

**2005 SPOKANE COUNTY CONSERVATION FUTURES PROGRAM**  
**UPDATED PROPERTY EVALUATION CRITERIA**  
**Spokane County Parks and Recreation**  
**(509) 477-4730**

1. (A) For property outside of the Urban Growth Area (UGA). Is the property a wildlife habitat area or habitat corridor? Examples include, but are not limited to; Elk wintering range, spawning streams, migratory waterfowl habitat, Heron rookeries, Bear habitat, or endangered plant species. Or, does the parcel provide a linkage to a larger habitat system?

Points

- 1 Property contains little or no habitat for native species.
- 2 Property contains common habitat for species such as field mice, robins, crows, non-migratory waterfowl, coyotes, or deer.
- 3 Property contains important habitat for hawks, eagles, migratory waterfowl, or uncommon plant species but does not provide linkage to an existing wilderness habitat system or corridor to a water source.
- 4 Property contains non-wilderness habitat for small and large species and provides linkage to an existing diversified wilderness habitat system with water sources.
- 5 Property contains significant natural resources providing a diversity of wilderness habitats for small and large species and provides needed water resources.

Maximum total points, 5

OR

- (B) For property within the Urban Growth Area (UGA), does the property preserve an existing wildlife habitat or add to an existing habitat?

Points

- 1 Property contains no wildlife habitat for native species but there is opportunity for habitat re-establishment.
- 2 Property contains wildlife habitat for common birds and animals.
- 3 Property contains wildlife habitat potential for small and large wildlife and provides linkage to a similar habitat system or corridor
- 4 Property contains priority wildlife habitat for small and large wildlife but does not provide a linkage to an existing priority wildlife habitat system or corridor.
- 5 Property contains priority wildlife habitat for small and large wildlife and provides a linkage to an existing significant and diversified wildlife habitat system or corridor.

Maximum total points, 5

(Continued)

2. Does the property contain Riparian/Wetland habitat and/or provide access to water systems including lakes, streams, rivers, ponds and/or wetlands?

Points

- 0 Property contains no wetland, seasonal water or shoreline access, or protection.
- 1 Property contains only seasonal wetlands, water or shoreline access, or protection.
- 2 Property provides less than 150' of permanent wetland or shoreline access or protection.
- 3 Property provides more than 150' of permanent wetland or shoreline access for wildlife but less than 1,000 ft.
- 4 Property provides 1,000' or more of wetland or shoreline access for wildlife to a body of water.
- 5 Property provides 1,000' or more of wetland or shoreline access for wildlife and provides human access to a body of water OR is an important in-holding to an existing park and will be used consistent with RCW Chapter 84.34.

Maximum total points, 5

3. Does the property have the potential to meet currently deficient open space needs in the area?

Points

- 0 No or low need in area.
- 1 There already exists open spaces within the general area and the property does not provide needed expansion.
- 2 There is need for open space within the area but the property in itself does not provide enough unique natural features to meet this need.
- 4 Significant need met by acquisition and the property contains unique natural features.
- 5 Need clearly demonstrated, and property meets Park & Open Space Plan Policies or stated in an adopted long-range plan.

Maximum total points, 5

4. Does this property provide a critical link in an established or planned open space, park, or trail system?

Points

- 0 Property has no relation to the existing open space, park or trail system.
- 3 Property adds to an established open space, park or trail system.
- 5 Property provides for the completion or critical linkage in an open space, park or trail system.

Maximum total points, 5

5. (A) For property outside of the Urban Growth Area (GMA); does it provide for the acquisition of:

Points

- 1 Smaller than 25 acres.
- 2 25 to 50 acres.
- 3 50 to 100 acres.
- 4 100 acres or more

Maximum total points, 4

(Continued)

**OR**

(B) For property within the Urban Growth Area (UGA); does it provide for the acquisition of:

Points

- 1 Smaller than 2.5 acres.
- 2 2.5 to 5.0 acres.
- 3 5.0 to 20 acres.
- 4 20 acres or more.

Maximum total points, 4

6. Does the property currently provide a buffer between urban, suburban or rural growth areas?

Points Range 0 to 5 Points

- 0 Property does not serve as a community separator or greenbelt between developments.
- 5 Property separates natural areas or rural lands from existing urban or suburban development and similar development will likely occur in the near future on the property.

Maximum total points, 5

7. Is the property a priority park acquisition identified in an adopted Capital Improvement Plan or Park and Open Space Plan?

Points

- 0 No mention.
- 2 Property in the immediate vicinity is recommended as a priority open space acquisition by action of the City Park Board or County Parks Advisory Committee.
- 3 Property in the immediate vicinity is recommended for acquisition within the Park Plan or Capital Improvements Plan.
- 4 Parcel is specifically mentioned in one or both plans.

Maximum total points, 4

8. Is there demonstrated public support for the acquisition of the subject property?

Points

- 0 There is no public support or in fact there is significant community objection to acquiring the property.
- 1 Property is nominated and supported by local residents or community conservation group.
- 2 Widespread citizen support for acquisition may include letters and/or promises of donations towards property purchase/maintenance, etc.
- 3 Written commitment from an established organization to support and maintain the nominated property.
- 4 There is a written commitment from a governmental agency to provide support and long-term stewardship of the nominated property.

Maximum total points, 4

(Continued)

9. Does the property have accessibility and visibility from major urban areas, arterials, and/or highways?

Points Range 0 to 5 Points

1 Property is not visible or accessible from a public thoroughfare.

5 Property is both accessible and visible via major highway or arterial.

Maximum total points, 5

10. Is the property likely to become a destination for visitors to walk, bird watch, fish, picnic, or use as an environmental classroom?

Points Range 0 to 4 points

0 Limited or no attraction.

4 Property will likely draw recreation users from all Spokane County residents.

Maximum total points, 4

11. Does the property contain any liabilities, which will incur significant costs for removal, clean up, etc.?

4 Points

0 Potential hazardous waste site or environmental problem present for which the purchaser must assume responsibility.

1 Property contains structures of value that provide no use to the public.

2 Existing structures are of no value and must be torn down.

4 No costs for removal of dilapidated structures, metal debris, slash piles, etc or restoration of the property needed.

Maximum total points, 4