



Program Application

City Forest Carbon+ Program

Note: this application and its content will be posted on your Program page of the City Forest Credits website.

Date of Application:

03/29/2018

Short Name of Your Program (include city, town, or county name)

King County Urban Forest Preservation Program

Will this program include planting projects or preservation projects?

Preservation

Name of City, Town, or County where program is located

King County and its cities (projects across multiple local jurisdictions)

Name of Program Operator (can be more than one)

King County Department of Natural Resources & Parks

Contact Information for Program Operator

Kathleen Farley Wolf

201 South Jackson St., Suite 600

Seattle, WA 98104

Give a short 1-2-paragraph description of your program.

The King County Land Conservation Initiative (LCI) is an effort to conserve open spaces in our rapidly growing metro area -- for the myriad benefits that such open spaces provide residents of the region. The LCI is a regional collaboration between King County government, its more than three dozen cities, community leaders, business people, numerous environmental organizations, and many others. This collaboration has created a strategy to finish the job of protecting our most important remaining natural lands and urban green spaces within a generation. This strategy will put to use many existing funding sources but will also require substantial new funding in order to succeed.

King County submits this application for a program that will allow the County and its cities to utilize the Tree Preservation Protocol developed by City Forest Credits – in order to raise additional funding necessary to complete the 65,000-acre vision of the LCI. The County and its cities seek to preserve open space, trees, and forest, and earn City Forest Carbon+ Credits that can be sold to businesses and other private buyers. This gives the buyers of carbon, stormwater, and air quality credits/offsets the opportunity to invest in locally-sourced projects – with high visibility to their customers and employees, delivering economic, environmental, and social benefits to communities they care about.

Optional: If you would like your program page on the Registry to describe benefits of your program beyond carbon storage, please describe or list the benefits here. These other benefits could be equity for under-served or disadvantaged communities, flood control, publicly-accessible open space preservation, watershed protection, human health, bird or wildlife habitat, etc.

Preserving open space, trees, and forest cover in King County and its cities

Recruiting new funding partners for urban land and forest conservation, and public park creation, in King County and its cities -- and thus helping realize the vision set out by the King County LCI

Retaining the many environmental benefits of trees and green spaces in an around our cities, including but not limited to:

- **Stormwater runoff reductions and subsequent water quality improvements**
- **Air quality improvement**
- **Summer shade and cooling of urban neighborhoods (mitigating the “heat island” effect)**
- **Fighting the loss of greenery in communities facing intense development pressure**
- **Increasing communities' access to places to gather, relieve stress, and relax, and for children to play and learn – particularly for neighborhoods that currently lack easy access to public open spaces**
- **The many subsequent human health benefits, both physical and mental, such as lower blood pressure, fewer impacts from stress, reduced aggression, decreased**

rates of depression and anxiety, better pregnancy outcomes, and increased fitness

- **Bird and wildlife habitat, and better conditions for our salmon populations to thrive**

Does your program fall within the definition of Project Location in Section 1.4 of either the Planting or Preservation protocol?

Within an Urban Area

Within a city or town

Approximately how many trees will your program plant, or how many acres are you hoping to preserve?

The County believes that more than 1,500 acres could be eligible to produce City Forest Carbon+ Credits, out of 65,000 total acres prioritized for conservation by the King County Land Conservation Initiative

If you want your program page on the Registry website to include any other information, please supply that here. This may include: What are the goals of the program? Will you be working with other stakeholders?

Urban land is very expensive. King County, its cities, and other partners are working to assemble a number of funding sources that, together, will make it possible to achieve the vision of the LCI. Those sources include Conservation Futures Tax revenues and bonding, King County Parks Levy, state and federal grant dollars, Transfer of Development Rights funding, private philanthropy, and many others.

On a program level, it will not be possible to complete the work of the LCI without utilizing all projected sources of funding. Projected carbon revenues from this King County Urban Forest Preservation Program are not just important for preserving trees (through land and easement acquisition), but also contribute to successful completion of the LCI. Without these urban carbon revenues, the County and cities' projected funding sources will fall short of the projected costs for conserving all the land prioritized by the LCI.