



## City Forest Credits Carbon Preservation Project Application

### 1. Project Name

Harvey Manning Park Expansion Preservation Project

### 2. Project Type

Preservation

### 3. Project Location

*Projects must be in or adjacent to one of the following. Describe which one of the criteria the project meets and provide name of city, town, or jurisdiction where project is located.*

- *“Urban Area” per Census Bureau maps; see <https://www.census.gov/geographies/reference-maps/2010/geo/2010-census-urban-areas.html>*
- *An incorporated or unincorporated city or town*
- *A planning area for a metropolitan planning agency or entity, such as the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning*
- *Land owned, designated, and used by a municipal or quasi-municipal entity such as a utility for source water or watershed protection*
- *A transportation or utility right of way through one of above*

The Harvey Manning Park Expansion project site is in the City of Issaquah limits and is also within the greater Seattle area urban growth area. As well, the project site is in the Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area corridor and the WRIA #8 watershed.

The site is positioned to provide contiguous forested habitat for the 5,000+ acre Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park, Cougar/Squak Corridor and Squak Mountain State Park. Along with its relationship to Cougar Mountain public lands, the project site is part of the forested “Issaquah Alps” comprised of Tiger, Squak and Cougar Mountains, that rise above Lake Sammamish.

### 4. Project Operator

*Provide name of organization/entity, and contact information*

*Organization/Entity:* City of Issaquah, Parks and Community Services Department

*Address:* PO Box 1307

*City:* Issaquah

*State:* Washington

*Zip:* 98027

*Contact(s):* Jennifer Fink, Park Planner and Project Administrator

*Phone:* (425) 837-3322

*Email:* [jenniferf@issaquahwa.gov](mailto:jenniferf@issaquahwa.gov)

## **5. Project Description**

*Provide short narrative of the forest project area site, forest characteristics, and overall goals*

The goal of the City of Issaquah's Harvey Manning Park Expansion project is to protect Issaquah's forested hillsides, connect residents to nature, and to preserve contiguous forest on Cougar Mountain. The 33.53-acre project site is part of the forested "Issaquah Alps" comprised of Tiger, Squak, and Cougar Mountains, that rise above Lake Sammamish, and connect to other public lands. The site is uniquely positioned in Issaquah city limits, the region's urban growth boundary and the Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area corridor.

The City has worked with community members, King County, and the Trust for Public Land for several years to protect this site. Carbon crediting will allow protection of the 85+ year old forest, comprised mixed conifer and deciduous trees including Douglas Fir and Big Leaf Maples.

## **6. Project Impacts**

*Provide short narrative of the impacts this project will achieve. Examples include how the project addresses increased access to green spaces for under-resourced communities, flood control, watershed protection, human health benefits, recreation or bird and wildlife habitat.*

This site has remained relatively undisturbed since 1936 and contains a mature mixed evergreen-deciduous forest with riparian and wetland habitat that support wildlife corridors on Cougar Mountain and protects cool freshwater streams that feed Tibbetts Creek, a salmon-bearing waterway and tributary to Lake Sammamish. The project preserves native forest, upholds the ecological viability of the project site, contributes to the City's 51% tree canopy coverage, promotes carbon storage, provide stormwater benefits, and will remain protected in perpetuity. In addition, the forest structure provides diverse habitat and pollinator plants that provide food and shelter for wildlife.

## **7. Additional Information**

*Provide additional information about your project. Examples include collaboration with other partners or how this project fits into a larger effort.*

### History of the Harvey Manning Park Expansion Preservation Project

The Bergsma family owned the 46-acre project site since the 1940's. On multiple occasions over the years, the property had been proposed for development. In 2017, Windward Bergsma LLC, submitted a development application for 57-lot residential subdivision to the City of Issaquah.

Save Cougar Mountain, the Issaquah Alps Trails Club and community members attended City Council meetings to express concerns over the deforestation and other impacts the proposed development will make on Cougar Mountain's forest, streams, and wetlands. One of the biggest threats to the project site's ecological integrity is the forest habitat fragmentation the proposed development would create - damaging the sites contiguous biodiversity area and corridor.

Simultaneously, King County was working with City Forest Credits to set up a county-wide carbon program to support the Land Conservation Initiative (LCI). The LCI seeks to preserve key remaining

forested areas in King County, including those in cities and towns like Issaquah. King County discussed carbon crediting with CFC on the Bergsma site as a way to generate funding for preservation and stewardship of the forest.

There were many tasks necessary to complete before crediting could take place however, including lining up acquisition funding, securing the property, and approval from all funding agencies including Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office. With an active development proposal on the project site, and with growing public pressure, the City partnered with The Trust for Public Land and King County. In August 2018, Issaquah City Council authorized resolution 2018-13 in support of pursuing purchasing all or a part of the 46-acres site proposed for development. Through our partnership, with the Trust for Public Land, on February 28, 2019, King County acquired 12.5 acres (one parcel) of the Bergsma property to be added to Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park, and the City of Issaquah acquired the remaining 33.53 acres (six parcels).






Many letters of support were received for both the City's acquisition of the property and grant (funding) applications from: The Trust for Public Land; King County; Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust; Issaquah Alps Trails Club; and Save Cougar Mountain. Save Lake Sammamish is also a very strong supporter of this project and has contributed funds to the acquisition.

The City submits this application for carbon crediting as part of its plan to protect this land and forest from development, and retaining it as publicly accessible open space. Since acquisition, the City has received two grants to secure conservation of the site's forest: a King County Conservation Futures Tax Levy, and Recreation Conservation Office, Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, Urban Wildlife Habitat. Proceeds from carbon credits sales will be used to support the City's Green Issaquah program by removing invasive plant threats from the site and restoring a healthy forest understory. The Green Issaquah program has a strong network willing to protect the project site for its 40-Year preservation commitment.







The City is actively working on its first Climate Action Plan and has held several Community Convening on Climate conversations. Issaquah's Climate Action Plan is slated to be adopted at the end of 2021. The City has also initiated a Green Issaquah – Forest Stewardship Program, supporting urban forest health through invasive management and restoration efforts. Also in process, is the City's update of the Storm, Surface and Wastewater master plan that demonstrates the active role City forests and open space play in stormwater management.



**Legend**

-  Parcels
-  Trailhead
-  Trailhead Parking
-  Trails
-  CFT Funding Targets (33.53 Acres)

**City Parks - OS - NGPE**

-  PARK
-  PARK/OPEN SPACE
-  OPEN SPACE
-  NGPE
-  STATE PARK
-  Streams



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