

SAMISH FLOWER FARM UPDATE
September 28 2018

Our campaign is going very well thanks to generous donors. There are two important updates:

- a) The purchase of the land is now going to happen towards the end of November (rather than October) due to the land division process timeline.
- b) We heard from many people on property tours and otherwise that they preferred we not sell an interior 2.5-acre lot to meet the campaign goal (as originally budgeted). Many people hoped we could buy all the property outside of the home site. The fundraising is going well, and we agreed with them, that we sharpened our pencils to see if we could get to that goal and have altered course slightly to meet it.

Questions and Answers

Why is conserving the additional 2.5 acres important? It will allow future options if we own all the undeveloped land. It will help in planning for trails and parking. People visiting the upland areas on tours thought this was a lovely part of the property for birding etc. If a second lot was sold, more of this upland area would have limited access to preserve privacy for residences. Finally, it appears there are birds nesting and roosting near or on the proposed 2.5-acre site and this option retains and buffers their habitat space.

Has the campaign goal changed? No, we had to raise \$1,243,000 million and we are still aiming to get there. Some of the categories of how we get to that goal have changed based on grants we have received and are requesting, and strong community support.

How was the new \$150,000 goal calculated? Selling the lot was budgeted to bring in \$280,000 (minus sale and other subdivision expenses) so in order not to sell it, we needed to find/raise those funds elsewhere. Raising another \$280,000 in private gifts was not realistic or fair so we asked a private foundation for a substantial grant increase and submitted two more grant asks. This enabled the extra community gifts goal to be \$150,000. Right away generous donors provided \$50,000 1:1 match to reach that goal- so the amount as we start is really \$100,000.

What happens if you can't reach the new goal? If we cannot get there, we would need to fall back on the first plan. As always, all donations given will be refunded to donors if we do not meet our goal. If donations were given specifically to avoid selling the 2.5-acre lot and we need to fall back on the first plan in order to meet our campaign goal, gifts will be refunded.

How can I get more information? Please call Molly Doran or Laura Hartner for more information. 360.428.7878 or mollyd@skagitlandtrust.org, laurah@skagitlandtrust.org

How can I make a donation? If you donate on-line be sure to write Samish Flower Farm in the comments section so we know that your gift is restricted for this project. Your gift will be matched. If your gift is matched by your employer, the match will also be applied to your employer's gift.

Thank you for your support! This is a community supported project. Every gift counts and helps ensure that together we can save and steward this beautiful place.