



Staff Report – Resolution

September 19, 2022 Regular Meeting

Draft Resolution for Conservation Futures Interlocal Agreement

Presenter: Trang K. Lam, Parks & Recreation Director

Time Estimate: 5 minutes

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INTRODUCTION/PURPOSE/SUMMARY: The Camas City Council (Council) approved a purchase and sale agreement at the December 7, 2020 Regular Council meeting for acquisition of approximately 115 acres surrounding Green Mountain. At the Special Council meeting on December 30, 2020, Staff briefed Council on the Green Mountain Purchase and Sale Agreement (PSA) Terms.

The PSA included the acceptance of a donation of approximately 60 acres, which closed on December 30, 2020, and purchase of approximately 55 acres for \$3.8 million, which closed on November 5, 2021.

As discussed with Council, the funding package for acquisition of the 55-acre parcel was for the City to "front" payments through bond funds and receive reimbursements if successful with the following grant applications:

- \$1.25 million – Clark County Conservation Futures grant (Applied December 2020)
- \$1.25 million – Recreation Conservation Office grant (Applied May 2022)

In Summer of 2022, Clark County inform the City of Camas of the Conservation Futures grant award for Green Mountain.

The Clark County Council imposed the Conservation Futures levy to provide a reliable and predictable funding source to help acquire interest in open space, farmland, timber land, and certain classifications of park property. The Legacy Lands program (Clark County's Conservation Futures Program) protects these lands highly valued for habitat, scenic corridors, low-impact recreation, and other qualities that enhance our local environment. In December 2020, the City of Camas applied for the Conservation Futures grant to help fund the purchase of the 55-acre parcel of Green Mountain. An additional 60 acres was donated to the City, making the total Green Mountain conservation area by the City 115 acres.

This summer, Clark County awarded the City the requested grant request of \$1,250,000 on the terms and conditions set forth in the Conservation Futures Interlocal Project Agreement.



Figure 1: View of Green Mountain property from the south.

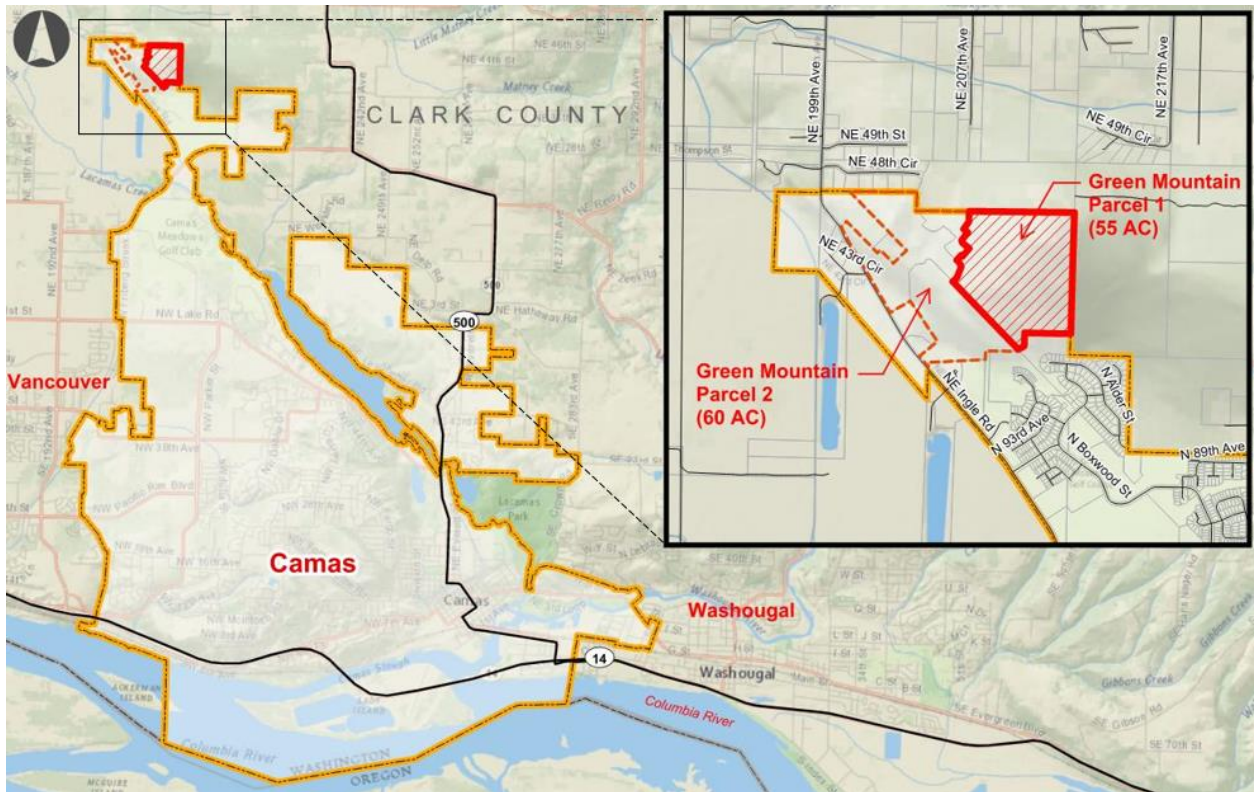


Figure 2: Site location map.

EQUITY CONSIDERATIONS:

What are the desired results and outcomes for this agenda item?

Staff is requesting acceptance of the grant and will bring forth to Council the Conservation Futures Project Interlocal Agreement for approval as a consent agenda item on October 3rd.

What's the data? What does the data tell us?

Acquisition of this property responds directly to the most popular recreation activities from the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan and the 2022 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan (PROS Plan). Top survey results for why residents visit parks and open space in the PROS Plan include walking or running, fitness/exercise, relaxation, bike riding, and wildlife viewing

Development of the Green Mountain area will provide opportunities for trails through a scenic forested reserve providing opportunities for hiking, biking, rock climbing, and horseback riding. Additionally, development of a trailhead will provide parking, ADA trails, viewpoints and picnic opportunities.

How have communities been engaged? Are there opportunities to expand engagement?

Engagement process was through the formation of the various plans and visions the City has adopted over the years. Those are listed below. This acquisition implements those plans and puts the vision into reality.

Who will benefit from, or be burdened by this agenda item?

Camas residents and surrounding Clark County community will benefit.

What are the strategies to mitigate any unintended consequences?

There is an opportunity to partner with Clark County, as an adjacent property owner, to design and develop the trail system and trailhead. In addition, there is an opportunity to partner with local residents and Clark County to coordinate volunteer efforts to main the property.

Does this agenda item have a differential impact on underserved populations, people living with disabilities, and/or communities of color? Please provide available data to illustrate this impact.

No

Will this agenda item improve ADA accessibilities for people with disabilities?

Future design and development of trail system and trailhead will be designed with ADA accessibility as a primary goal.

What potential hurdles exist in implementing this proposal (include both operational and political)?

NA

How will you ensure accountabilities, communicate, and evaluate results?

NA

How does this item support a comprehensive plan goal, policy or other adopted resolution?

This proposal is consistent with a variety of comprehensive parks and open space plans, including but not limited to:

- City's Parks Recreation and Open Space Plan (2022)
- North Shore Lacamas Lake – Conservation and Recreation Vision Plan (2017)
- Clark County's Natural Areas Acquisition Plan (Under the Conservations Futures Program)

Additionally, this project meets the following Camas 2035 Comprehensive Plan goals:

- 3.4.1 Environmental Stewardship: To preserve Camas' natural environment by developing a sustainable urban environment and protecting habitat and vegetation corridors.
- 5.7.2 Parks and Recreation Goals: Preserve and enhance the quality of life in Camas through the provision of parks, recreation programs, recreational facilities, trails, and open spaces.

RECOMMENDATION: This resolution will be placed on the October 3, 2022 Regular meeting agenda for Council's consideration.