



Conservation Futures Program Citizen's Advisory Board

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Conservation Futures Program Citizens Advisory Board of Island County

Are you dedicated to conserving and enhancing natural areas, forests, and agricultural lands in Island County for future generations? Are you committed to ensuring Island County's open spaces are equitably accessible? Are you a resident of Island County? If your answers are "yes", you may be a candidate for Island County's Conservation Futures Program Citizens Advisory Board! Read on to learn more.

What is the Conservation Futures Fund?

In the early 1970's the Washington State Legislature established that it was in the "best interest of the state to maintain, preserve, conserve and otherwise continue in existence adequate open space lands for the production of food, fiber, and forest crops, and to assure the use and enjoyment of natural resources and scenic beauty for the economic and social well-being of the state and its citizens" (RCW 84.34.010). The Conservation Futures Program (CFP) supports that vision, and it is a useful tool for our county to preserve lands of public interest for future generations and conservation purposes such as salmon recovery and habitat restoration.

Island County's Comprehensive Plan identifies that unique or distinctive lands may be preserved in recognition of the irreplaceable character of such resources and their importance to the quality of life of residents and visitors to Island County. The Conservation Futures Program is an important source of funding to achieve those goals.

Funding support from the CFP's Conservation Futures Fund (CFF) is available through a competitive annual grant process. Proposed projects are evaluated by the Citizens Advisory Board and County Department Staff, and recommendations are provided to the Board of Island County Commissioners, who make the final funding decisions.

What is the role of the Citizens Advisory Board?

The Citizens Advisory Board provides current and historical knowledge and critical evaluation skills for sound and defensible decisions and recommendations for the CFP. The Citizens Advisory Board can serve as a voice for community needs and ensures that the Conservation Futures Program acknowledges and respects the values and uniqueness of cultural and ethnic diversity represented in Island County and the wider community. This expertise and awareness are implemented through the review and recommendation process of the Conservation Futures Fund grant process.

Highlights of Citizens Advisory Board responsibilities:

- Attend monthly public CAB meetings. Meetings are hybrid (virtual and in-person) to facilitate participation.
- Willingness to work collaboratively on CFP programmatic updates, strategic planning, and changes to documentation as needed.
- Evaluate CFF Project Applications following established Evaluation Criteria
- Make a minimum 3-year commitment!

If you are interested in membership on the Citizen's Advisory Board or have questions, contact the CFP Coordinator at cfp@islandcountywa.gov, and/or submit the [Island County Citizen Advisory Board Application](#).