Great Peninsula Conservancy

DRAFT CONSERVATION PLAN, 2016-2021

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

History of the Conservation Program

Great Peninsula Conservancy (GPC) is an accredited land trust working to protect forever the natural habitats, rural landscapes, and open spaces of the Great Peninsula region of west Puget Sound, Washington. GPC's roots extend back to the 1980s with the formation of four local land trusts. These four land trusts merged in 2000 to create a regional land trust serving a constituency of 200,000 residents spanning Kitsap, Mason and western Pierce counties. In partnership with the communities we serve, GPC has protected over 7,000 acres of working forests, salmon streams, marine shorelines and community parks.

GPC's Conservation Program is growing rapidly, having taken either the lead or critical partner role in conserving nearly 1,300 acres of land over the last two years (2014-2015). This achievement marks an organizational shift from GPC's inception as a locally focused organization concentrating on obtaining donated land and conservation easements, to a higher-capacity regional organization identifying, developing and implementing complex conservation transactions. Meanwhile, the size of the geographic region we serve—spanning three counties—and the urgency of conserving high-priority lands before they convert to other uses, demands that we do more.

Plan Purpose

This Conservation Plan is an update and revision to GPC's 20010-2015 Conservation Plan. Its purpose is to develop a robust strategy for GPC's conservation program that can be effectively implemented to conserve high priority landscapes. Ultimately, the Conservation Plan will provide GPC's staff, Board of Directors and committees with a tool that helps identify and evaluate proposed projects in order to use our limited resources wisely. Additionally, a function of the Conservation Plan is to put GPC's priorities, our Conservation Initiatives, into a concise, understandable form that staff and the Board of Directors can communicate to the broader community.

The "Conservation Partnerships" and "Criteria for Project Selection" sections of this plan emphasize a conservation approach that evaluates, prioritizes and strategically develops successful projects. This document adheres to the Standards and Practices established by the Land Trust Alliance. Specifically, the Plan underscores our conservation priorities by describing how it is advantageous to work with willing landowners, and when appropriate, to collaborate with like-minded project partners on conservation projects. Future conservation projects will focus on priority lands and waters with high conservation value, clearly defined roles and support for land trust leadership, and potential to engage a range of project partners. In addition, priority projects will generate community support and will dovetail with current stewardship efforts onland for which we are already responsible. In this manner,

GPC can continue to expand the scope and capacity of our conservation program while fulfilling our mission.

CONSERVATION INITIATIVES

The Conservation Initiatives are the basis for a road map to conserving the most valued and threatened landscapes that best reflect the interests, concerns and needs of people who live, work and play on the Great Peninsula. This plan supports and advances the conservation program's four Conservation Initiatives. Target focus areas are set forth and the general framework for establishing priority projects is explained. Great Peninsula Conservancy's four major Conservation Initiatives are:

- Shorelines and Estuaries
- Streams and Freshwater Wetlands
- Forests
- Community Greenspaces

Shorelines and Estuaries

Shorelines, deltas and estuaries form the interface between terrestrial and marine landscapes. These nearshore ecosystems are some of the most diverse in the Puget Sound and they encompass more than 2,485 miles to inter-connect terrestrial, freshwater, estuarine, and marine systems. Due to this connectivity, the condition of nearshore habitats greatly influences the productivity of the entire Puget Sound basin. In addition, many of the ecosystem goods and services most important to our human communities are supported by nearshore ecosystems.

Streams and Freshwater Wetlands

The conservation of streams and freshwater wetlands is critical to the health of outlet coastal inlets and embayments and to recovery of anadromous fish including Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed salmon. Emphasis within this initiative will be to protect areas with healthy, high-quality habitat and to work strategically with partners to secure, and restore as needed, properties that connect and provide

access to isolated habitat, including instream, off-channel, and estuarine habitat made inaccessible by culverts, levees, or other man-made obstructions.

Forests

This conservation initiative intends to capture myriad multiple-use benefits like locally based and sustainable timber economies, jobs, recreation, cultural resources, high value habitat, carbon sequestration, and improved water quality. High priority will be given to large tracts of intact forest, forests with rare species or communities, old growth and second growth mature forest and forest with a diversity of site conditions.

Community Greenspaces

The critical challenge to creating vibrant community greenspaces is to conserve landscapes that capture the imagination of individual people in order to motivate conservation at the community level. The potential for attracting a community's interest hinges on site potential – the ability of a particular place to furnish a diverse and robust spectrum of activities. Also important is site appeal – a place's appeal to people at both a personal and social scale. Greenspaces are critical to community and individual well-being as they afford opportunities for social interaction, collaboration, outdoor classrooms and outdoor activity to enhance overall quality of life.

Great Peninsula Conservancy
Conservation Legacy

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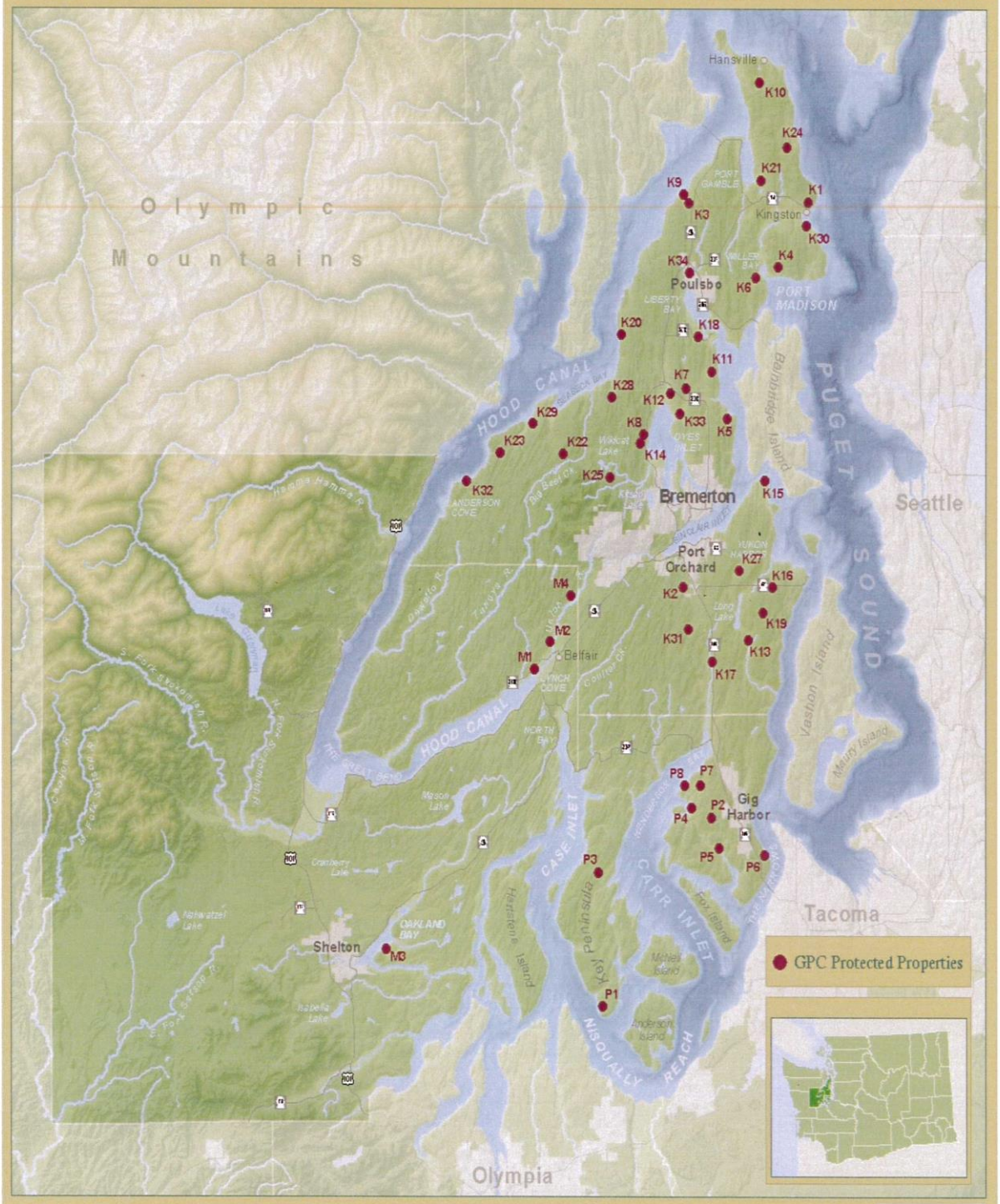

Protecting Our Lands and Waters for Generations to Come

Original Cartography Christopher Walter 2005

updated 8/2008 by TERRA GIS www.terragis.net

Conservation Legacy Map Key

		County	Date	Acreage	Ownership	Conservation Value							
						Forest	Historic	OpenSpace	Recreation	Shoreline	Stream	Wetland	Working Land
K1	Appletree Cove – Kingston Trails – PUD #1	Kitsap	1991	21.60	L	•		•	•				
K2	Sinclair Inlet – Black Jack Creek – Ruby Marsh	Kitsap	1991	19.66	C	•		•			•	•	
K3	Hood Canal – Lofall A	Kitsap	1991	18.09	C			•				•	
K4	Port Madison Bay – Indianola Greenway	Kitsap	1992	31.41 82.30	F C	•		•	•	•		•	
K5	Port Orchard Bay – Gilberton Creek	Kitsap	1992	4.12	F	•		•			•		
K6	Miller Bay – Cowling Creek Forest Preserve Hitoshi & Alice Kawahara Preserve	Kitsap	1994 2013	28.17 3.35	F F	•		•	•	•	•	•	
K7	Dyes Inlet – Clear Creek Trail & Bucklin Hill Forest	Kitsap	1994 2009	14.82 1.22 4.05	F L C	•		•	•		•		
K8	Dyes Inlet – Woods Creek	Kitsap	1995	1.80	F	•		•			•		
K9	Hood Canal – Lofall B	Kitsap	1995	1.10	F			•				•	
K10	Admiralty Inlet – Hansville Greenway	Kitsap	1995	6.70	C	•		•	•		•	•	
K11	Port Orchard Bay – Steel Creek	Kitsap	1995	0.82	F			•				•	
K12	Dyes Inlet – Barker Creek A	Kitsap	1996	9.91 10.00	F C			•			•		
K13	Colvos Passage – Olalla Creek	Kitsap	1996	10.00	F	•		•					
K14	Dyes Inlet – Chico – Eldorado Water District	Kitsap	1997	40.00	C	•							
K15	Rich Passage – Watauga Beach	Kitsap	1999	28.15	C	•					•		
K16	Yukon Harbor – Curley Creek	Kitsap	1999	7.38	C	•						•	
K17	Henderson Bay – Burley Creek	Kitsap	1999	22.04	F	•						•	
K18	Liberty Bay – Daniels Creek	Kitsap	2000	6.34	F			•			•		
K19	Yukon Harbor – Curley Creek – Banner Forest	Kitsap	2001	139.00	C	•			•			•	
K20	Hood Canal - Bangor	Kitsap	2001	8.86	C	•				•			
K21	Port Gamble Bay – Martha John Creek Grace Seman Preserve	Kitsap	2001 2012	7.00 34.14	C F	•		•			•	•	
K22	Hood Canal – Smalser Refuge Big Beef Creek Salmon Sanctuary	Kitsap	2001 2011	21.31 9.82	C F	•		•			•	•	
K23	Hood Canal – Guillemot Cove Park	Kitsap	2002	24.55	T	•		•	•		•		
K24	Rolling Bay – Silver Creek - Eglon	Kitsap	2002	20.00	F	•		•			•		
K25	Dyes Inlet – Chico Creek & Ueland Tree Farm (FSC)	Kitsap	2004	2073.00	A	•		•	•		•		•
K26	Yukon Harbor – Curley Creek – Curley Creek Estuary	Kitsap	2004	17.62	F					•	•		
K27	Yukon Harbor – Salmonberry Creek	Kitsap	2004	21.60	C			•			•	•	
K28	Hood Canal – Little Anderson Creek	Kitsap	2004	10.00	F	•					•		
K29	Hood Canal – Stavis Bay	Kitsap	2005	24.72	A	•		•		•			
K30	Appletree Cove - Kingston	Kitsap	2005	2.70	F	•				•	•		
K31	Sinclair Inlet – Black Jack Creek	Kitsap	2006	9.67	F	•					•	•	
K32	Hood Canal – Harding Creek Tidelands & Tekiu Point	Kitsap	2006 2010	4.95 7.00	F C	•		•		•			•
K33	Dyes Inlet – Barker Creek B	Kitsap	2008	7.80	C	•		•			•		
K34	Liberty Bay – Dogfish Creek - Fish Park	Kitsap	2008	7.43	T			•	•		•	•	
M1	Hood Canal – Lynch Cove – Klingel/Bryan/Beard Refuge	Mason	1985 1988	86.03 3.90	F C			•		•		•	
M2	Hood Canal – Union River – Davis Farm	Mason	1994	146.93	C	•					•		•
M3	Oakland Bay – Chapman Cove – Brewer Preserve	Mason	1999	1.00	F	•				•			•
M4	Hood Canal – Union River - Bear Creek Preserve & Tahuya Legacy Forest	Mason	2008 2009	9.07 2100	F A	•			•		•		•
P1	Nisqually Reach – Johnson South Sound Refuge Devil's Head & Taylor Bay Filucy Bay Preserve	Pierce	1986 1986 2008 2013	25.81 42.55 133.00 46.08	F C A F	•		•		•	•	•	
P2	Wollochet Bay – Rosedale – Ellis/Reed Forest	Pierce	1990 2008	202.93	C	•		•				•	•
P3	Henderson Bay – Home	Pierce	1995 1993	2.50 79.15	F C	•	•	•					•
P4	Henderson Bay – Rosedale – Lay Wildrose Preserve	Pierce	1996	3.82	F			•		•			
P5	Wollochet Bay – Gig Harbor – Wollochet Estuary	Pierce	2002 1998	1.50 31.73	F C			•		•			
P6	Tacoma Narrows – Gig Harbor	Pierce	2000	16.00	C	•		•		•			•
P7	Henderson Bay – Rosedale – Sehmel Homestead Park	Pierce	2002	75.00	C	•	•	•	•			•	
P8	Henderson Bay – Rosedale	Pierce	2005	26.70	C	•		•		•			

Ownership Key

GPC conserves lands using a variety of conservation tools.

Assist (A): GPC assists other agencies/organizations with land protection. This may include Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Certification which insures the sustainable management of working forests.
Total Acres: 4330.72

Conservation Easement (C): Permanent restrictions placed on the land to protect conservation values. GPC monitors these lands but does not have ownership. **Total Acres: 1053.79**

Fee Ownership (F): These lands are owned and monitored by GPC. **Total Acres: 418.59**

Trail License (L): Allows GPC to install and maintain a public trail across private or public lands. **Total Acres: 22.82**

Transfer (T): Lands protected by GPC and transferred to another organization/agency for conservation. **Total Acres: 31.98**

Total All Acres: 5,857.90

Conservation Value Key

GPC protects lands that possess conservation values including:

Forest: Helps maintain water quality, limits erosion, processes carbon dioxide, and protects animal habitats.

Historic: Protects the character of our communities and helps people maintain connections with the past.

Open Space: Helps prevent soil erosion and filters rainwater, also provides wildlife habitat and undeveloped vistas.

Recreation: Provides opportunity for relaxation and enjoyment of natural environments.

Shoreline: Serves as natural buffer, safeguards water quality, and provides wildlife habitat.

Stream: Provides habitat for fish and other wildlife, and safeguards water quality.

Wetland: Protects and improves water quality, helps control flooding and erosion, and provides habitat for terrestrial and aquatic wildlife.

Working Land: Working land (e.g. farmland, shellfish bed, forestry land) allows responsible management of lands to sustain local economies.

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GREAT PENINSULA CONSERVANCY MISSION

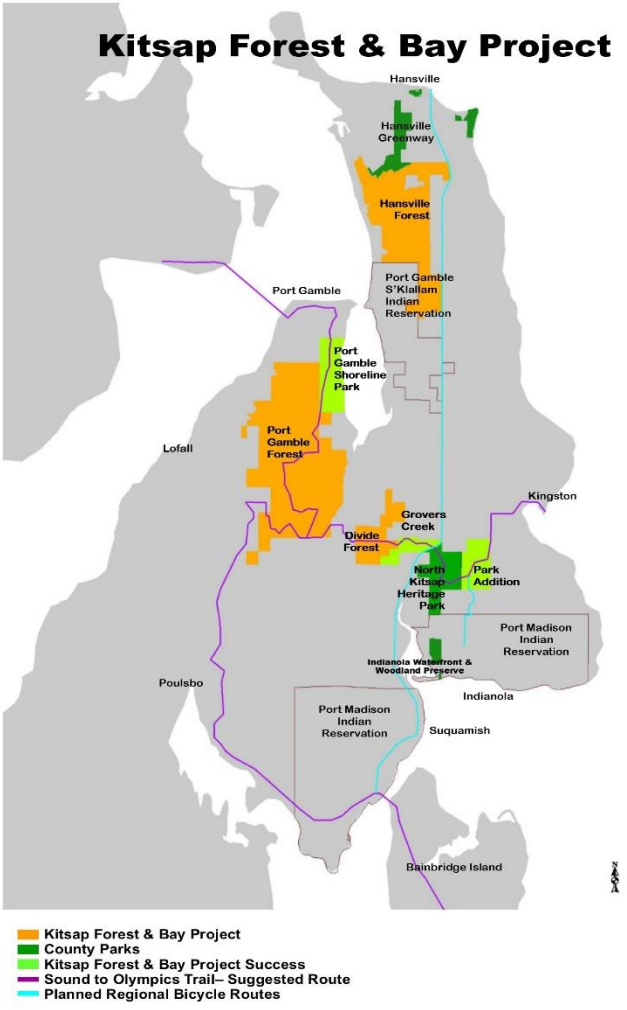
Protecting forever the natural habitats, rural landscapes and open spaces of the Great Peninsula.

CONSERVATION GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Conservation Goals

To conserve important and threatened lands on the Great Peninsula we will:

- Work with partners to conserve remaining lands in the Kitsap Forest & Bay Project
- Develop and implement GPC's Shoreline and Estuary Initiative within North Kitsap, Hood Canal and Key Peninsula
- Expand GPC's Forest Initiative to protect priority working forest lands and establish community-managed forests in Kitsap, North Mason and South Sound
- Expand GPC's Stream and Freshwater Wetland Initiative to protect and restore conservation lands in priority watersheds
- Engage with community groups to undertake conservation projects of high community value in GPC's Community Greenspace Initiative
- Expand strategic partnerships and alliances that enhance and accelerate successful conservation outcomes within our geography and our communities



Six Year Objectives

1. **Working with partners, conserve remaining lands in the Kitsap Forest & Bay Project**
   a. Complete GPC's Grovers Creek Preserve through conservation of an additional 1½ miles of stream and 110 acres of land outside KFBP boundaries
   b. Partner with Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe to place a conservation easement on Port Gamble Forest land to be acquired by the tribe through Navy U & A mitigation funding
   c. Assist Kitsap County and other KFBP partners in a community campaign to raise funds to purchase remaining Port Gamble Forest land
   d. Continue to provide leadership and support through the Kitsap Forest & Bay Coalition to achieve the goals of the Kitsap Forest and Bay Project
2. **Develop and implement GPC's Shoreline and Estuary Initiative within North Kitsap, Hood Canal and Key Peninsula**
   a. Give high priority to shorelines and estuaries that are intact or can be restored to historic or near historic conditions
   b. Focus conservation at the priority drift cell scale based on existing and pending assessments of South Sound, Hood Canal and East Kitsap shorelines
   c. Map out priorities comprehensively using Geographic Information System (GIS) as a guide for targeted focus
   d. Seek opportunities to provide public access to shorelines for compatible recreation on conserved lands as appropriate
   e. Secure funding and complete Filucy Bay Project to conserve over 100 acres and over 1 mile of intact estuarine shoreline
   f. Establish strategic South Sound partnerships to support protection and restoration of Alliance for Healthy South Sound's designated Shellfish Protection Districts using GPC's Filucy Bay Project as a model
   g. Support protection of Department of Natural Resources' conservation priorities within the expanded Stavis Natural Resource Conservation Area
   h. Work collaboratively and independently to develop and implement regional and local protection and restoration priorities in support of WALT's Shoreline Conservation Collaborative
3. **Expand GPC's Forest Initiative to protect priority working forest lands and establish community-managed forests in Kitsap, North Mason and South Sound**
   a. Give high priority to forests of high site class and mature, diverse forest cover; large tracts of intact forest; forests at the urban edge under threat of conversion to residential development; headwater forests; continuous forested wildlife corridors and forests with a diversity of habitats and edge conditions

b. Partner with Trust for Public Land and others to conserve working forest properties within the Gamble, Dewatto and Tahuya watersheds
c. Advocate for and continue to pursue opportunities to develop and implement community-owned and community-managed forests of regional and local value and significance
d. Secure foundation grants to advance GPC's Forest Initiative through partnerships to develop forest management plans and facilitate community engagement and oversight of community forests

4. Expand GPC's Stream and Freshwater Wetland Initiative to protect and restore conservation lands in priority watersheds

a. Building on prior GPC investments and working with partners, develop and implement protection and restoration projects in watersheds of highest regional and local priority for salmon recovery and ecosystem sustainability
b. Identify highest priority wetland systems and engage partners in their protection and restoration through mitigation banking and Hood Canal Coordinating Council's In-Lieu Fee mitigation program
c. Conserve watersheds from headwater forests to the bay with an emphasis on protecting and restoring lands of critical importance for habitat connectivity and habitat forming processes

5. Engage with community groups to undertake conservation projects of high community value in GPC's Community Greenspace Initiative

a. In response to community needs and in partnership with community groups, protect cherished community greenspaces with significant value for wildlife and biodiversity, opportunities for passive recreation and trails, and high risk of conversion to incompatible land uses
b. Identify and protect properties with potential to engage new communities in the outdoors. Priority will be based on the following criteria:
    - areas that lack people-centered, publicly accessible outdoor areas within ½ mile of underserved populations,
    - protects distinctive 'sense of place' within the community by: conserving rural landscape, quality of life, views and scenic places and fostering an appreciation of natural, historical and cultural heritage
    - high existing and/or potential community involvement
    - helps foster a sense of community, local pride and engagement
    - high community value as open space for trails and passive recreation, access to water or scenic views, and/or opportunities for wildlife viewing
    - the landscape has the potential to connect people, especially people with limited access to or familiarity with the outdoors, with the land

- provides a place for people of all generations to get together, exercise and interact

6. **Expand strategic partnerships and alliances that enhance and accelerate successful conservation outcomes within our geography and our communities.**

STRATEGIC DIRECTION

This strategic direction's primary goal is to enhance Great Peninsula Conservancy's role in advancing larger scale projects of regional significance. This will catalyze community recognition and support of GPC as a regional land trust with capacity to be active throughout the entirety of our geographic region. It seeks to provide a directional framework that informs how and where our land trust dedicates resources to conserve landscapes that are local and regional priorities. Another goal for this plan is to lay out a strategy for increasing our organizational capacity to develop and effectively implement our essential conservation work. The strategic direction is underpinned by our **Criteria for Project Selection** (Appendix 1.)

1. *A commitment to full project life cycle* including feasibility and assessment reports, restoration project design, implementation and stewardship. In addition, a programmatic expansion from a focus on land acquisition to restoration within GPC's stewardship program. Curley Creek feasibility report (SRFB 2015-2016) and Union River-Beards Cove restoration completed in 2015 under the stewardship program are examples of this work.
2. *Nexus and anchor project selection and development* – Intentional target selection and development of anchor projects within a watershed or drift cell landscape context. These projects are characteristically:
    - Fundable and competitive for grants at a regional scale
    - Provide leverage to expand conservation scope at a landscape scale by being intrinsically compelling to local communities
    - Provide leverage through match and/or RCO Waiver of Retroactivity (donated lands),
    - Act as a nexus for expansion into a multiple parcel acquisition project
    - Provide benefits at multiple scales when nested as a smaller scale project within a larger project framework in support of strategic partnerships (example- Grovers Creek Preserve 2015 within the Kitsap Forest and Bay Project) and
    - Serve to advance a larger project or initiative such as the Kitsap Forest and Bay Project, Washington Association of Land Trusts' Shoreline Conservation Collaborative or the Navy's Readiness and Environmental Protection Initiative.

3. *Multiple Parcel Conservation Projects within a watershed and drift cell setting*- these projects are often times developed from an anchor project. Another approach is to seek funding independently for larger landscape-scale projects that achieve significant conservation outcomes within priority watersheds and drift cells. These projects provide significant lift ecologically, as well as providing essential staff and programmatic capacity over a two to three year period.
4. *Strategic Alliances and Partnerships* provide opportunities to work collaboratively on conservation projects and programming of common interest. Other opportunities include coat-tailing on larger-scale conservation projects that would otherwise be beyond the current capacity of GPC.

CONSERVATION INITIATIVE FOCUS AREAS

GPC staff, our project partners and the Board of Directors have identified four Conservation Initiatives as our highest priority for conservation:

- **Shorelines and Estuaries**
- **Streams and Freshwater Wetlands**
- **Forests**
- **Community Greenspaces**

In keeping with the Conservation Goal and Strategies, GPC's Conservation Program will focus staff time and financial resources on these Conservation Initiatives. Developing the resources to fully engage in implementation of these initiatives is challenging and to support our efforts, GPC strives to create durable partnerships in the community to plan, implement, fund, complete, and steward all conservation projects. Importantly, these partnerships facilitate community support, creative financing, and long-term stewardship of projects in order to achieve successful conservation outcomes.

SHORELINES AND ESTUARIES

Focus Areas

- Intact Drift Cells and Reaches

- Embayments and Coastal Inlets
- Estuaries
- Shoreline Access

Needs Assessment

Nearshore ecosystems are defined as those ecosystems within a narrow strip where the land and streams meet the sea. The Nearshore extends from the water-ward depth of light penetration, estimated as 10 meters below the mean high water mark, across the shoreline to the uplands that directly influence the shore. Uplands that directly influence the shore, or are influenced by the shoreline, are estimated as 200 meters landward of the shoreline. In addition, the nearshore includes streams and rivers to the upstream extent of tidal influence, and their riparian areas.

The health and biodiversity of Puget Sound relies on continued efforts to protect and restore the least degraded and intact nearshore habitat. The nearshore provides food, refuge, migration routes, breeding and nursing areas for marine life. Nearshore habitat supports invaluable biodiversity including more than 220 species of fish, 26 kinds of marine mammals, 100 species of birds and 1000s of species of marine invertebrates (Trust for Public Land –Puget Sound Shoreline Strategy 2012). Nine out of ten species listed by the federal government as endangered or threatened within the Puget Sound region use or inhabit the nearshore environment. These habitats also sustain shoreline related industries such as fisheries, shellfish growing, tourism and recreation vital for the sustainability of local and regional economies.

By concentrating our conservation efforts on priority drift cells called out in nearshore assessments, our objective is to conserve the diversity of habitats and habitat sustaining processes that are comparatively intact and healthy. Our conservation efforts will encompass conservation of priority habitats embedded within a landscape scale that includes:

- Nearshore habitat from tidelands to riparian uplands above feeder bluffs
- Drift cell habitats including feeder bluffs, beaches, and accretion habitats
- Associated coastal shore forms such small barrier lagoons, closed lagoons/marshes, pocket estuaries
- Embayments and coastal inlets assigned high protection potential within PSNERP Strategy 2012
- Estuaries at the head of coastal inlets and embayments

According to the Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Project, only 112 of 828 natural shoreline segments have no stressor associated with them. In fact, armoring is found in 78% of shoreline segments and along 27% of the shoreline of Puget Sound (Technical Report 2011-03). The Trust for Public Land's GIS experts conducted a regional spatial analysis to determine the amount of publicly accessible shoreline in relation to percentage of the region's population with access within a half-mile radius of their home. The results show that only 8% of the people in Mason, 4% of the people in Pierce and 14.5% of people in Kitsap counties have readily available shoreline access. If steps are not taken to increase public access as population increases, there will be additional pressure on existing public access points. The Washington Office of Financial Management has projected population changes across all counties in the state. Their middle-ground estimate is that population in Kitsap will increase by approximately 8%, Mason by approximately 8% and Pierce by approximately %6 by [year]. That equates to approximately 80,000 more people vying for the same small percentage of public access points across these three west Puget Sound counties

Intact Drift Cells and Reaches

A drift cell, or littoral cell, is a segment of shoreline that encompasses a single system of sediment input, transport and deposition. Not only are the structure of beaches within a drift cell strongly affected by sediment input and transport processes, but the spawning ability for salmonids and feeder fish are effected as well (PSNERP 2010). With extensive bulkheading at the base of feeder bluffs and banks, the protection of intact or minimally degraded feeder bluffs is critical to the health of drift cells as these bluffs provide the sediment that nourishes healthy beaches, spits and other habitats reliant on sediment transport in tidal areas. The land trust will conserve associated upland property based on connectivity of shoreline to upland especially where permanent or intermittent streams outlet into nearshore areas. GPC will focus conservation efforts on those drift cells that are assigned as having High Protection Potential within PSNERPs 2012 Strategies for Nearshore Protection and Restoration in Puget Sound.

Embayments and Coastal Inlets

The PSNERP divides embayments into four main categories: Open Coastal Inlet, Barrier Lagoon, Closed Lagoons and Marshes and Barrier Estuary. A large number of the embayments on Puget Sound are formed and enclosed by barrier beaches, emphasizing an important geomorphological relationship between the wave-dominated beach environments and small protected estuarine environments (Shipman 2008). GPC will focus conservation efforts on those embayments and coastal inlets that are assigned as having High Protection Potential within PSNERPs 2012 Strategies for Nearshore Protection and Restoration in Puget Sound.

Estuaries

Estuaries are transition zones between land and sea. They are found in sheltered bays, inlets, and lagoons where freshwater rivers and streams meet and mix with the salt water, forming a melting pot of organic and mineral nutrients. The nutrient-rich soup of the estuary nourishes plankton and plants which, in turn, nourish oysters, clams, crabs, salmon, and birds. Primary focus for conservation of nearshore ecosystems will be on identifying shoreline segments with little to no stress or disturbance in Mason, Kitsap and west Pierce counties. The general framework for establishing projects will specifically emphasize creating and maintaining connectivity amongst the drift cells, reaches, and embayments which support critical species while maintaining and/ or increasing shoreline access for recreation and sustainable economic uses.

Shoreline Public Access

It is widely recognized that exploration of inlets, rocky headlands, salt marshes and beaches is a wonderful reason to call the Puget Sound home. Millions of people travel to the Puget Sound annually which drives a strong tourist industry. In 2013, the Trust for Public Land published the Puget Sound Shoreline Strategy Update wherein they recognize several key factors that will significantly affect future efforts to conserve shoreline access; population growth, sea level rise due to climate change, and waterfront real-estate demand. Protecting public access to the State's shorelines is a target focus area for Great Peninsula Conservancy.

PROPOSED MEASURES

As an active participant within the WALT (Washington Association of Land Trusts) Shoreline Conservation Collaborative, Great Peninsula Conservancy is in the process of identifying target priority shoreline to remedy a growing deficit of public access to shorelines particularly within Kitsap and Mason counties. Our primary strategy for enhancing public access will be to work within the collaborative relying on TPL GIS mapping to identify priority acquisition areas in specific local areas within Mason and Kitsap County that currently have a scarcity of shoreline access. We will also look to

provide greater access for local underserved areas with higher density population and/or greater projected population growth and development pressures.

Primary and Secondary Strategy

The objectives of our Shoreline and Estuary Initiative is to place priority primarily on protection of intact habitat and secondarily on restoring habitat that has been minimally impacted or can be restored passively through removal of fill, dikes or levees. "Protection of existing unimpaired systems is more effective and efficient then restoration of impaired systems… Restoration is recommended for sites where indicators of degradation suggest the opportunity to substantively increase ecosystem services through restoration, but where degradation is not so complex or intense that recovery of self-sustaining and resilient ecosystem services becomes unlikely (PSNERP Strategies 2012)".
GPC's Conservation Program will endeavor to pursue projects that afford, either separately or concurrently, protection and restoration opportunities. Restoration projects will involve joint coordination between GPC's Conservation and Stewardship programs. The Stewardship Program will provide project oversight and management from inception through third party restoration, ongoing monitoring, and stewardship after restoration is complete. Priority is placed on projects that are local and have significant community interest and regional impacts. Our conservation strategy will focus on priority habitats as called out through GIS synthesis and peer reviewed nearshore assessments.

STREAMS AND FRESHWATER WETLANDS

Focus Areas

- Intact Watersheds with Headwaters to Bay connectivity
- Riparian Corridors
- Intact Freshwater Wetlands

Needs Assessment

The Puget Sound Basin is comprised of at least 11 major watersheds. Watersheds include upland headwater wetlands, forested slopes, and riparian floodplain habitat. Headwater wetlands provide recharge that contributes to underlying hydrology and health of lower elevation floodplains and wetlands and eventually estuaries where fresh water mixes with salt water in the Puget Sound. Connectivity between riparian areas and uplands provide habitat critical to the conservation of amphibians. Connectivity between main stem and tributary riparian corridors provide shade, food and uninterrupted passage for migratory fish, birds and invertebrates, including federally listed salmon.

Watersheds are negatively affected when the frequency and intensity and the volume of stormwater runoff increases. Peak stream flows spike when natural cover is removed from developing areas for conversion to parking lots, roads and buildings. When this occurs, in stream habitat is further degraded as greater volumes of water and higher levels of pollution are carried from land surfaces to receiving

streams, lakes, and wetlands. Just a few of the cumulative effects of impervious surface leads to eroded stream banks and reduced water quality downstream.

Residential development that is currently allowed under current zoning could lead to deforestation, and increased impervious surface and road density, all of which could degrade the watershed beyond a reparable threshold. Instream physical habitat conditions and the aquatic community generally show rapid decreases in quality and in the numbers and species of fish and insects as basin impervious surface increases to around 10 percent.

Intact Watersheds with Headwaters to Bay Connectivity

Priority in our Stream and Freshwater wetlands initiative is on the protection of associated priority watersheds at a landscape scale. Designation as a priority watershed is based on a synthesis of regional and local assessments and acknowledged importance for recovery of threatened and/or multiple salmonid species by lead entities (West Sound Watersheds Council, Alliance for a Healthy South Sound and Hood Canal Coordinating Council). They also meet the following conditions and criteria for adoption as high priorities. Priority watersheds:

- Contain low percentages of disturbed landscape and proportionately higher percentage of riparian and upland forest cover
- Provide critical contiguous and connected habitat for birds, invertebrates, amphibians, ESA-listed anadromous fish and multiple salmonid species
- Have evidence of high terrestrial and hydrologic connectivity between upland areas, lowland wetlands and main-stem riparian corridors
- Outlet into intact estuarine habitat within coastal inlets and embayments
- Contain intact headwater forested areas that, through aquifer recharge and surface tributaries, contribute to recharge and or discharge of water to the overall system.

Riparian Corridors and Reaches

Natural riparian zones are some of the most diverse, dynamic, and complex biophysical habitats on the terrestrial portion of the planet (184, 185). Although riparian areas constitute less than two percent of all terrestrial systems, they are functionally one of the most significant. Riparian corridors exert a disproportionate influence on hydrologic activities, fisheries, water quality, and wildlife by offering feeding, reproduction, and refuge for invertebrates, fish, waterfowl, amphibians, birds, and mammals. In addition, they have a significant influence on instream habitat. Depending on the type, extent, and density of riparian vegetation, riparian areas may provide shade, improve water quality, store and ameliorate water discharge and contribute large woody debris to increase channel complexity (WDFW, *Aquatic Habitat Guidelines*). Intact streams supply nutrients and detritus that sustain the biological productivity of downstream estuaries and coastal inlets.

Freshwater Wetlands

Wetlands are landscapes defined by water inundation for a period of time long enough to produce hydric soils and water adapted plants. Wetlands are protected as a valuable resource because of the many ecosystem services they provide. Freshwater wetlands provide flood control, groundwater recharge, mitigate pollution and sediment load during storm events.

METHODS PROPOSED

Emphasis within this initiative will be to protect areas with healthy, high-quality habitat. In addition, emphasis is placed on preventing further degradation by strategically securing properties that connect fragmented habitat, including instream, off-channel, and estuarine habitat made inaccessible by culverts, levees, or other man-made obstructions (Roni et al 2002). The primary objective of this initiative is to proactively identify target projects that can provide impetus and momentum to engage stakeholders on large scale efforts. In partnership, GPC can develop, fund and implement riparian corridor projects as a local match and leverage funds to participate on larger scale projects.

The primary objective of this initiative is to proactively identify target projects that can provide impetus and/or leverage to engage on larger scale efforts within a priority watershed.

The following watersheds are called out as high priority watersheds in multiple local and regional assessments and provide a framework for continuing and future projects:

- *North Kitsap* – Miller Bay basin-Grovers and Cowling creeks; Port Gamble Bay basin - Martha John and Gamble Creeks
- *East Kitsap* - Chico, Blackjack and Curley creeks
- *Hood Canal* - Big Beef and Stavis creeks; DeWatto, Tahuya and Union rivers
- *South Sound* – Coulter, Rocky, Minter-Huge creeks.

FORESTS INITIATIVE

Focus Areas

- Working Forests
- Wildlife Corridors
- Community Forests

Needs Assessment

Due to its small geographic range while being in close proximity to major employment centers, Kitsap County is the third most densely populated county in Washington State (Kitsap County Department of Community Development 2006). From 1970 to 2000, the population increased from 100,000 to 230,000 people and is expected to grow by 43% in the next 20 years to add another 100,000 people (Kuttle 2003, Puget Sound Partnership North Central Puget Sound Profile 2008). Of all the Water Resource Inventory Areas, Kitsap County and a portion of West Pierce County, are at the greatest risk of conversion from forest to non-forest use with a projected 21-40% conversion between now and 2050. Of Kitsap County's private forestland acres, 59.10% have positive conversion risk value, placing it 3rd among all Western Washington counties behind Island and San Juan counties (NW Environmental Forum, RTI 2009).

The Great Peninsula is distinguished by large continuous blocks of forest lands but these tracts are in jeopardy due to high population growth and its associated land conversion via development. The threat is greatest at the boundaries of urban growth areas such as Gig Harbor, Port Orchard, Bremerton, Silverdale, Poulsbo, and Kingston. In order to offset these pressures, we need to act quickly to identify and conserve priority working forest lands that meet our priority criterion of retaining large upland forest corridors and conserving forest lands at high risk of conversion. Conservation of Kitsap County working forests will protect the multiple benefits of habitat, recreation and employment.

These spectacular forests provide myriad ecological services, including clean air and water, conservation of biodiversity, and carbon sequestration. These forests are matchless in their ability to help limit climate change, by removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Carefully-managed forests may also provide valuable forest products and sustain livelihoods that are important to the local economy. Additionally, forests provide opportunities for outdoor recreation and scenic landscapes that help sustain local communities.

Working Forests

Priority working forests at high risk of conversion to residential development are: of significant scale, under singular ownership and have high site productivity. These forests are at high risk of conversion due to reduction in local support infrastructure and high proportionate value of the land for

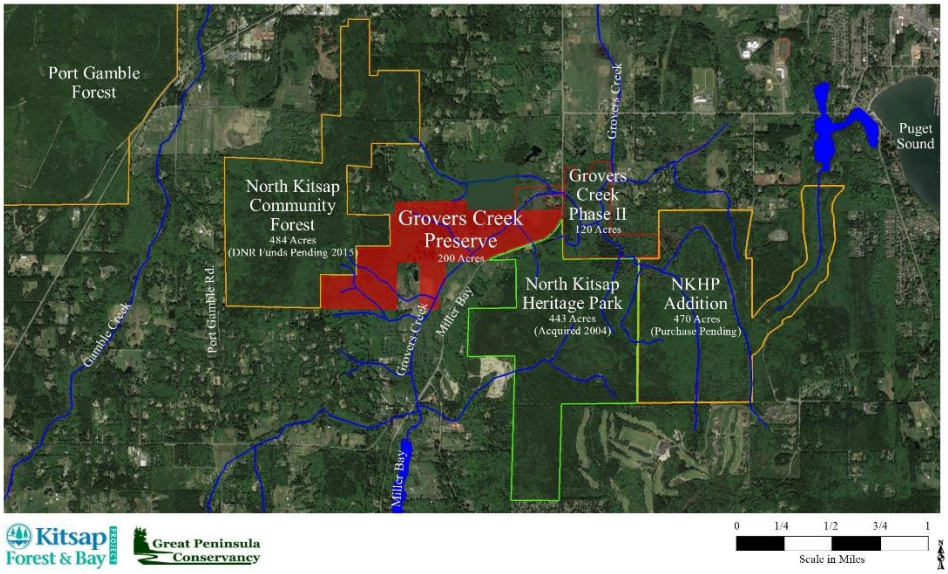
development. These areas are often interconnected with other public and private forests, affording opportunities for conservation of wildlife corridors and development of open space corridors.

Wildlife Corridors

In The Nature Conservancy's Assessment of the Puget Trough Ecoregion, the Kitsap Peninsula is ranked high in biological diversity due to the existence of large contiguous blocks of forest (March 2004). Protecting and restoring landscape connectivity of the Great Peninsula's forests is a primary conservation strategy for preserving basin-wide scale ecological processes and biodiversity. Wildlife corridors link contiguous areas having a low degree of fragmentation from urban, residential and industrial and transportation infrastructure.

Wildlife corridors support a wide diversity of anadromous fish, birds, amphibians and mammal species during all their life stages. These life stages include:

- Anadromous fish – that migrate and inhabit riparian corridors, associated floodplains and side channel habitat to meet life cycle needs,
- Birds – foraging, roosting, refuge and nesting habitat for a variety of species including migratory neo-tropicals, resident passerine birds and raptors,
- Amphibians – riparian migratory corridors, floodplain and emergent wetland open water areas for breeding and rearing habitats for amphibians, and
- Mammals – diverse habitats and a large enough wildlife corridor to support foraging and breeding for small and large mammals.



Community Forests

Given the conversion risk of Great Peninsula forests, the community forest model is ideally suited to advance forest conservation at the urban edge. An ideal Community Forest will demonstrate sustainable timber, recreation, cultural resources, high value habitat, carbon sequestration, and improved water quality. High priority will be given to large tracts of intact forest with a diversity of patch and edge conditions, old growth and second growth mature forest, forests with diverse canopy type and structure and forests with rare species.

In the identification and development of a community forest the following criteria will be considered as they have a direct bearing on the long term sustainability of the forest. These criteria are:

- Community access - secure and reliable access to multiple forest benefits that reflect community priorities
- Community engagement in forest management and stewardship
- Revenue generation- to advance and sustain forest management objectives to improve timber productivity, ecological integrity and habitat value of the forest
- Ecosystem services – the forest provides a full suite of ecosystem services including carbon storage, water recharge and discharge, erosion control and canopy cover
- Wildlife Corridor – connectivity of the forest with other public and private forests, as well as overall habitat diversity
- Recreational Use - regional and non-motorized shared use trail and local non-motorized trails for compatible passive recreational use (biking, walking, hiking and wildlife viewing)
- Cultural and heritage use – tribal cultural use of forests including medicinal, artisanal, craft and building use

METHODS PROPOSED

The primary goal of Great Peninsula Conservancy's Forest Initiative is to protect large continuous blocks of forest with habitat and community value. Priority will be placed on conservation of working forests at the greatest risk of conversion to residential development. In addition, GPC will identify, develop, and conserve a pilot community forest within our geographic range.

The long term strategic focus of this Initiative is to:

- Conserve those working forest resource lands that are under the greatest threat of conversion to residential development
- Protect forest resource lands that have high site productivity, externalize economic benefit of ecosystem services by creating a local market for carbon credits
- Protect critical water resources on forest land including aquifer recharge, groundwater supply and contribution to stream base flow to support salmon recovery

- Target, develop and conserve a community forest that engages a community in provision of a full suite of benefits including wildlife habitat, ecosystem services, recreation, employment, and timber products
- Create a community forest as a pilot project with a replicable approach to development and a transferrable model management approach transferrable to other regional forests

COMMUNITY GREENSPACES

Focus Areas

- Community Open Spaces and Greenbelts
- Community Gathering Places
- Water Trails

Needs Assessment

The critical challenge to creating vibrant community greenspaces is to conserve landscapes that capture the imagination of individual people and compel engagement and participation at a community scale. The potential for capturing a community's interest hinges on *site potential* – the ability of a particular place to furnish a diverse and robust spectrum of activities, and *site appeal*- a place's appeal to people at both a personal and social scale within a cultural and familial frame of reference.

A carefully chosen and programmed greenspace will foster a person and community's sense of belonging and will express and give purpose and quality to one's life. These places are rich in specific narratives and histories that form the basis of cultural identity and attachment (Basso 1997, Davenport and Anderson 2005).

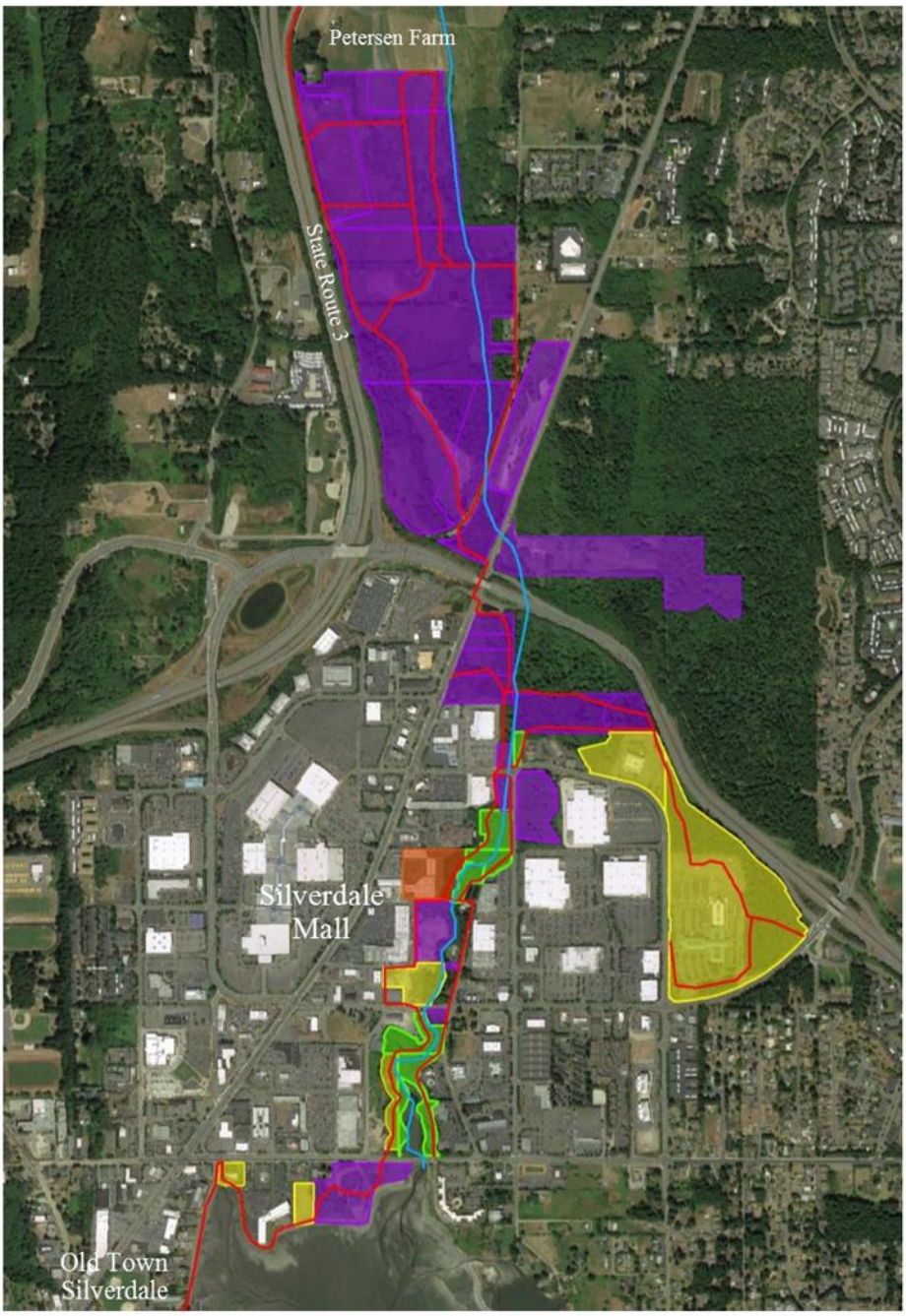
Community Open Spaces and Greenbelts

Undeveloped open space provides a regional linkage between local communities as well as a connection between public parks, schools, transportation infrastructure and cohesive natural areas. This type of open space promotes well-being in the provision of bicycle and hiking trails, access to

habitat for wildlife viewing and shoreline and stream access. The criteria for identifying priority open space corridors are:

- Large undeveloped private properties adjacent to existing parks and preserves, cultural and community lands
- Contiguous property with a high degree of connectivity with anchor /nexus projects within a watershed or drift cell landscape setting
- Conservation of critical lands subject to high risk of conversion that would otherwise fragment and disturb an existing corridor irreparably
- Large scale sites that if developed would have high impact of downstream, downslope or connected landscapes
- Greenbelts and view sheds that highly visible from frequented places and transportation corridors

Clear Creek Trail Property Ownership



Great Peninsula Conservancy

This map was created from existing map sources, and is not a substitute for a field survey. The data are to be used for reference purposes only. The user of this map assumes responsibility for determining its suitability for intended use.

- County-Owned Properties
- GPC Fee-owned Properties
- GPC Trail Easement Properties
- GPC Trail License Agreement Properties
- Trail
- Clear Creek

0 1/4 1/2
Miles

Community Gathering Places

Great Peninsula Conservancy wants to expand the greenspace program to include outdoor areas that provide high social benefit and are intensively used. Project types might include:

- Community gardens
- Pocket parks
- Small neighborhood open spaces/shoreline access created from abandoned rights of way
- Accessible greens that accommodate community events, gatherings and performances

Within a fabric of a more urban community setting these type of projects might be located within a 10 minute walk from each other and meet a minimum size threshold based on use provision, context and available scale (TPL, Alexander 1977). These types of gathering places could also be part of a fabric of interconnected parks system and open space. The greatest opportunity for this type of community greenspace is within neighborhoods of rapidly urbanizing areas where there are proportionately higher rates of development in relation to available greenspace. Communities such as Gig Harbor and East Bremerton would meet these criteria. Great Peninsula Conservancy will assess other candidate areas based on demographic analysis including Office of Financial Management population projections and GIS.

Water Trails

In 2012, the Department of the Interior created the National Water Trails System to launch “a new network of exemplary water trails that will increase access to water-based recreation, encourage community stewardship of local waterways and promote tourism that fuels local economies across America”. This National Water Trails System is administered by the National Parks Service. The Kitsap Peninsula Water Trail- a network of 79 locations where paddlers can launch vessels, take breaks or camp-was designated a national water trail by the National Park service in June, 2014 and is a segment of the Cascadia Marine Trail. Pierce County is currently looking to create a similar system of water trails. This boosts both County’s profile as a national recreational destination for kayakers, canoers and paddle boarders.

METHODS PROPOSED

The purpose of our Community Greenspace Initiative is to identify and conserve properties that will foster a greater love of the land, nature and natural resources through recreation, education, and community programming. A high priority Community Greenspace will possess the following qualities:

- Provide public access and open space for trails and passive recreation,
- Enhance a sense of belonging and foster a sense of community and local pride,

- Protect *a distinctive 'sense of place'* within the community by: conserving rural landscapes, quality of life, views and scenic places and while fostering an appreciation of natural, historical and cultural heritage
- Enable personal and social connection referentially through heritage, knowledge, stories and storytelling
- Offer multiple avenues for *active engagement through* passive recreation, exercise, stewardship, place based education and outdoor classrooms
- Will evolve as *a highly valued place within the community for people of all generations- a "third place"* to get together, exercise and interact

A high priority Community Greenspace will be located in proximity to:

- areas that lack people-centered, publicly accessible outdoor areas within ½ mile of underserved populations
- .5 miles of existing public facilities (school, youth facility, church/religious group, town or municipal buildings, park and ride/transit center)
- water or scenic views, and/or opportunities for wildlife viewing
- landscapes with high ecological integrity and habitat value
- a robust setting for outdoor classroom(s) to engage the community in hands on place-based experiential learning.

GPC would work closely with cities, counties and Parks and Recreation districts such as City of Bremerton, City of Gig Harbor, and City of Poulsbo. In addition, GPC will seek partnerships with Kitsap, Pierce and Mason counties, and Key Peninsula Parks and Peninsula Metropolitan Parks districts to identify priorities and draw upon existing assessments for guidance. Examples of guiding assessments include "Looking for Linkage" (Kitsap County 2014), "Pierce County Public Recreation and Open Space Plan 2015", "City of Gig Harbor 2010" and the "PenMet PROS Plan 2006". We will seek out partnership opportunities that provide reciprocal benefit to support GPC capacity and have existing context or project potential for high levels of community engagement and contribution.

Outreach, conservation and stewardship are the three key tenets supporting the Community Greenspace Initiative. Outreach will be crucial to identifying community greenspaces where there is a grassroots effort towards c*onservation. Stewardship* will be key for ongoing community engagement. Integration of all three tenets is essential to the success of this initiative. In the long term, additional funding and staffing capacity will be required to fully realize this initiative strategically and programmatically. GPC will work closely with project partners to identify and acquire undeveloped upland and near shore properties that expand the network of greenbelts, gathering places and water trails with priority given to connecting trail systems in Kitsap, Pierce and Mason counties. We will work in close partnership with the National Parks Service, the Washington Water Trails Association and County Parks departments.

CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIPS

As a small organization, GPC relies heavily on strong community ties and active volunteers to achieve our objectives. These deep community roots serve us well when we need to tap outside expertise. With 35 years of conservation accomplishments in the region, we have access to landowners, environmental professionals, and trusted members of the community. Additionally, our network of landowners is important to the process of recruiting new landowner/project partners. We can expect that nurturing long-standing relationships while collaborating with new groups will increase the pace and quality of land conservation. GPC will build partnerships on the premise of local community engagement in conservation. Our current and future partnerships generally break down as follows:

Tribes – Suquamish, Port Gamble S'Klallam, Squaxin Island, and Skokomish

- *Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe* – Navy Mitigation U & A in Port Gamble Block Uplands; KFBP including Hansville Block and other opportunities
- *Suqamish Tribe* – priority watersheds include Chico, Curley, and Blackjack
- *Squaxin Island Tribe* – advancing conservation of priority KGI lands as indicated in Tribe's GIS-based Landscape Analysis

Hood Canal Coordinating Council – In-Lieu Fee mitigation program

Washington Association of Land Trusts – Shoreline Conservation Collaborative

Trust for Public Land – General partnership to advance Navy REPI, WALT Shoreline Conservation Collaborative and other projects/initiatives

Salmon Recovery Lead Entities - West Sound Watersheds Council (WSWC) Hood Canal Coordinating Council (HCCC) and Key and Gig Harbor Peninsula + Islands (KGI)

Salmon Enhancement Groups – South, Mid-sound and HCCC

Conservation Districts – Kitsap, Mason and Pierce counties

Audubon Society– Kitsap and Seattle

Friends of Miller Bay

Pierce County – Storm Water Management / Shellfish Protection Districts (Filucy Bay, Rocky Bay, Minter, Vaughn Bay and Burley Lagoon)

Kitsap County – Kitsap Forest and Bay Project,

Navy – REPI program with Navy partners (DNR, TNC & TPL)

DNR – Stavis Natural Resource Area, Timber Community Forest Trust and Associates

Private timber companies – Pope Resources, Manke Timber, Alpine Evergreen, Overton and Associates, and Ueland Tree Farm

Commercial Shellfish companies – Taylor Shellfish Farms, others

Shellfish Restoration – Puget Sound Restoration Fund

Puget Sound Partnership gives Local Integrating Organizations (LIO's) funding ($175K) to implement Near Term Actions and develop local habitat plans. GPC's service area is covered by three LIOs:

- Alliance for a Healthy South Sound,
- Hood Canal Coordinating Council, and
- West Central (East Kitsap).

PROJECT PRIORITIZATION PLAN

Based on the need to balance completion of priority projects with the need to develop and advance future projects, Great Peninsula Conservancy is adopting a tiered approach for prioritization.

Tier 1 Projects

Most active, Highest Priority projects are characterized by:

- Willing landowners
- Donated lands with assigned non-negotiable deadlines for land trust transfer
- Secured, or partially secured, funding that constitutes a significant portion of overall required funding
- Threat of loss of interest by landowner
- High capacity benefit for Great Peninsula Conservancy and partners, and or an opportunity cost if the land trust does not move quickly on the project
- High threat of conversion to residential use

Tier 2 Projects

High priority, moderately active projects are characterized by:

- Willing landowners
- Funding has been partially secured and/or a likely funding source has been identified with an upcoming grant application deadline
- Funding provides match required for a larger project
- Moderate capacity benefit for great Peninsula Conservancy and partners, and
- Moderately high threat of conversion threat to residential use

Tier 3 Projects

High priority, non-active yet notable projects are characterized by:

- Initial contact has been made with landowner and/or projects require relationship establishment and building
- Project is located in a high priority area and is likely a strong candidate for funding
- Project could potentially have capacity building benefit to the land trust

- There are timelines related to securing an option agreement
- There is low conversion threat to development and low risk of losing the opportunity to conserve if action is not taken.

Tier 4 Projects

Lower priority, non-active projects are characterized by:

- Land trust or partners have made at least initial contact with landowners or opportunity is in stasis; there are remaining project due diligence concerns (clear title, site access) that will need to be addressed; project will also require relationship establishment and building,
- Funding has not been secured but is a strong candidate for funding
- Project has potential of capacity benefit to the land trust
- There are no timelines
- There is no imminent conversion threat due to development

SUMMARIZED PRIORITIES FOR ALL TIER CONSERVATION PROJECTS

Shoreline and Estuaries

- Priority drift cells and reaches called out in following assessments:
- Estuaries called out in South Puget Sound Enhancement Group KGI Restoration Assessment
- Coastal Inlets and Embayments – PSNERP
- Shellfish Protection Districts- Pierce County
- Point No Point Treaty Council- Estuary Study 2006
- Mason County Shoreline Inventory and Characterization Report 2011
- West Sound (East Kitsap) Nearshore Integration and Synthesis 2015-2016 (pending)
- Squaxin Island Tribe – South Sound Landscape Analysis (GIS)

Streams and Freshwater Wetlands

- Watersheds called out for salmon recovery by Salmon Recovery Lead Entities-West Sound Watersheds Council, Key and Gig Harbor Peninsula + Islands, Hood Canal Coordinating Council
- Suquamish Tribe priority watersheds and basins- Chico, Curley and Blackjack
- pending GPC Curley Creek lower reach feasibility study 2015-2016 (pending)
- Squaxin Island Tribe – South Sound Landscape Analysis (GIS)

Forests

- Working forests with high site productivity – Site Class 2 or better and/or high conversion risk.

Community Greenspaces

- Priorities based on locally based park plans, selected associated surveys and targeted local community outreach and workshops

GPC CONSERVATION PROJECTS PER PRIORITY TIER									
				Estimated Project Completion Year					
Priority	**Project Name**	**Fund Source**	**Project Type**	**2016**	**2017**	**2018**	**2019**	**2020**	**2021**
Tier 1	Filucy Bay Estuary Acquisition	ESRP/SRFB	CE / Fee Acquisition	*	*	*			
	Grovers Creek Phase II	WWRP/SRFB	CE / Fee Acquisition	*	*	*			
	DeWatto Watershed Initiative	Navy REPI/WWRP	Fee Acquisition	*	*				
	Carpenter Creek Estuary Acquisition	ESRP/SRFB	CE / Fee Acquisition	*					
	PGST Port Gamble Uplands	Navy Mitigation	CE	*	*	*			
	Curley Creek Feasibility	SRFB	Feasibility	*					
Tier 2	Port Gamble Uplands-Kitsap Co.	Capital Campaign	Cooperative	*	*				
	Stavis NRCA (Matchett)	Donation	CE	*	*				
	Rocky Creek Acquisition	SRFB	Acquisition	*	*				
Tier 3	Stavis NRCA-DNR	WWRP	CE	*	*	*	*	*	*
	Reitan Forest CE	Donation	CE	*	*				
Tier 4	Curley Creek Acquisition II	WWRP/SRFB	CE Acquisition			*	*		
	Filucy Bay Estuary III	ESRP	CE Acquisition				*	*	*
	Grovers Creek-Miller Bay III	WWRP	Acquisition		*	*	*		

FUNDING SOURCES LEGEND

ALEA	Aquatic Lands Enhancement Act
CFF	Pierce County Conservation Futures Fund
DNR	Department of Natural Resources Community Forest Trust Program
ESRP	Estuary and Shoreline Restoration Fund
HCCC	Hood Canal Coordinating Council In-Lieu Fee Program
NAWCA	North American Wetlands Conservation Fund
NCWC	National Coastal Wetlands Conservation
NRCS	National Resource and Conservation Service
Private	Contributions of money, land and/or development
REPI	Navy REPI
SRFB	Salmon Recovery Funding Board
USDA	USDA Open Space and Community Forest Program
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
WWRP	Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program includes Riparian Protection, Critical Habitat and Natural Areas

PROJECT TYPE

Donated Property – Landowners donates and transfers their property to Great Peninsula Conservancy. Fee Acquisition.

Fee Acquisition - The Land Trust will acquire the property in its entirety and retain full ownership.

CE Acquisition – The Land Trust will acquire development (and in most cases, timber rights) to the property and hold a restrictive conservation easement on the property.

Transfer – The Land Trust is on the chain of title for a property and will transfer its right to another agency such as Kitsap County Parks. Often, the Land Trust will retain a conservation easement on the property prior to transfer.

Cooperative – The Land Trust is working with another agency to help protect land and will not have rights to the property or be listed on the chain of title.

Restoration – The project includes restoration to restore or enhance ecological habitat benefits and services, all of which are support site conservation values.

CRITERIA FOR PROJECT SELECTION

GPC's Conservation Committee evaluates potential conservation projects based on land protection criteria and analysis of public benefits as required by Land Trust Alliance Standards and Practices (Standard 8) and adapted for the Great Peninsula context. These Conservation Procedures include criteria for selecting land and easement projects that are consistent with GPC's mission and focus on the evaluation of the following:

- **Conservation values of a potential project, including quality of native habitat, presence of unique plants and use by different wildlife species**
  Land and water that supports native species, maintains natural ecological processes, sustains air and water resources and contributes to the health and quality of life for the communities of the Great Peninsula is of highest conservation value
- **Threats to the conservation values**
  Threats most often include activities on or near the project site that lead to degradation of the overall environment as well as loss of conservation values unique to the site.
- **Future ownership of the project**
  GPC chooses the appropriate protection tool to conserve properties, whether this means the land will retain in private ownership or be owned by GPC. GPC may also support worthy acquisition projects that will ultimately be transferred to other agencies or organizations.
- **Clearly defined role for GPC**
  GPC is valued and trusted as a conservation leader in communities across the Great Peninsula, and is also valued as a conservation partner by many local agencies and conservation groups. With a 30-year history of conservation accomplishments in the region, GPC has access to landowners, foresters, environmental professionals, and trusted members of the community. In addition to taking a leadership role in projects, when appropriate, GPC will support the efforts and collaborate with other entities on projects that meet GPC's vision for the region.
- **Selection of appropriate conservation tool**
  Land trusts generally conserve lands and waters through acquisition of fee simple property or conservation easements that protect significant features of property. These land interests may be purchased or received as a donation. GPC can also play a role as a third party to facilitate conservation transactions between other parties. In some circumstances, GPC may advocate for public policies that support land conservation.
- **Geographical location and proximity to established conservation areas**
  Natural areas that connect wildlife refuges, parks, greenspaces, and working lands and provide sufficient space for native plants and animals to move across the landscape over time are the highest priority. Natural corridors, such as greenways and buffer areas along streams that

serve as biological conduits and provide opportunities for trails for people to interact with nature are also a high priority.

- **Community support for the project and GPC involvement, with possibility of partnerships**
  Projects that would both enhance the environment and fulfill a community need are rated high in the selection process. Community organizations may specifically ask for GPC's assistance, or GPC may seek partnerships to fulfill a gap in managing or funding projects.
- **Organizational capacity to acquire and steward the property**
  In deciding to proceed or decline a particular project, the Conservation Committee may weigh other important factors such as community dynamics and project partnerships, GPC's capacity to move the project forward given current staffing and other obligations, and the full range of stewardship risks associated with a property.
- **Availability of funding and a realistic project budget**
  GPC shall develop a plan to fund the acquisition and management expenses associated with conservation of any particular project. Assessment of the project budget is critical to determining the feasibility of GPC pursuing a project.

The list above generally represents the most important criteria used for selecting, ranking, and approving/rejecting projects. Ultimately, every project GPC takes part in must be economically feasible, account for direct and indirect costs, and provide funding for future stewardship.