

Parcel(s) Acquisition History

In the mid 1970's there were several attempts by the Preston Community Club inquiring of the Issaquah school district about liquidating their vacant school to the community for a park. The subject lay quiet until 1988 when Fire District 10 approached Issaquah School District to buy the property for a new fire station with a Fire Training Center. The community opposed a Fire Training Center adjacent to single family dwellings. In 1988 the community along with the Fire District 10 both made appeals to the School board requesting the purchase of the property, the community asking to use the property for a park. Fire District 10 withdrew their request after the hearing, paving the way for the purchase of the school property for a community park. Councilmember Brian Derdowski and the community worked together to acquire the funds and the first portion of what would eventually become the Preston Ballfields property was purchased \$132,000 with \$15,000 coming from the community.

This threat of industrial development motivated the community to embark on a long term community planning

process that eventually produced The Forest Gateway Vision that was adopted and subsequently implemented by King County over the next 6 years. This vision led King County eventually provide \$7,710,000 to protect 694 acres connected to 1,700 acres of Grand Ridge Open Space and 1,000 acres of state DNR land with the value of land preserved at \$11,920,000. The last acquisition in the Vision was completed in 2003. The acquisitions used a myriad of funding sources including Real Estate Excise Tax (REET), Conservation Futures, Forest Legacy Funding, Federal Highway Beautification Funds, Early Action ESA funding and FEMA Flood Buyout funding. In addition, Port Blakely Communities and Hooker Family Trust both donated substantial land value in conjunction with the Transfer of Developments Rights program on the Mitchell Hill acquisitions.

In response to the community planning process for the park development during 2005 and 2006, the community recently moved to acquire portions of 2 parcels in the NE corner to allow a for better neighborhood mitigation opportunities.

The acquisitions include a 1.4 acre portion of the Risen property (purchased by private funds and donated to King County; \$70,000 from PCC Trust and \$25,000 from EFC) and a .7 acre portion of the Moore Property (to be purchased with \$40,000 in grant funds and donated to King County). These last 2 small acquisition bring the community park development site up to 14 acres.

Here are the sites making up the Preston Forest Gateway Vision

- Preston Mill Site \$1.3 million 22 acres
- **Preston Athletic Fields \$2.2 million 10 acres**
- Preston Arboretum \$1.7 million 22 acres
- Preston Edge \$1.3 million 150 acres
- Mitchell Hill Connector \$620,000 425 acres
- Preston Snoqualmie Trail 6.3 miles
- Raging River FEMA buyout \$300,000 12.48 acres
- Raging River Early ESA \$290,000 52.49 acres

