

**From:** [Tom Terry](#)  
**To:** [Sonja Cady](#)  
**Cc:** [Priscilla Terry \(Home\)](#)  
**Subject:** Project #: 2020104385 Inspiring Kids Preserve Reasonable Use Exception, Special Use, and Forest Lands Conservation Permit  
**Date:** Monday, February 19, 2024 11:24:26 AM  
**Attachments:** [2024 2-19 Hearing Comments Project 2020104385 Inspiring Kids Preserve.docx](#)

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Ms. Sonja Cady  
Land Use Clerk, Thurston County

My wife, Priscilla, and I would like to be parties of record for the upcoming hearing pertaining to the Capitol Land Trust Project #: 2020104385 Inspiring Kids Preserve Reasonable Use Exception, Special Use, and Forest Lands Conservation Permit. We are in full support of the project and our hearing comments for the record are attached.

We would also like to be on the decisions list to receive the decision.

Please confirm receipt of this message.

Thanks,  
Tom

Thomas A. Terry  
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Olympia, WA 98516  
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*"Conservation is not merely a thing to be enshrined in outdoor museums; it is a way of living on land," - Aldo Leopold.*

*"Under promise and over deliver."*

Thomas A. and Priscilla S. Terry  
5935 Swayne Rd. NE  
Olympia, WA 98516

February 19, 2024

Sonja Cady  
Thurston County Land Use Clerk

Re: Project #: 2020104385 Inspiring Kids Preserve Reasonable Use Exception, Special Use, and Forest Land Conservation Permit:

Dear Ms. Cady:

We fully support the proposed Capitol Land Trust project that would establish and operate a children's environmental education center and protect multiple shoreline habitats, wetlands and small streams, forested wetlands, and a remarkably diverse upland forest. Capitol Land Trust has already completed multiple habitat restoration projects on site and more are planned.

In summary the project would:

- Protect the environmental resources of our county.
- Give people of all ages in Thurston County experiences that help them form strong connections with the natural world and our natural resources.
- Strengthen students' academic experience through outdoor education programs so they become stewards of our critical habitats and natural resources and they learn about career opportunities in natural resource management.
- Keep our region a wonderful place to live for humans and wildlife alike.
- Allow a greater number and diversity of people of all ages to experience a restored and well managed natural area.
- Inspire greater investment in protecting our community's natural spaces.

The property is close to Olympia and Lacey making it an ideal location for this natural resource study and educational facility that is designed to have minimal impact on the environment.

We live near the Inspiring Kids Preserve and we have worked with many of our neighbors and other volunteers who are very anxious to see this project get completed as they want to have a place nearby to walk and enjoy the habitat types that exist on the property. We have also seen how much enjoyment kids and young and older adults receive from the educational experiences that they have had on site even when the facilities are minimal.

A tremendous amount of habitat enhancement work by Capitol Land Trust and its many volunteers has already been completed. Dilapidated building/structures and loads of discarded junk (cars, old logging, and farm equipment, etc.) have been removed from the site. Large areas of invasive species like Himalayan blackberry have also been removed

and these areas have been restored with native vegetation. Active management will continue to maintain and enhance the many different habitat types on the property.

This project will have immense value to the community and will help local schools enhance their Field Science, Technology, Engineering and Math curriculum (Field STEM). This is an area where we need more educational opportunities so we stay competitive (locally and nationally) and students can learn about well-paying career opportunities.

Thanks,  
Tom and Priscilla Terry