A. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Ryan called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

B. INTRODUCTION OF BOARD MEMBERS

Board members introduced themselves and Tom Teigen introduced himself and Board staff.

C. DISCUSS 2017 BOARD CHAIR & VICE CHAIR

Board discussed selection of Chair and Vice Chair for 2017 and decided to wait until first meeting of the year to make selections. Chair Terry Ryan confirmed that County Council Member Sam Low will be serving on the Board.

D. PUBLIC COMMENT

A number of members of the audience provided public comment:

1. John Keates, Parks & Recreation Director, City of Bothell – Mr. Keates provided information about property in North Bothell, referred to as the Shelton View Forest (handout provided and attached). The property totals 42.5 acres and is a combination of
land owned by Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and a private owner. The property has been identified for surplus (DNR) and development (private ownership) and the City is interested in acquiring the property and preserving it for open space and recreation. Mr. Keates indicated that the City is seeking funding for acquisition of the private ownership first and would apply for Conservation Futures funding when a grant round is opened. Acquisition cost of the two properties together is anticipated to be between $2.5 - $3.5 million for the property.

2. Bob Rotabaugh, Vice President, Shelton View Forest Stewardship Association – Mr. Rotabaugh spoke in support of the Shelton View Forest project and noted that both land owners are willing sellers.

3. Cheryl Stanford, President, Shelton Forest View Stewardship Association – Ms. Stanford spoke in support of the Shelton View project.

4. David Bain, Vice President, Friends of North Creek Forest – Mr. Bain thanked the Conservation Futures Board for support of previous project and asked for support of the Shelton View Forest project. Mr. Bain emphasized the value of the property as quiet space and the urgency to acquire as DNR plans to surplus the property if not acquired and the adjacent 16.5 acres will be developed for homes.

5. Adam Draper, Staff Attorney, Forterra – Mr. Draper introduced Charlie Raines to provide an overview of the Lake Serene Trail project.

6. Charlie Raines, Forest Conservation Director, Forterra – Mr. Raines provided an overview of the Lake Serene Trail property, which totals 190 acres and is currently owned by the Weyhaeuser company (handout provided and attached). The property contains approximately ½ mile of the Lake Serene Trail, which crosses the property without any formal agreement/easement. The remainder of the trail is located on Forest Service property. The Weyhaeuser property is mixed forest and will be logged at some point. Acquisition is proposed to secure trail use and protect the property for open space. Mr. Raines added that the property, if secured, could also potentially traded with the Forest Service for another property near Index, which has potential for managed camping and access to the Index climbing wall. Estimated property cost could be $1.5 million and Forterra will be seeking funding sources for acquisition in the coming year. If Conservation Futures funding is utilized for a portion of the project, it would be focused on protecting the trail access.

7. Deborah Knight, City Administrator, City of Stanwood – Ms. Knight spoke in support of the City of Sultan’s funding request and also provided information to the Board about an acquisition the City is interested in pursuing, near the recent Ovenell acquisition. The Johnson Farm is 180 acres and provides access to Skagit Bay and is in close proximity to land managed by the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife. Ms. Knight expressed appreciation to the Board for past funding support.

E. PROGRAM FUND BALANCE

Ms. Bailey provided the Board with an update on the current fund balance and anticipated balance at the end of the year. Accounting for projects which have funding committed and other program expenses, $2,658,981 is anticipated to be available at the end of the year.
F. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE BOARD

a. City of Stanwood – recommendation from the Board to amend the Conservation Futures Easement for Ovenell property

Ms. Bailey summarized a request from the City of Stanwood to amend the Conservation Easement for the Ovenell property, in order to provide additional time to rebuild buildings removed from the site. The easement currently allows eighteen months from the time of building demolition to replacement, otherwise rebuilding is not allowed. City Administrator Deborah Knight explained that the City is seeking to remove a building due to safety concerns, but does not have funding yet to replace it. The City is asking for the timeline for rebuilding be extended to seven years.

Board Member Carla Nichols moved to recommend amendment to the Ovenell property Conservation Easement to allow up to seven years for replacement of removed buildings. Board Member Randy Lord seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

b. City of Sultan – recommendation from the Board for allocation of approximately $200,000 in additional funding for the Sultan River Nature Trail

Mayor Eslick and City Administrator Ken Walker presented a request to the Board for $200,000 to acquire property in support of the Sultan River Nature Trails project, which was previously supported by the Board. Mayor Eslick explained that the project was recently awarded state funding to complete trail construction, which included a pedestrian bridge over a river channel. The cost of this improvement and restrictions on bridge placement however make new bridge construction infeasible. An existing bridge on an adjacent property was identified as an alternative and the property owner is a willing seller. The City of Sultan is asking for funding to acquire this property so that the trail project can move forward. The City had completed their earlier acquisition project for less than the Conservation Futures award and returned money to fund balance.

Board Member Randy Lord moved to recommend allocation of $200,000 to the City of Sultan for acquisition of property for the Sultan River Nature Trail. Board Member Carla Nichols seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

c. Snohomish County Parks Department - recommendation from the Board for allocation of approximately $69,000 for the Portage Creek addition

Amy Lucas, Senior Planner for the Snohomish County Department of Parks & Recreation, presented a request for funding to acquire 17.6 acres adjacent to the Portage Creek County Park. The property is currently for sale and is accessed through Portage Creek Park, via a shared use gravel road. The road has been increasingly wet in recent years due to beaver activity and associated flooding and reconstruction of the road would require a Biological Evaluation, hydrologic modifications and some level of construction. Portage Creek Park is considered a wildlife area and the preference is for the site to continue renaturalizing. $69,000 is requested for acquisition and closing costs. Tom Teigen emphasized that the acquisition is time sensitive due to the risk associated with another buyer securing the property and requiring road improvements.
Chair Terry Ryan moved to recommend allocation of $69,000 to Snohomish County acquisition of the Portage Creek addition property. Board Member Randy Lord seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-1.

G. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. Snohomish County Surface Water Management – update to the Board regarding use of $100,000 currently budgeted for purchase of development rights

Michael McGuiness presented an update to the Board on funding held in support of the Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) program. Ms. Bailey provided background on the program and previous allocation, which was used to acquire development rights in the Tualco Valley area. Following completion of the acquisitions, $100,000 was held for potential future projects and the remainder was returned to fund balance and reallocated for other projects. Mr. McGuiness indicated to the board that the remaining $100,000 is planned to be utilized to acquire easements in the French Creek watershed within the next year or two. Ms. Bailey reminded the Board that recommendations for PDR and Transfer of Development Rights projects are handled by the Snohomish County Department of Planning and Development Services and funding for these programs can be identified for distribution from the Conservation Futures Fund by County Council.

b. Potential 2017 grant round

The Board decided to open a competitive grant round in 2017. The grant process will be used to identify projects for recommendation of funding support. The Board decided to release the grant request in early January (before January 10th), distributing announcements to cities, towns and other eligible entities. Applications will be due March 1st and the Board will meet the last week of March to review applications and conduct other Board business. Applicants will have no more than 15 minutes to make presentations. A request was made for the code basis used to prioritize projects for funding and also a copy of the grant application. Staff will provide this material to Board Members and also send out a survey to select a date for the March meeting.

H. SET DATE & TIME FOR JANUARY REGULAR MEETING

The Board decided to hold the next meeting in the last week of March to review grant applications, elect Chair and Vice Chair and conduct other Board business.

I. COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

Board Member Dan Bartelheimer noted that the process utilized by the Board to identify projects for funding is not necessarily the best for supporting agriculture. Mr. Bartelheimer suggested that the Board work with the Agriculture Board to develop a better way to preserve agricultural land. There was general support for this idea.

J. ADJOURN

Chair Ryan adjourned the meeting at 5:05 p.m.

Attachments:
Shelton View Forest handouts
Lake Serene handout
Ovenell Park handouts
Sultan Nature Trail handouts
Portage Creek Wildlife Reserve handouts & presentation
Shelton View Property

City of Bothell

Shelton View Forest Stewardship Association
Councilman Terry Ryan, Chair  
Snohomish County Conservation Futures Advisory Board  
3000 Rockefeller Avenue  
Everett, WA 98201

December 20, 2016

Dear Chair Ryan and Conservation Futures Board members,

The Shelton View Forest Stewardship Association supports the efforts of the city of Bothell to acquire the Shelton View Forest for recreational and educational purposes.

The Shelton View Forest is a 40+ acre forest on the edge of the city limits and provides miles of hiking trails along a lush ravine, valuable wildlife habitat, and a variety of educational opportunities.

We appreciate any assistance you can give to preserve this land for future generations.

Thank you,

[Signature]

Cheryl Stanford  
President, Shelton View Forest Stewardship Association  
24023 7th Pl W  
Bothell, WA 98021  
cherylastanford@gmail.com  
425-503-9042
Directions
FROM DOWNTOWN BOTHELL
Go north on SR 527 (Bothell-Everett Hwy) to 240th St. SE. Turn left and go west exactly one mile, crossing Meridian Ave., to 7th Ave W. Turn right and continue to the trailhead at the end of the street. Park off pavement if possible.

FROM NORTH BOTHELL AND CANYON PARK
Travel south on SR 527, 1 mile south of Canyon Park. Turn right at 240th St. S.E. Go exactly one mile, crossing Meridian Ave., to 7th Ave W. Turn right and continue to the trailhead at the end of the street. Park off pavement if possible.

APPROXIMATE ADDRESS:
23500 7th Ave W, in Bothell

Protect the Forest!
Shelton View Forest is at risk of development! The Shelton View Forest Stewardship Association (SVFSA) is looking for your help. Volunteer time and money donated to SVFSA supports land acquisition efforts, community events, and educational activities. To find out more:

Visit us at sheltonviewforest.org
Follow us on facebook at Save Shelton View Forest
Join our email list!
Contact sheltonviewforest@gmail.com

Shelton View Forest
Over 42 acres of woodland forest encompassing more than four miles of trails within. These woods are ideal open space and are being considered for acquisition by the City of Bothell for preservation and multi-use recreation.
Explore Shetlon View

View Forest

The region offers outdoor enthusiasts throughout the year. The property is easily accessible by those who enjoy mountain biking, hiking, and wildlife viewing. The area is home to a diverse range of flora and fauna, including various bird species and mammals such as deer and woodpeckers. Over four miles of trails grace the region, providing opportunities for exercise and exploration.

Explore Shetlon View

Over four miles of trails grace the region, offering outdoor enthusiasts throughout the year. The property is easily accessible by those who enjoy mountain biking, hiking, and wildlife viewing. The area is home to a diverse range of flora and fauna, including various bird species and mammals such as deer and woodpeckers. Over four miles of trails grace the region, providing opportunities for exercise and exploration.

Explore Shetlon View

Over four miles of trails grace the region, offering outdoor enthusiasts throughout the year. The property is easily accessible by those who enjoy mountain biking, hiking, and wildlife viewing. The area is home to a diverse range of flora and fauna, including various bird species and mammals such as deer and woodpeckers. Over four miles of trails grace the region, providing opportunities for exercise and exploration.
Lake Serene Trail
Conservation Acquisition Target
Snohomish County – Conservation Futures Program
December 20, 2016

The target conservation parcel is on the lower slopes of Mt. Index and is an integral part of the grand vista of that iconic peak and Bridal Veil Falls.

The Lake Serene Trail lies across the river from Highway 2 and the Town of Index. It is one of the most popular hiking trails in the region, accessing Lake Serene and Bridal Veil Falls. Most of the trail is on national forest land. About a half mile of this trail crosses the target parcel. Public use of that trail segment has not been restricted by the land owner, but there is no easement for public use.

✓ **Size:** 190 acres - mixed forest on steep slopes.
✓ **Location:** T27N, R10E, S30; south of Skykomish River near Index.
✓ **Elevation:** 800' - 2,700'
✓ **Public Access:** Half mile of trail, but no easement for public use.
✓ **Funding:** Forterra is exploring funding opportunities to supplement a Snohomish Co. CFT grant.
✓ **Owner willingness:** Forterra is working with the landowner on a transaction.
✓ **Potential additional benefits:** Potential trade of this parcel for the Forest Service parcel on the North Fork Sky River near Index, which Snohomish County Parks has expressed interest in to facilitate additional recreational use of the river and rock climbing wall.
Ovenell Park Conceptual Plan

1. **Parking and Non-motorized Boat Launch** for kayaks, canoes, paddleboards etc
2. **Picnic Areas, Playground & Public Art**
3. **Indoor/Outdoor Venue for Local Events** such as the Farmers Market, holiday events, art shows, Snow Goose Festival, etc
   - **Multi-Purpose Community Space** (kitchen, bathroom, meeting room) for educational, event and community use
4. **Interpretive Center** for agricultural, historical, and habitat information and education
   - **Heritage Barn** for family and community events
5. **Large Open Grass Area/Amphitheatre/Stage** for picnics, outdoor movies, concerts etc
6. **FFA/4H Program and Display Space** for environmental, horticultural, agricultural programs
7. **Traffic Access & Parking** (final design to be determined)
8. **Wetland Restoration** for plants, wildlife, birds, education and viewing
9. **Boardwalks, Trails & Viewing Tower** for birdwatching, wildlife viewing and connecting to the estuary
10. **Offices/Working Space/Lodging** for research, maintenance and potential caretaker/rental space
    - **Orchard & Demonstration Garden** for community use
11. **Dock** for visiting non-motorized water craft
A waiver of the 18-month rebuild rule is respectfully requested for a 4,000 sqft wooden barn, located at Ovenell Park, due to safety and security risks.

- Ovenell Park contains 12 structures, including a house, a garage, several wooden barns and sheds and two large metal-framed loafing sheds.

- A Structural Assessment was completed in October, 2015 by OAC, which determined that the wooden barns and associated wooden dairy structures are unsound and cannot be renovated.

- The community-driven conceptual plan calls for all of these dairy-related wooden structures to be removed – except for one. Open Space will replace the remaining wooden structures, which will be used for festivals, fairs and extra farmer’s market space.

- The “Medium Barn” – approximately 4,000 sqft - will be rebuilt in a heritage style and used for concerts, family reunions, weddings, business meetings and community events.

- The state of this barn was outlined in the OAC report (photos included on the following page):
  - Roof framing and a portion of the exterior bearing wall has collapsed
  - Various wood framing elements were observed to have Powderpost beetle damage.
  - Portions of exterior walls show significant out-of-plane displacement.
  - Metal roofing and original shakes are missing from various areas
  - Metal siding was observed to be distressed and corroded.
  - In its current state, the building is not safe for public access.

- Weather and wind have caused further degradation to the already compromised wooden structures. The current state of the barns and associated dairy structures is presenting an increased safety and security risk.

- It is now imperative for the City to demolish these structures, and plans are being developed to do this early in 2017.

- Due to the complexity of the site, the City has engaged consultants to produce a detailed development plan which will outline the sequence and steps that should be followed as the wetland reclamation, river access and building construction is undertaken. In addition, a Capital Development Plan is being produced to identify all possible sources of funding – including state, federal, foundation, corporate and community funding.
• It is expected that the 4,000 sqft “Medium Barn” barn will be rebuilt within the next 5-7 years as a detailed design is developed and funds are raised.
19: Medium Barn, partial collapse at south elevation

20: Roof framing at Medium Barn, looking south

21: Decayed / buckled north wall framing

22: Powder-post beetle damage at bottom plate
December 15, 2016

Snohomish County Conservation Futures
Project and Grant Program

Dear Conservation Futures Committee,

The City of Sultan received Conservation Futures funding to purchase properties along the Sultan River with the intention to construct a trail from River Park to Osprey Park, approximately ¾ mile. The properties were purchased for less than anticipated and the City returned $164,000 back to the Conservation Futures Fund.

The City of Sultan then received a Legislative Proviso to construct the trail, which involved building a pedestrian bridge over a river channel. When the City consulted Tom Teigen, Snohomish County Parks Director, it was made clear that building a bridge in the designated area needed would not be cost effective and nearly impossible due to its location in the flood plain.

In 2012, Snohomish County PUD built a 12 foot wide bridge as part of their Side Channel Enhancement and Relicensing Requirements for the Spada Lake Culmback Dam. The bridge was built over the newly constructed channel to protect it from livestock crossing through the fish channel. This existing bridge will be included in the purchase of the 5 additional acres and provide a barrier free pedestrian access from River Park to Osprey Park.

The City of Sultan is asking an audience with you at your December 20th meeting to request $200,000 to purchase additional property from a willing seller that includes the existing bridge. This purchase will enable the City to move forward with construction of the trail without the need to build an additional bridge and provide trail access from River Park to Osprey Park. This request is at the guidance and recommendation of Tom Teigen.

The City of Sultan appreciates your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Eslick,
Mayor

319 Main Street, Suite 200 – PO Box 1199 – Sultan, WA 98294-1199
City Hall (360) 793.2231 – Fax (360) 793.3344
cityhall@ci.sultan.wa.us
Conservation Futures Funding Request
Portage Creek Wildlife Reserve – Typolt Addition

Location: 5421 Cemetery Rd
          Arlington, WA 98223-8730
          County Council District 1

Current Owner: Arthur and Jane Typolt

Assessor’s Parcel Number: 31051500201300

Land Use Status: Undeveloped (Vacant) Land - formerly used for agriculture

Zoning: Ag-10 SA (6 TDR credits exist on the property)

Lot Size: 17.60 Acres

Snohomish County 2017 Assessment: $70,400

Asking Price: $59,950

Amount Requested: $69,000

NWMLS Number: 971692  (Owner is willing to sell)

Background and Description: Portage Creek Wildlife Reserve is a 157 acre, former dairy farm and peat mine that was acquired by Snohomish County between 1995 and 1996. The original 20 acres was purchased in 1995 with Conservation Futures funding and the additional 137 acres was acquired a year later with a Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) easement on the property under the Wetland Reserve Program. The reserve offers visitors a unique opportunity to view fish and wildlife in an ecosystem that is slowly returning to nature.

The property contains grassy meadowlands, creek systems and their supporting wetlands that provide habitat for fish and wildlife including various amphibians, great blue heron, bald eagles, red tail hawks, migrating swans, coho salmon and many small mammals including an active beaver. The reserve truly is a refuge for fish and wildlife, as users are limited to a 2 mile trail system and its viewing platforms, and dogs are not allowed on the property.

Wetland and stream restoration have been performed over the last two decades with assistance from the Stillaguamish Tribe’s Banksavers program, Sound Salmon Solutions (formerly the Stilly-Snohomish Fisheries Enhancement Task Force) and the City of Arlington. The site has been utilized by school...
groups ranging in age from elementary school to high school and it has also been used as an outdoor classroom for a continuing education course for professionals in the Natural Resources field.

Access to the reserve is limited to an official parking lot on the northeast side of the property off of 59th Ave NE, and an access road on the south side of the property off of Cemetery Road. The southern access road is in common ownership of Snohomish County, Arthur and Jane Typolt, and Legacy Creative Ventures, LLC, and all 3 owners share responsibility of the maintenance of the access road. The road has become flooded in several areas over the last 5 years, and is now completely underwater. While there is wildlife camera evidence of beaver activity, there is also evidence of stream channel collapse on private property to the east of Typolt property. The Stillaguamish Tribe has not found a beaver dam, and has not been able to trap the beaver captured on the wildlife camera.

**Request to the Conservation Futures Board:** The owners of the Typolt property are willing to sell their 17.6 acre parcel to Snohomish County which would become an addition to the Portage Creek Wildlife Reserve and bring it to a total of 175 acres. The southern portion of the Typolt property already supports a large wetland complex, and currently there is flooding to the north of this wetland. Parks staff performed a site visit to the southern portion of Portage Creek Wildlife Reserve and the Typolt property in August with Natural Resources staff from the Stillaguamish Tribe and the City of Arlington.

Much of the Typolt and Snohomish County properties appeared impaired by standing water possibly due to the channel collapse of My Creek to the east. In addition, the southern access road was inundated with standing and flowing water, and staff confirmed there was at least 1 beaver dam in the bog and creek. A beaver was later captured on a wildlife camera installed by the Stillaguamish Tribe, which also captured the nightly activity of a family of raccoons and a coyote.

Subsequent GIS aerial research shows that channels and ditches once maintained for agricultural use have collapsed and may also have beaver dams located within them. It is evident from 10 years of aerial and satellite imagery that wetlands, ponding and hydric conditions have increased on both Parks and private properties in the vicinity. Parks is working with the Stillaguamish Tribe to install pond control structures and maintain existing structures, however without a complete biological survey of the ditches and channels in the area on both public and private properties, environmental and habitat staff cannot guarantee that flooding of the road will not continue.

Staff not only observed standing water on the properties, but also wetland plants and amphibians within them. The entire site of Portage Creek Wildlife Reserve is slowly rebuilding its natural ecological processes, and adding the Typolt property will protect and allow the same natural processes to continue on an additional 17 acres of a complex creek and wetland system. Acquisition of the Typolt Property
fulfills the requirements of SCC 4.14.040 as the property will be converted to open space and will be an addition to a larger park system that provides both ecological and recreation benefits to residents of Snohomish County and the City of Arlington.
Beaver dam activity to the west of access road

Beaver trail branching to the east from flooded access road

Low flow and creek sheeting creating hydric soils on parcel 31051500201300
Beaver activity on parcel 31051500200100

Coyote in flooded area

Raccoons in flooded area
### Vacant Land Client Detail Report

**Lot:**

**Unit:**

**Property Sub Type:** Vacant Land

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**Directions:** Cemetery Rd. Access is at gravel parking area next lot west of 5423 Cemetery Rd. Go to back of parking area. Wear Rubber boots. Walk down access road cross shallow creek. Follow trail to wood bridge.

**Features:** Pasture Land, Recreational, Stream/Creek

**Marketing Remarks:** Portage Creek area. 17.6 level Acres Zoned for Agricultural. County TDR (Transfer Development Rights) Access is by easement road (gated & locked). New county wood bridge at edge of property. Beautiful area in its natural state. Currently undeveloped grassland. Excellent birding. Not a building site. No utilities, septic or well currently on this property. Potential for agricultural (possible blueberries), TDR and more. 2016-2017 Assessed Value $70,400.
Listing #: 971692

5421 Cemetery Rd, Arlington 98223

Information Deemed Reliable But Cannot Be Guaranteed.
Lot Sizes and Square Footage Are Estimates.
12/20/2015 - 1:09PM
157 Acre Wildlife Reserve
Acquired in 1995
Addition in 1996
2 Access Points
- 59th Ave NE – Visitor Parking
- Cemetery Road – Flooded Access
Portage Creek Wildlife Reserve

PORTAGE CREEK
Wildlife Area

Open Field
Parking
Park Entrance
59th Ave NE

Snhomish County Parks – Typolt Addition to Portage Creek
Conservation Futures Board Meeting
December 20, 2016
Habitat Restoration Projects supported by local volunteers
17.6 Acres
Zoned Ag-20
Shoreline Management
Amount Requested: $69,000
Asking Price: $59,950
2017 Assessment: $70,400
Current owners approached CF Board in 2015

Desire to keep property undeveloped and managed as open space
Southern Access Road

- Single point of entry for Typolt parcel
- Snohomish County and Legacy Ventures properties have additional access points
- Common ownership of 3 parties
PCWR – Current Conditions

August 4, 2016 Site Visit

- Snohomish County Parks Staff
- City of Arlington Natural Resources Staff
- Stillaguamish Tribe Natural Resources Staff
PCWR – Current Conditions

Site Visit Observations

- Bog and creek flooding
- Beaver trails in vegetation
- Woody debris and mud accumulation
Site Visit Observations

- Very low flow and stagnant water in My Creek and Portage Creek
- Wetland plants and wildlife north of mapped wetlands
• Additional beaver dams and channel collapse may be present on public and private properties
• Full biological survey needed to determine cause(s) of flooding
PCWR – Habitat Restoration
PCWR – Habitat Restoration

Snohomish County Parks – Typolt Addition to Portage Creek
Conservation Futures Board Meeting
December 20, 2016
Slide 1 – Introduction: Good afternoon board members. I am Amy Lucas a Senior Planner for Snohomish County Parks and Recreation. I’m coming before you today to request $69,000 to fund the acquisition of the Typolt parcel as an addition to the Portage Creek Wildlife Reserve. The 2017 assessment for the property is $70,400 and the owner is asking $59,950. Parks is requesting $69,000 to cover the acquisition of the parcel and all of the closing costs associated with the sale.

Slide 2 – Portage Creek Wildlife Reserve is a 157 acre nature preserve located north of the City of Arlington within the agricultural floodplains of the Stillaguamish River and Portage Creek. The original 20 acre farm was purchased from local folklore hero Gene Ammons in 1995 with the assistance of Conservation Futures funding. The additional land was acquired a year later with an existing NRCS easement on the property which was part of the Wetland Reserve Program.

Slide 3 – The reserve is located within floodplain and Shoreline Management jurisdiction and is zoned Ag-20.

Slide 4 – Parks has removed some original structures from the property and has developed a parking lot, a trail system and viewing platforms. Public access to the park is limited to a northeast entrance and parking lot off of 59th Ave NE. There is also an access road on the south side of the property that is currently inaccessible due to chronic flooding.

Slide 5 – The park contains 2 miles of trail system with interpretive signage, viewing platforms and bridges where visitors are offered a unique opportunity to view fish, birds and wildlife in an ecosystem that is slowly returning to nature.

Slide 6 – The grassy meadowlands, creek systems and supporting wetlands provide habitat for local and migrating fish and wildlife including amphibians, herons, eagles and hawks, migrating geese and swans, coho salmon and many small mammals, some of which have been captured on trail cams.

Slide 7 – Wetland and stream restoration have been performed over the last 2 decades with assistance from the Stillaguamish Tribe, the City of Arlington and Sound Salmon Solutions, formerly known as the Stilly-Snohomish Fisheries Enhancement Task Force. The site is also utilized by local school groups, Boy Scout troops and occasionally for Natural Resource classes for professional development.

Slide 8 – The proposed Typolt Addition is a 17.6 acre parcel to the east of the Portage Creek Wildlife Reserve owned by Art and Jane Typolt. It is also zoned Ag-20 and is within the Shoreline Management jurisdiction of Snohomish County.

Slide 9 – The Typolts first approached the Conservation Futures Board in 2015 to request that the board recommend to the County Council the purchase of their 17.6 acres as an addition to the Portage Creek Wildlife Reserve. The majority of the property is encumbered by a large wetland complex and is bordered by Portage Creek to the north and an irrigation ditch to the east that are supported by the wetlands.

Slide 10 – Access to the property is via the southern access road off of Cemetery Road, which is held in common ownership among Snohomish County Parks and Recreation, Legacy
Creative Ventures and the Typolts. All 3 owners share the responsibility of maintenance and repair of the access road.

**Slide 11** – Currently the southern access road is inaccessible due to flooding from My Creek and the wetlands and ponds on the southeastern portion of the Portage Creek Wildlife Reserve. Parks Staff visited the site in August along with Natural Resources staff from the City of Arlington and the Stillaguamish Tribe. Compare the top picture from the site visit with a picture from the same location in 2009 in the bottom left corner.

**Slide 12** – Staff found evidence of beaver trails, and evidence of a beaver dam in the bog and creek. During the visit, field staff was forced to wade through 3 feet of water along the access road which was flooded up to the southern intersection of the loop trail and bridge.

**Slide 13** – Flooding was also evident north of the wetland complex on the Typolt Property and field staff observed wetland plants, amphibians and standing water in the stream bed of Portage Creek. Several beavers were later captured on a trail camera that was installed by the Stillaguamish Tribe.

**Slide 14** – Subsequent GIS aerial research shows possible collapse of ditches and channels once maintained for agricultural use. Some of these channels may also have beaver dams located within them as piles of branches, leaves and mud were observed where water was still flowing, and beaver trails were apparent in the vegetation.


**Slide 16** – Parks is working with the Stillaguamish Tribe to repair pond control structures and the tribe has attempted to trap and relocate beavers in the area with no success. They will resume trapping activity in the Spring for a beaver program they have implemented to combat the watershed effects of Climate Change. Without a complete biological survey on public and private properties, natural resource and parks staff cannot guarantee that flooding of the access road will not continue.

**Slide 17** – Acquiring the Typolt parcel as an addition to the Portage Creek Wildlife sanctuary fits the goals and criteria of Snohomish County as it preserves former agricultural land as open space. The parcel will be an addition to a larger park system that provides both ecological and recreation benefits to the residents of North Snohomish County and the City of Arlington and will bring Portage Creek Wildlife Reserve to a total of 175 acres. The entire site of the Portage Creek Wildlife Reserve is slowly being restored to its natural ecological functions and adding the Typolt parcel will protect and allow the same processes to occur on an additional 17 acres of a complex wetland and creek system.