

City of Poulsbo

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PRESS RELEASE

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City of Poulsbo Purchases Additional Parkland to Support the Acquisition, Improvement and Protection of Aquatic Lands for Public Purposes

The City of Poulsbo has acquired 4.73 acres of additional parkland on the east side of the Liberty Bay Estuary to be added to Poulsbo's Fish Park. This purchase was made possible from a \$460,000 grant from the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (RCFB) through the Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA).

In addition to the purchase of shoreline property, the funding will be used to help protect and provide public access to the shoreline. The land will connect Dogfish Creek, which runs through the property, to the estuary, and will allow the city to extend an interpretive trail through this natural park in the middle of Poulsbo. Tasks to be completed include restoring shoreline habitat, enhancing waterfront buffers, adding parking, trails, viewing platforms, benches and signage.

There were twenty-two applications submitted for consideration in the ALEA. Each project went through an evaluation process prior to being recommended for funding. Funding for the ALEA comes from leases on state-owned waterfront sites and sale of harvest rights for geoduck clams. The City of Poulsbo will leverage local contributions totaling \$487,462 with grant monies to implement the project. Total estimated project cost is \$947,462. The city used the value of previously donated properties as the city's contribution match to the grant. These properties were donated in 2008 by the Great Peninsula Conservancy (*Al and Betty Cook donation*) and in 2011 by the NWI Trust (*Fumei and Norman Yang donation*). Community support through volunteer work parties and service organizations has been tremendous at this park for this past 10 years, and that kind of community support will continue to provide matching resources to the state grant.

RCFB is the state's administrator of the grant program.

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