants to

governments, however, and competition makes grant difficult to find and equally difficult to secure.

### **SAFE, ACCOUNTABLE, FLEXIBLE, EFFICIENT TRANSPORTATION EQUITY ACT – A LEGACY FOR USERS (SAFETEA-LU)**

Originally known as the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA), this program funds a wide variety of transportation related projects. In 1998, it was reauthorized under the name Transportation Equity Act for the Century (TEA-21). The act was authorized again in 2005 as SAFETEA-LU, with similar provisions to ISTEA and TEA-21. In addition to bicycle, pedestrian, and trail-related capital projects, SAFETEA-LU funds can generally be used for landscape and amenity improvements related to trails and transportation. The money can also be used for maintenance. SAFETEA-LU funds are primarily focused on regional systems and not local neighborhood trails.

### **U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE (USFWS)/WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE (WDFW)**

USFW and WDFW may provide technical assistance and administer funding for projects that enhance water quality, including debris removal, flood mitigation, and enhancements to water crossings.

### **YOUTH ATHLETIC FUND**

This grant program aims to fund new, improved, and better maintained outdoor athletic facilities for youth and their communities. The program was

established as part of the same state referendum (48) that funded the Seattle Seahawks Stadium. Administered by the IAC, applicants must match 50% of funds awarded. Amounts vary from a \$5,000 minimum for maintaining existing facilities to a maximum of \$150,000 for developing new ones. Most of this grant money has been allocated.

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## **LOCAL FUNDING OPTIONS**

### **EXCESS LEVY: CLARK COUNTY & VANCOUVER**

Washington law allows cities and counties, along with other specified junior taxing districts, to levy property taxes in excess of limitations imposed by statute when authorized by the voters. Levy approval requires 60 percent majority vote at a general or special election. Excess levies by school districts are the most common use of this authority.

### **GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS: CLARK COUNTY & VANCOUVER**

For the purposes of funding capital projects, such as land acquisitions or facility construction, cities and counties have the authority to borrow money by selling bonds. Voter-approved general obligation bonds may be sold only after receiving a 60 percent majority vote at a general or special election. If approved, an excess property tax is levied each year for the life of the bond to pay both principal and interest. Vancouver and Clark County have maximum debt limits for voter-approved bonds of two and one-half percent of the value of taxable property in the city and the county, respectively. The

city has an additional two and one-half percent for municipal water, sewer and lighting facilities, and an additional two and one-half percent for acquisition and development of open space and park facilities.

### **COUNCILMANIC BONDS: CLARK COUNTY & VANCOUVER**

Councilmanic bonds may be sold by cities and counties without public vote. The bonds--both principal and interest--are retired with payments from existing county or city revenue or new general tax revenue, such as additional sales tax or real estate excise tax. For both cities and counties, the Legislature has set a maximum debt limit for councilmanic bonds of one and one-half percent of the value of taxable property in the city or county, respectively.

### **REVENUE BONDS: CLARK COUNTY & VANCOUVER**

Revenue bonds are sold with the intent of paying principal and interest from revenue generated by the improvement, such as fees and charges. For example, revenue bonds might be sold to fund a public water system that will generate revenue through utility charges to customers. Other funds may be dedicated to assist with repayment; however, it is desirable to have the improvements generate adequate revenue to pay all bond costs. Limits on the use and amount of revenue bonds are generally market-driven through investor faith in the adequacy of the revenue stream to support bond payments.

### DEVELOPMENT IMPACT FEES: CLARK COUNTY & VANCOUVER

Development impact fees are charges placed on new development as a condition of development approval to help pay for various public facilities the need for which is directly created by that new growth and development. Under the Growth Management Act of 1990 (ESHB 2929), counties, cities, and towns may impose impact fees on residential and commercial "development activity" to help pay for certain public facility improvements, including parks, open space, and recreation facilities. Clark County and Vancouver both charge impact fees on new development to help pay for park and transportation facilities. Several school districts within the county have also adopted development impact fees.

### UTILITY TAXES: VANCOUVER

Cities are authorized to impose taxes on utility services, such as telephone, electric and natural gas. Legislative maximums limit the amount of tax that may be collected. For example, the maximum tax rate for electric and natural gas is six percent. Maximums may be exceeded for a specific purpose and time period with majority voter approval. City operated water and sewer utilities do not share the 6% limit.

### SALES TAX: CLARK COUNTY & VANCOUVER

Washington law authorizes the governing bodies of cities and counties to impose sales and use taxes at a rate set by the statute to help "carry out essential county and municipal purposes." The authority is divided into two parts.

Cities and counties may impose by resolution or ordinance, a sales and use tax at a rate of five-tenths of one percent on any "taxable event" within their jurisdictions. Cities and counties may also impose an additional sales tax at a rate "up to" five-tenths of one percent on any taxable event within the city or county. In this case, the statute provides an electoral process for repealing the tax or altering the rate.

### REAL ESTATE EXCISE TAX: CLARK COUNTY & VANCOUVER

Washington law authorizes the governing bodies of counties and cities to impose excise taxes on the sale of real property within limits set by the statute. The authority of cities and counties may be divided into four parts.

A city or county may impose a real estate excise tax on the sale of all real property in the city or unincorporated parts of the county, respectively, at a rate not to exceed 1/4 of 1% of the selling price to fund "local capital improvements," including parks, playgrounds, swimming pools, water systems, bridges, sewers, etc. Also, the funds must be used "primarily for financing capital projects specified in a capital facilities plan element of a comprehensive plan . . ." This tax is now in effect in both Vancouver and Clark County.

A city or county may impose a real estate excise tax on the sale of all real property in the city or unincorporated parts of the county, respectively, at a rate not to exceed 1/2 of 1%, in lieu of a five-tenths of one percent sales tax option authorized under state law. These funds are not restricted to capital projects. The statute provides for a repeal mechanism.

A city or county--in counties that are required to prepare comprehensive plans under the new Growth Management Act--are authorized to impose an additional real estate excise tax on all real property sales in the city or unincorporated parts of the county, respectively, at a rate not to exceed 1/4 of 1%. These funds must be used "solely for financing capital projects specified in a capital facilities plan element of a comprehensive plan."

### REAL ESTATE EXCISE TAX – LOCAL CONSERVATION AREAS: CLARK COUNTY

Boards of County Commissioners may impose--with voter approval--an excise tax on each sale of real property in the county at rate not to exceed one percent of the selling price for the purpose of acquiring and maintaining conservation areas. The authorizing legislation defines conservation areas as "land and water that has environmental, agricultural, aesthetic, cultural, scientific, historic, scenic, or low-intensity recreational value for existing and future generations..." These areas include "open spaces, wetlands, marshes, aquifer recharge areas, shoreline areas, natural areas, and other lands and waters that are important to preserve flora and fauna."

### STATE-DISTRIBUTED MOTOR VEHICLE FUND: CLARK COUNTY & VANCOUVER

State law establishes requirements for planning, construction and preservation of trails and paths during the construction or reconstruction of both limited-access and nonlimited-access highways. It also authorizes cities and counties to expend state-distributed motor vehicle fund

revenues for planning, accommodating, establishing and maintaining trails and paths. Qualified trails and paths must be served by highways or their rights-of-way, or must separate motor vehicle traffic from pedestrians, equestrians, or bicyclists to a level that will materially increase motor vehicle safety, and be part of the adopted comprehensive plan of the governmental authority with jurisdiction over trails.

### REGULAR PROPERTY TAX – LID LIFT: CLARK COUNTY & VANCOUVER

Counties and cities are authorized to impose ad valorem taxes upon real and personal property. A county's maximum levy rate for general county purposes is \$1.80 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. A city's maximum levy rate for general purposes is \$3.375 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation unless the city is annexed to either a library or fire district, in which case the city levy may not exceed \$3.60 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. Based on the city's Firemen's Pension Fund and the existence of the FV Regional Library, Vancouver currently has a statutory limit of \$3.325 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. Limitations on annual increases in tax collections, coupled with changes in property value, causes levy rates to rise or fall. However, in no case may they rise above statutory limits. Once the rate is established each year under the statutory limit, it may not be raised without the approval of a majority of the voters. Receiving voter approval is known as a lid lift. A lid lift may be permanent, or may be for a specific purpose and time period. Other limits on taxing authority remain in effect, such as the aggregate levy rate limits of \$5.90 per \$1,000 of assessed

value and 1% of true and fair market value.

## CONSERVATION FUTURES:

### CLARK COUNTY

The Conservation Futures levy is provided for in Chapter 84.34 of the Revised Code of Washington. Boards of County Commissioners may impose by resolution a property tax up to six and one-quarter cents per thousand dollars of assessed value for the purpose of acquiring interest in open space, farm, and timber lands. The Board of Clark County Commissioners adopted the Conservation Futures levy in October 1985.

Conservation Futures funds may be used for acquisition purposes only. Funds may be used to acquire mineral rights, and leaseback agreements are permitted. The statute prohibits the use of eminent domain to acquire property. Clark County allows all eligible jurisdictions, including cities, to apply for funding from Conservation Futures.

## LEGISLATIVE ACTION

The state legislature provides for special capital allocations to support projects of special concern and interest.

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## INCENTIVE MEASURES

### CURRENT USE TAXATION: CLARK COUNTY

Clark County's current use taxation program applies to lands in both incorporated and unincorporated areas. It provides tax reductions to land holders in return for maintaining their land in an undeveloped condition. The program derives its authority in the 1970

Washington Open Space Taxation Act (RCW 84.34, 458-30 WAC), which establishes procedures for tax deferments for agricultural, timber, and open space lands. Owners of such lands may apply to be taxed according to current use, rather than true market value--a considerable difference in some cases. When the property is removed from the program, the tax savings realized by the land owners for a period dating back up to seven years, plus interest, are collected. Tax savings dating back further than seven years may not be collected. If the removal of classification or change of use occurs in less than ten years or if the owner fails to provide two years advance notification of withdrawal, an additional 20 percent penalty is imposed.

### DENSITY BONUSES: CLARK COUNTY & VANCOUVER

Density bonuses are a planning tool used to encourage a variety of public land use objectives, usually in urban areas. They offer the incentive of being able to develop at densities beyond current regulations in one area, in return for concessions in another. Density bonuses are applied to a single parcel or development. An example is allowing developers of multi-family units to build at higher densities if they provide a certain number of low-income units. For density bonuses to work, market forces must support densities at a higher level than current regulations.

### PARKLAND DEDICATION

Parkland dedication allows developers to dedicate land or capital infrastructure in exchange for a park impact fee credit. The developer is entitled to a credit against the

applicable impact fee component for the fair market value of any dedication of land and reasonable documented construction costs acceptable to the jurisdiction and associated with the improvement to, or new construction of system improvements provided by the developer to facilities that are/were identified in the capital facilities plan and that are required by the jurisdiction as a condition of approval for the immediate development proposal. Parkland dedication in lieu of fee is allowed under Section 20.915.090 of the City of Vancouver Municipal Code and under Section 40.630.060 of Clark County Code.

### TRANSFER OF DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS: CLARK COUNTY & VANCOUVER

The transfer of development rights (TDR) is an incentive-based planning tool that allows land owners to trade the right to develop property to its fullest extent in one area for the right to develop beyond existing regulations in another area. Local governments may establish the specific areas in which development may be limited or restricted and the areas in which development beyond regulation may be allowed. Usually, but not always, the "sending" and "receiving" property are under common ownership. Some programs allow for different ownership, which, in effect, establishes a market for development rights to be bought and sold.

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## REGULATORY MEASURES

A variety of regulatory measures are available to state and local agencies and jurisdictions. Clark County and Vancouver have exercised their regulatory authority

under several programs. Programs available to state and local agencies include: Forest Practices - Conversion of Timber Lands, Washington Department of Natural Resources; Shorelines Management Program, Clark County & Vancouver; State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), Clark County & Vancouver; and Hydraulic Code, Washington State Department of Fisheries and Department of Wildlife.

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## OTHER METHODS

### LAND TRUSTS

Land trusts are private non-profit organizations that traditionally are not associated with any government agency. Land trusts that have completed projects in Clark County include the Nature Conservancy (TNC), the Trust for Public Land (TPL) and the Columbia Land Trust.

### PARKS AND RECREATION FOUNDATION

The Parks and Recreation Foundation of Vancouver and Clark County was established in 1999 to accept donations, gifts, and bequests for the enrichment of our community's parks, recreation, and cultural services. It was formed to offer a stable source of funding to enable parks to serve at the basic level and beyond. The Foundation is a 501(C)3, non-profit corporation, and all gifts are tax-deductible. It is governed by a board of directors that oversee, invest, and administer the donations made to the Foundation.

## PRIVATE GRANTS, DONATIONS, AND GIFTS

Many trusts and private foundations provide funding for park, recreation and open space projects. Grants from these sources are typically allocated through a competitive application process, and vary dramatically in size based on the financial resources and funding criteria of the organization. Philanthropic giving is another source of project funding. Efforts in this area may involve cash gifts and include donations through other mechanisms such as wills or insurance policies. Community fund-raising efforts can also support park, recreation, or open space facilities and projects.

## BUSINESS

### SPONSORSHIPS/DONATIONS

Business sponsorships for youth, teen, adult and senior programs are available throughout the year. Sponsorships and donations range from \$5 to \$1,000. In-kind contributions are often received, including food, door prizes and computer equipment.

### SPONSORSHIP OR NAMING RIGHTS

This practice generates revenue by offering sponsorship and naming rights to private entities.

## FUNDRAISING

Fundraising projects are used to support special projects and programs. Recycling drives, golf tournaments and candy sales are three examples of successful fundraising efforts.

## INTERAGENCY AGREEMENTS

State law provides for interagency cooperative efforts between units of government. Joint acquisition, development and use of park, recreation and open space facilities has been successfully used by both Vancouver and Clark County. Shared school/park facilities are the most visible example of this concept.

## PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

The concept of public/private partnerships has become increasingly popular for park and recreation agencies. The basic approach is to enter into a working agreement with a private corporation, non-profit organization, or other agency to help fund, build, and/or operate a public facility. Generally, the three primary incentives that a public agency can offer are a free site, tax advantages, and facility access. While the public agency may have to give up certain responsibilities or control, it is one way of providing public facilities at lower cost.

## PUBLIC/PRIVATE UTILITY

### CORRIDORS: BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION (BPA)/CLARK PUBLIC UTILITIES/VANCOUVER

Utility corridors can be managed to maximize protection or enhancement of open space lands. Utilities maintain corridors for provision of services such as electricity, gas, oil, and rail travel. Historically, some utility companies have cooperated with local governments for development of public programs such as parks within utility corridors.

### **LOCAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT: CLARK COUNTY & VANCOUVER**

Local Improvement Districts can be formed by local governments for capital projects. The capital project must directly benefit those properties that are assessed, and there must be a relationship between the benefit received and the assessment paid. Typically, these districts fund improvements to sewer, water or road systems through bonds that are subsequently paid back from special assessments that are levied on district members. LIDs are initiated by petition, or in the case of a citywide project, the city could initiate the project by resolution. A petition signed by property owners representing 60 percent of the affected area is necessary to stop a project. Funding for LIDs is usually spread over 10 years. Specific legislation covers use and operation of various LIDs.

### **PARK AND RECREATION DISTRICTS: INDEPENDENTLY-ELECTED PARK DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS**

Park and recreation districts may be formed for the purposes of providing leisure-time activities and recreation facilities. Authorized facilities include parks, playgrounds, public campgrounds, boat ramps, public hunting and fishing areas, bicycle and bridal paths, and "other recreation facilities." Park and recreation districts are explicitly authorized to acquire and hold real and personal property. Formation of a park and recreation district must be initiated by petition and requires voter approval.

### **PARK AND RECREATION SERVICE AREAS: BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Park and recreation service areas may be formed to finance, acquire, construct, improve, maintain or operate park and recreation facilities. They may be initiated by a resolution adopted by the county legislative authority or by a petition. Voter approval is required. Members of the county legislative authority, acting ex officio and independently, compose the governing body of any park and recreation service area created within their county.

### **METROPOLITAN PARK DISTRICT: INDEPENDENTLY-ELECTED PARK DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS**

Metropolitan park districts may be formed for the purposes of management, control, improvement, maintenance and acquisition of parks, parkways and boulevards. In addition to acquiring and managing their own lands, metropolitan districts may accept and manage park and recreation lands and equipment turned over by any city within the district or by the county. Formation of a metropolitan park district may be initiated in cities of five thousand population or more by city council or city commission ordinance, or by petition, and requires voter approval. The proposed district must have limits coextensive with the limits of the city, and must exclude cities of the fourth class.

### **METROPOLITAN MUNICIPAL CORPORATION: INDEPENDENT BOARD OF DESIGNATED ELECTED OFFICIALS AND APPOINTEES**

Metropolitan municipal corporations may be formed in any area of the state

containing two or more cities of which one is a city of the first class (e.g., Vancouver). They may be authorized to perform one or more of the following functions: water pollution abatement, water supply, public transportation, garbage disposal, parks and parkways, and comprehensive planning. Formation of a metropolitan municipal corporation may be initiated by resolution from the largest city, two or more smaller cities, the board of county commissioners of the proposed area, or by petition. Voter approval is required.

### MATCHING FUND PROGRAMS

With a matching fund program, the VCPRD would extend its financing by matching revenue raised by community groups for capital projects. The Department is currently exploring a matching fund program in a limited capacity for sports field development.

### CHARGES FOR SERVICES

Revenue for maintenance and operations can be generated through fees and charges, including:

- *Parking fees, boat launch fees, park user fees:* Revenue from daily fees or seasonal passes can support maintenance and operations at various sites.
- *Facility rentals:* The Department can increase revenue for park services by expanding rental facilities (picnic shelters, amphitheater, meeting rooms, swimming pools, etc.) or by increasing rental fees and other facility-use charges.
- *Property rental/leases:* A Property Management Program manages eleven agricultural and seven residential

rental properties throughout Clark County. These properties are owned by either Clark County or the City of Vancouver and managed by the Vancouver-Clark Parks & Recreation Department. VCPRD may be able to identify additional opportunities for short or long term leases for property by clubs and other concessionaires.

- *Retail sales of merchandise and food:* Program locations can include gift shops or food and beverage operations run by VCPRD or external vendors. These operations generate revenue for the District.
- *Membership dues:* VCPRD facilities can offer memberships for visitation or use of the fitness activities and other programs.
- *Event admissions, program and class fees:* This category is earned revenue through gate admissions to facilities or program and class fees. Charges in this category are set by the Board of Park Commissioners through the fee and charges schedule.

### VOLUNTEER RESOURCES

Volunteers from community groups have participated in a wide range of different VCPRD projects, including tree planting, invasive species removal, trail maintenance, and environmental education. Through labor and the provision of resources, volunteers can make a definite and lasting contribution to maintaining parks, green spaces, and natural areas.