

No. **21 - 0849**

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF SPOKANE COUNTY, WASHINGTON

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING THE )  
2021 CONSERVATION FUTURES )  
PRIORITIZED ACQUISITION LIST AND )  
RESCINDING THE 2016 CONSERVATION )  
FUTURES PRIORITIZED ACQUISITION )  
LIST, RESOLUTION NO. 16-0751. AND AS )  
AMENDED BY RESOLUTION NO. 20-0065 )

**RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the Constitution and laws of the State of Washington, Spokane County, Washington is a class A county duly organized and existing; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the provisions of the Revised Code of Washington ("RCW") 36.01.030, the powers of Spokane County ("County") can only be exercised through the Board of County Commissioners of Spokane County, Washington ("Board" or "Board of County Commissioners"); and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the provisions of RCW 36.32.120(6), the Board of County Commissioners has the care of County property and the management of County funds and business; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the provisions of RCW 84.34.200, the legislature found that: (1) the haphazard growth and spread of urban development is encroaching upon, or eliminating, numerous open areas and spaces of varied size and character, including many devoted to agriculture, the cultivation of timber, and other productive activities, and many others having significant recreational, social, scenic, or esthetic values; (2) such areas and spaces, if preserved and maintained in their present open state, would constitute important assets to existing and impending urban and metropolitan development, at the same time that they would continue to contribute to the welfare and well-being of the citizens of the state as a whole; and (3) as such, the acquisition of interests or rights in real property for the preservation of open spaces and areas constitutes a public purpose for which public funds may properly be expended or advanced; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the provisions of RCW 84.34.230, the Board levied an amount of money to be used solely for the purpose of acquiring rights and interests in real property pursuant to the terms of RCW 84.34.200 through 84.34.220; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the provisions of the RCW 84.34.240, the Board passed Resolution No. 93-1560, establishing a Conservation Futures Fund, designated as County Fund No. 117; and

**WHEREAS**, Spokane County Parks, Recreation & Golf Department ("County Parks") staff works with the Conservation Futures Land Evaluation Committee ("Land Evaluation Committee") to periodically update the Conservation Futures Program, including evaluation process, selection criteria and administrative guidelines in preparation for a new open nomination round whereby a new prioritized (ranked) acquisition list is developed and recommended to the Board; and

**RESOLUTION-1**

**WHEREAS**, on April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021, the Board acknowledged the 2021 Conservation Futures Program Overview and Nomination Form, attached hereto as Attachment “1” and instructed County Parks to open the 2021 Open Nomination Round; and

**WHEREAS**, County Parks staff, working with the Land Evaluation Committee, publicly advertised the 2021 Open Nomination Round and accepted completed nomination forms from May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 through July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021, and after a technical review by staff and the Land Evaluation Committee, eight (8) nominations throughout Spokane County were received and deemed complete; and

**WHEREAS**, on September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021, County Parks staff and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife biologist toured all eight (8) nomination properties, met with property owners and representatives, and scored the “Parks, Recreation & Golf Staff” and “Fish and Wildlife Biologist” sections of the Land Evaluation Criteria (the “Evaluation Criteria”); and

**WHEREAS**, County Parks staff solicited public input on the eight (8) nominations received through two methods: (i) written comments via an online survey that was made available for two (2) weeks; and (ii) oral comments via an advertised, virtual public meeting held on September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021, where County Parks staff presented all nominations received and provided a ten-minute public comment period per nomination, of which all written and oral comments were shared directly with the Land Evaluation Committee; and

**WHEREAS**, on September 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021, the Land Evaluation Committee physically toured all eight (8) nomination properties, whereby each member of the Land Evaluation Committee personally viewed each property and accordingly scored the “Committee” section of the Evaluation Criteria; and

**WHEREAS**, on September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021, the Land Evaluation Committee developed a preliminary ranking of the all nominations received utilizing: (1) the Evaluation Criteria scoring results; (2) written and oral public input received; (3) committee member observations and experience on each nominated property; and (4) additional information, research, and review provided by County Parks staff regarding the nominations; and

**WHEREAS**, on October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021, the Land Evaluation Committee developed a finalized 2021 Prioritized Acquisition List (the “List”), attached hereto as Attachment “2” and herein incorporated by reference, utilizing research results and recommendations provided by County Parks staff, and recommended approval of said list inclusive of contingencies, to the Board; and

**WHEREAS**, Doug Chase, Director of the Spokane County Parks, Recreation and Golf Department, recommends that: (1) the List be approved as recommended by the Conservation Futures Land Evaluation Committee, including all contingencies as noted on Attachment “2” – 2021 Conservation Futures Prioritized Acquisition List – Final Recommendation; (2) County Parks staff be authorized to pursue acquisition of properties on the List in order of their ranking as time and resources permit; (3) the List will be valid through March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2027 unless otherwise adjusted by the Board, and upon expiration of the List on said date, all nominations not under active acquisition shall become void; and (4) the 2016 Conservation Futures Prioritized Acquisition List, Resolution No. 16-0751 and as amended by Resolution No. 20-0065, be rescinded and repealed.

**RESOLUTION--2**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of County Commissioners of Spokane County pursuant to the provisions of RCW 36.32.120(6) and RCW 84.34.200 et seq., does hereby:

- (1) Approve the 2021 Conservation Futures Prioritized Acquisition List (the "List") as recommended by the Conservation Futures Land Evaluation Committee, including all contingencies as noted on Attachment "2" – 2021 Conservation Futures Prioritized Acquisition List – Final Recommendation;
- (2) Authorize County Parks staff to pursue acquisition of properties on the List in order of their ranking as time and resources permit;
- (3) Promulgate that the List shall be valid through March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2027 unless otherwise adjusted by the Board, and upon expiration of the List on said date, all nominations not under active acquisition shall become void; and
- (4) Rescind and repeal the 2016 Conservation Futures Prioritized Acquisition List, Res. 16-0751 and as amended by Resolution No. 20-0065.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Board of County Commissioners of Spokane County, Washington, that the Board has individually reviewed and considered each and every recital set forth herein above, and to the extent necessary to support the action herein, does adopt the same.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 7<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2021.




ATTEST:

  
Ginna Vasquez, Clerk of the Board

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF SPOKANE COUNTY, WASHINGTON

  
JOSH KERNS, CHAIR

  
MARY L. KUNEY, VICE-CHAIR

  
AL FRENCH, COMMISSIONER

2021 Conservation Futures Prioritized Acquisition List - Final Recommendation

Please Note: Final Recommendation: The Land Evaluation Committee took into account the results of the evaluation criteria scoring along with public input, their experience on each nominated property, and the Staff Recommendation, which took into account title reports, review of existing legal agreements affecting properties, potential funding sources, and other factors. **\*Administrative Acquisition:** Nominations identified for Administrative Acquisition will be pursued by staff utilizing the process described in the 2021 Program Overview pending availability and/or satisfaction of contingencies as described below to resolve critical existing issues related to access and management of existing Conservation Futures-acquired properties.

	Ranking		Ranking Notes / Contingencies
Trolley Trail 08-21	Administrative Acquisition	City of Spokane	3.76 acre property that contains the Trolley Trail generally N/E of Trolley Trail Conservation Area.
			Designated as an "Administrative Acquisition" to resolve long-standing concerns about the Trolley Trail Conservation Area's northern terminus into private property. This acquisition, with ranking contingencies satisfied, will create a publicly accessible northern terminus at 18th Avenue, resolving long-standing trespassing issues. Ranking contingent upon: (1) City of Spokane securing a legal public trail connection between the Trolley Trail Conservation Area and the nomination via public trail easement or condition of plat approval; and (2) willing seller.
Palisades 06-21	1	City of Spokane	118 acre addition to Palisades Park.
			Ranking contingent upon: (1) Seller's pledged donation of \$50,000 - \$100,000 at closing to benefit the stewardship and public use of the nomination.
Saltese 07-21	2	Spokane County	54 acre addition to Saltese Highlands Conservation Area.
			Ranking contingent upon: (1) sale at 50% of fair market value.
Antoine Peak 01-21	3	Spokane County	188 acre addition to Antoine Peak Conservation Area.
Fancher 05-21	4	Spokane County	78 acre property adjacent to the Northwauk's neighborhood.
			Ranking contingent upon: (1) granting of a public trail easement through adjacent HOA-owned property.
Dishman Hills 03-21	5	Spokane County	82 acres adjacent to 240 acres owned by the Dishman Hills Conservancy.
			Ranking contingent upon: (1) donation by nominator of \$25,000 towards public access / trailhead improvements.
Dishman Hills 02-21	6	Spokane County	43.5 acre addition to Miller Creek Unit of Dishman Hills Conservation Area.
Dragon Creek 04-21	7	City of Deer Park	100.34 acre property within the Urban Growth Area of the City of Deer Park.

**AGENDA SHEET FOR COMMISSIONERS MEETING OF: December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

**SUBMITTING DEPARTMENT:** Parks, Recreation & Golf

**CONTACT PERSON:** Doug Chase / Paul Knowles

**PHONE NUMBER:** 477-2720 / 477-2188

**CHECK TYPE OF MEETING ITEM BELOW:**

**BID OPENING:**

**2:00 PM CONSENT AGENDA:**  12/7/21

**5:00 PM LEGISLATIVE SESSION:**

**BY LEAVE:** (Item Title)

**SPECIAL SESSION:** (Item Title)

**9:00 AM BOARD BRIEFING:**  11/29/21

**BELOW FOR CLERKS USE ONLY:**

Clerk's Resolution No. 21-0849  
Approved: (Majority - Unanimous) \_\_\_\_\_  
Denied: (Majority - Unanimous) \_\_\_\_\_  
Renews/Amends No. \_\_\_\_\_

Public Works No. \_\_\_\_\_

Purchasing Dept. No. \_\_\_\_\_

**AGENDA TITLE:** Shall the Board of Spokane County Commissioners approve the finalized 2021 Conservation Futures Prioritized Acquisition List as recommended by the Conservation Futures Land Evaluation Committee?

**RECOMMENDATION:** Please Consider.

The Spokane County Conservation Futures Land Evaluation Committee (LEC) working with Parks, Recreation, and Golf Department staff has completed the Conservation Futures evaluation and ranking process for eight (8) nominations received during the 2021 Open Nomination Round. In accordance with the evaluation process approved by the Board of County Commissioners: (1) a public meeting was held on September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021 to hear public testimony on specific nominations, (2) the LEC toured all eight nominations, (3) each nomination was scored via the Evaluation Criteria, (4) a preliminary ranking of the nominations was developed by the LEC on September 29<sup>th</sup>, (5) staff completed additional research on all eight nominations (as ranked in the preliminary ranking developed by the LEC) and provided a staff recommendation to the LEC for consideration, (6) the LEC finalized the proposed 2021 Conservation Futures Prioritized Acquisition List on October 27<sup>th</sup> and recommended approval of said list to the Board of County Commissioners. As proposed, the list and all nominations on it shall be valid through March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2027.

Staff recommends to the Board of County Commissioners approval of the finalized 2021 Conservation Futures Prioritized Acquisition List as recommended by the Conservation Futures Land Evaluation Committee.

**BACKGROUND:**

Per the adopted 2021 Conservation Futures Program and schedule, Spokane County Parks, Recreation & Golf Department ("County Parks") held an Open Nomination Round and accepted new property nominations from May 1<sup>st</sup> – July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021. Each nomination was reviewed for completeness and forwarded to the Land Evaluation Committee. Concurrently, the nominations identified for probable City of Spokane and City of Deer Park ownership were previewed by the City of Spokane and City of Deer Park staff. A public meeting was held virtually on September 9<sup>th</sup> via Zoom to present all eight (8) nominated properties to the community and provide an opportunity for the public to express their support for nominations – directly to the LEC. The LEC toured all eight nominations over two days, September 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, and scored the LEC-component of the Evaluation Criteria. Staff and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife toured each site prior to the LEC tours and scored their respective Evaluation Criteria components. Staff compiled the scores from each component and presented those raw scores to the LEC on September 29<sup>th</sup>. Taking those scores, the site visits, and public input received into account, the LEC developed a Preliminary Ranking and requested staff to conduct additional research on the nominations received that would result in a Staff Recommendation based on those findings. The Staff Recommendation was presented to the LEC on October 27<sup>th</sup>, which was unanimously approved by the LEC as part of the Final Recommendation (See attached) presented to the Board of County Commissioners for consideration.

Lastly, on November 11<sup>th</sup>, the City of Spokane Park Board unanimously approved future ownership of nominations Palisades 06-21 and Trolley Trail 08-21, should they be pursued and acquired by the Conservation Futures Program.

**Please find attached the following:**

- Final Recommendation – 2021 Prioritized Acquisition List.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** 2021 Prioritized Acquisition List properties will be acquired pursuant to their ranking as funding in available through Conservation Futures and other funding opportunities. Maintenance of these properties, if acquired, would be provided by Conservation Futures M&O Funding and other sources TBD.

  
1) Director, Spokane County Parks, Recreation & Golf

  
2) Parks Special Projects Manager

\*Legal has reviewed and approved the resolution.

This item will need to be codified in the Spokane County Code.