

EXHIBIT A

Inspiring Kids Preserve Project Narrative

Capitol Land Trust (CLT) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit whose mission is to further collaborative and strategic conservation of southwest Washington's essential natural areas and working lands. Since 1987, our partners and supporters have helped us conserve over 6,000 acres and 15 miles of Puget Sound shoreline. We seek not only to conserve land but also to connect people to place, to each other, and to the natural world.

We had all these goals in mind when acquiring the Inspiring Kids Preserve (IKP), a 108-acre natural area on the eastern shore of Henderson Inlet. The preserve protects many natural resources including small freshwater streams and the surrounding riparian hardwood forest, a large tract of saltmarsh, second and third-growth coniferous forest, freshwater wetlands, and over one mile of Puget Sound shoreline. CLT has invested heavily in restoring the ecological integrity of this property by removing derelict structures, old farming equipment and vehicles, fences, and acres of Himalayan blackberry and by planting native trees and shrubs.

While this restoration work continues, our long-term vision for the property is to involve the community in our conservation efforts and enhance their feeling of connection to the lands we conserve by providing a system of nature trails designed to give visitors a deeper understanding of natural systems in western Washington. We believe this preserve can be a great resource to our community by providing educational opportunities to students of all ages, space for community organizations to implement their programming, and a place for people of all ages to find refuge from the stresses of daily life and be inspired by witnessing the transformation of the land over time.

Local schools are seeking a place dedicated to hands-on learning for Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math. IKP is close to many area schools, has a wide variety of habitats, and is a living showcase for how humans interact with the natural world: from Native American use of the land to homesteading, forestry management to habitat enhancement.

We also plan to make this preserve available to other organizations in the area to support their programming. Our community is rich in groups trying to improve the quality of life of everyone who lives here. We believe we can help them leverage their programs and the engagement of their constituents, through service projects that will have a restorative effect for all involved. We hope that after visiting the preserve, people will return many times with their families to explore, re-connect, and be rejuvenated.

To make this a welcoming place for all, we need infrastructure that provides safe access to the site and complements the natural features of the land while protecting its conservation values.

Visitors will enter the preserve from a new driveway on Johnson Point Road that provides adequate sight distance to safely enter and exit. General public parking will be near the road to enable easy surveillance of the parking area while school buses will have access beyond the gate to the Hub of the preserve. This Hub will include an area for buses to park and turn around, as well as port-a-potties, an open-air pavillion, storage space, interpretive signs, and additional parking. The open-air pavillion will be used to gather students before they walk the trails further into the preserve for activities and will be utilized by CLT and other community organizations for meetings and workshops.

Once at the Hub, visitors can access the 2-mile natural-surface trail system that will include resting benches, natural play areas, learning spaces, and wildlife viewing areas. The trail system highlights the

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incredible features at IKP where visitors can experience the essence of Puget Sound and the Northwest.

Some sections of the trail will be designed to accommodate groups, while other sections will provide more of a wilderness experience for individuals. In both cases, trails will be designed to provide a journey while telling a conservation story.

An ADA-accessible loop trail will head north from the preserve Hub so that people with disabilities or those not able to travel farther than a short distance can still enjoy the benefits of spending time at IKP. This trail will be supplemented with navigation features like guide ropes or an audio tour. The loop highlights an 80-year old second-growth forest and a 25-year old third-growth forest, as well as an outstanding wetland. To minimize disturbance, the trail avoids crossing wetlands and will be an adequate width to allow people to pass each other without stepping off the trail.

Conservation is incredibly important for our way of life. Not only does it maintain the long-term ecological health of Thurston County, it benefits our physical and mental well-being. Overall, this plan provides access to these benefits while avoiding sensitive habitats, leaving large tracts of land untouched to protect wildlife habitat, and preserving the shoreline. While we initially envisioned this to be a place primarily serving children, we're confident it will become a place that inspires the kid in all of us.

Land use permit, critical areas and impacts by parcel number:

Parcel #	Project Impact	Applicable Land Use Appl.	Proposed Activity/ Construction	Critical Areas on parcel	Planned Critical Areas impact
11928230100	Yes	RUE & SUP	ADA trail (gravel)	Wetlands, wetland buffers, intermittent stream	ADA trail will be within buffers of Wetland A, B, & C
11928220800	None	N/A	None	Wetlands, wetland buffers, intermittent stream	None
11929110500	None	N/A	None	Marine shoreline, wetlands, wetland	None
11929140000	None	N/A	None	Wetlands, wetland buffers, intermittent stream	None
11928230200	Yes	RUE & SUP	Entrance/ parking, shelter & ADA trail (gravel)	Wetlands, wetland buffers, intermittent stream	Wetlands M & P will be partially filled and trees removed for entrance/ parking; Fill in Wetland F buffer; Entrance/ parking and ADA trail within Wetland C buffer; natural surface trail within Wetlands F & G buffer
11929440200	None	N/A	None	Marine shoreline, wetlands, wetland	None
11928320500	None	N/A	None	Wetlands, wetland buffers	None
11928320000	None	N/A	None	None	None

(Note: bathroom, septic, well, viewing platforms and storage shed have been removed from project)