

Carol A. Bowe
39 Knob Hill Road
Republic, Wash. 99166
509 775 3642

Republic Skate Park Committee
P.O.Box 25
Republic, Wa. 99166

To Whom It Concerns:

A great big shout out to the people who are planning a "Skate Park". Our youth deserve a place to exercise and meet enjoy the park and burn off some of their excess energy in a positive way! I have worked on various Committees and I feel this park will benefit all ages. There will always be some negativity you will experience but I pray that you will smile and continue to go ahead with this endeavor. Good luck to all of you and thanks for all your hard work!

Sincerely,

Carol A. Bowe

From: **douglas bundy** <douglasbundyjr@gmail.com>

Date: Sun, May 10, 2020 at 9:18 AM

Subject: Letter for city

To: <info@republicskatepark.com>

To whom this may concern,

have you ever saw a bunch of kids SKATEBOARDING in front of your property jumping down your stairs off your front walkway or tearing up the local grocery store curbs? Maybe even seen some kids fly down the street on their bicycles as if they were on motorcycles? Well I sure have. It's awesome and it's only going to keep on happening..Kids young and old even adults need a place to play A playground for skateboards. Scooters and Bicycles is what this Town needs....Growing up in the city and coming out to the country mountains hillside. It's hard.Its remote and there is nowhere to skateboard like there is in the city. We have skateparks all over literally. It's not like out here. Once you get on the other side of the mountains to eastern Wa area everything is stretched out. Far apart..and hard to travel to if you have no car.. Some dont have the advantages like others do and that's why we need a skatepark to be built in this TOWN. REPUBLIC NEEDS AN INGROUND CEMENT SKATEPARK! PLEASE AND THANKYOU



From: Liz Carr

Date: May 16, 2020

To: Republic Skatepark Committee / City of Republic / Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office

Subject: Republic Skatepark Support

I am writing in support of the Republic Skatepark Project. Having a skatepark in Republic will provide a positive experience for the local kids in the area.

As you know Ferry County currently has no skateparks. This past March, I stopped in at the closest skatepark in Kettle Falls, Stevens County. It was the first slightly warm sunny spring day. I was nicely surprised by teens already using the park and ask them some about their park. They were super friendly and shared that they recently shoveled out the last bit of snow so they could use their skate park as soon as possible! I asked if I could video the story. Here it is on YouTube note I uploaded the file today, thus the date, but the video was taken in March <https://youtu.be/npgbj2Y9mPE> .

There was pride and collaboration taking place between these young adults. I watched them skate and bike for a while. It was fun to watch. I was very inspired by them and their care for their park. A Republic skatepark will build community and be a positive for our area youth. It will also provide a great spectator activity for those of us who are not able to skateboard at this time of our lives. I let them know about Republic trying to get local support for a park. Their eyes lit up. They said they would come to Republic to check it out, and that they hope that the park becomes a reality.

There are so many positive reasons why Republic should have a skatepark:

- A skatepark ranked highly in comprehensive recreation surveys conducted by the Confederated Tribes of the Colville and Ferry County.
- The proposed location across from the Republic School complex is ideal and offers a safe and convenient location with good visibility.
- The location is adjacent to the Golden Tiger Pathway trailhead, which connects to the Ferry County Rail Trail, a 30-mile, off-highway trail that connects four towns and two school complexes.
- Recreational tourism is increasing, and the park will provide another draw for visitors.
- The skatepark support group has raised over \$15,000 and the property has been donated, providing the required matching funds for the grant.
- The entire project will be designed, constructed, and maintained without using City or County resources.

Please consider approval of this project.

Sincerely,

Liz Carr
46 Hill Top Place Republic, WA 99166

From: Nina Novikoff

Date: May 27, 2020

To: Republic Skatepark Committee / City of Republic / Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office

Subject: Republic Skatepark Support

I am writing in support of the Republic Skatepark Project.

Ferry County currently has no skateparks. The City of Republic is bisected by a busy State highway. Bicycling and skateboarding on city sidewalks is illegal. This is a formula that puts area youth at risk of injury and discourages healthy outdoor activity.

Positive points:

- It provides an opportunity for our youth to participate in fun and healthy outdoor recreation.
- A skatepark will build community and be a positive asset to ensure that our area youth can thrive.
- A skatepark ranked highly in comprehensive recreation surveys conducted by the Confederated Tribes of the Colville and Ferry County.
- The proposed location across from the Republic School complex is ideal, and offers a safe and convenient location with good visibility.
- The location is adjacent to the Golden Tiger Pathway trailhead, which connects to the Ferry County Rail Trail, a 30-mile, off-highway trail that connects four towns and two school complexes.
- The skatepark support group has raised over \$15,000 and the property has been donated, providing the required matching funds for the grant.
- The entire project will be designed, constructed, and maintained without using City or County resources.

I appreciate your consideration for approval of this time sensitive project.

Sincerely,



Nina Novikoff
ninanovikoff@mail.com
509.207.0001

To whom it may concern,

I support the idea of building a skatepark in Republic, WA. While not a resident, i can personally attest to the importance of a common space, especially for kids who may not fit into traditional team sport organizations. Having grown up without such amenities in my hometown, I was taught to believe there was no space, no physical place for me to belong in. This could literally change lives if you decide to fund and approve what will become a valuable resource.

Thank you,
Ben Nylén,
Minneapolis MN

Tom and Melissa Rose

POB 57 MALO, WA 99150-0057

5.27.20

To: Republic Skatepark Committee / City of Republic / Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office

Subject: Republic Skatepark Support

We write in whole hearted support of the Republic Skatepark Project! The City of Republic is the county seat of Ferry County, located in the remote (known as ultra-rural or frontier) mountains of Northeast Washington State. Republic is bisected by a busy State highway and as such must legally keep bicycling and skateboarding off city sidewalks. This formula puts area youth at risk of injury and actually discourages healthy outdoor activity close to home. Ferry County currently has no skateparks and is in great need of positive, health promoting activities for our youth to gravitate toward. Ferry County has one of the highest unemployment rates in Washington and is consistently listed as the least healthy county in the State. This skatepark will be part of the positive change we need!

Positive points:

- A skatepark will build community and be a positive asset to ensure that our area youth can thrive.
- Recreational tourism is on the uptick and the park will provide another draw for visitors.
- A skatepark ranked highly in comprehensive recreation surveys conducted by the Confederated Tribes of the Colville and Ferry County.
- The proposed location across from the Republic School complex is ideal, and offers a safe and convenient location with good visibility.
- The location is adjacent to the Golden Tiger Pathway trailhead, which connects to the Ferry County Rail Trail, a 30-mile, off-highway trail that connects four towns and two school complexes.
- The skatepark support group has raised over \$15,000 and the property has been donated, providing the required matching funds for the grant.
- The entire project will be designed, constructed, and maintained without using City or County resources.

As thirty year residents of Ferry County we are committed to help in efforts to make our community is more sustainable and a skate park will help in that effort! We deeply appreciate your consideration for approval of this time sensitive project.

Sincerely,

Tom & Melissa Rose

From: Ben Heizer and Mary Rourke, long time residents of Ferry County

Date: May 22, 2020

To: Republic Skatepark Committee / City of Republic / Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office

Subject: Republic Skatepark Support

We are writing in support of the Republic Skatepark Project.

The City of Republic is the county seat of Ferry County, located in the remote mountains of Northeast Washington State. The city has a fairly steady population of about 1000 people, while the surrounding county continues to increase in population. Tourism, government and Natural Resources are the dominant industries of the county. However with diminishing natural resource jobs, due to mining and mill closures, Ferry County frequently has the highest unemployment rate in Washington State and a high poverty rate.

As an elected school board director from 2010—2016, Mary was able to compare notes with other small schools in Washington State. Most of these schools had community activities outside of the school for children to participate in such as youth centers, recreation facilities, theater organizations, etc. Republic has no such organized activities. In order to access to such activities, residence must drive over the Canadian border, over mountain passes or across the Columbia river, traveling up to 3 hours. For the lower income kids or those with busy working parents, this is not possible.

Republic is a desirable place to live for many young families. Low housing costs, unspoiled landscapes and slower pace of life are attractive. Recent plans for improving broadband access make virtual work a distinct possibility. However, lack of family friendly activities stops families from coming. Ferry County currently has no skateparks. The City of Republic is bisected by busy State highway 20. Bicycling and skateboarding on city sidewalks is illegal. This is a formula that puts area youth at risk of injury and discourages healthy outdoor activity.

Positive points:

- A skatepark will build community and be a positive asset to ensure that our area youth can thrive.
- Recreational tourism is on the uptick and the park will provide another draw for visitors.
- A skatepark ranked highly in comprehensive recreation surveys conducted by the Confederated Tribes of the Colville and Ferry County.
- The proposed location across from the Republic School complex is ideal, and offers a safe and convenient location with good visibility.
- The location is adjacent to the Golden Tiger Pathway trailhead, which connects to the Ferry County Rail Trail, a 30-mile, off-highway trail that connects four towns and two school complexes.

- The skatepark support group has raised over \$15,000 and the property has been donated, providing the required matching funds for the grant.
- The entire project will be designed, constructed, and maintained without using City or County resources.

We appreciate your consideration for approval of this time sensitive project.

Sincerely,

From: Jim and Barbara Rochelle

Date: May 16, 2020

To: Republic Skatepark Committee, City of Republic and the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office

Subject: Republic Skatepark Support

We are writing in support of the Republic Skatepark project. Having lived in other cities in WA, where skateparks were in place, we have noted their popularity with youth and the opportunity they provide for healthy, low cost recreational activity.

Because of Republic and Ferry County's limited population and tax base, funding for recreational activities for youth has been limited. This project will address that limitation by providing youth with a safe and conveniently located facility for healthy and constructive outdoor activity.

There is high interest in having a skatepark as indicated in comprehensive surveys of recreational needs carried out by Ferry County and the Colville Confederated Tribes. Tourism is an important economic contributor to this part of Washington and a skatepark will add to the recreational opportunities available to tourists as well as the community.

The skatepark will be located on the city side of State Highway 20, which allows walking to the park from town without having to cross the highway. The Republic school campus is located directly across the highway from the proposed skatepark site, with well-marked crosswalks and school zone signs and reduced speed limits ensuring safe crossings.

An additional positive aspect of the skatepark's location is its adjacency to the trailhead of the Golden Tiger pathway, which connects to the Ferry County rail trail, a 30-mile off-highway trail which extends from Republic to the Canadian border.

There is significant community support for the skatepark as reflected in the funds raised (over \$15,000 to date) and the property being donated, both of which provided required matching funds. The entire project will be designed, constructed and maintained without using city or county resources.

Currently Ferry County has no skatepark and bicycling and skateboarding are not allowed in the city of Republic. We feel the skatepark will be an asset to the community and contribute to the well-being of area youth and families.

Thank you for your consideration for funding the Republic Skatepark project.

Sincerely,

Jim and Barbara Rochelle

To: The City of Republic/ Washington State Recreation and Conversation Office

Re: Republic Skatepark

I am writing in support of the new Republic Skatepark.

My name is Sally Rochelle, and I was born and raised in Republic, and though I now live in Renton, Washington, I have family in Republic, and visit there often. I have been reading about the opportunity that the City has to complete a new recreational facility with the help of a grant.

Republic has a beautiful location, and many outdoor activities are available. This new skatepark would be a great addition, especially for the young people of the community and surrounding area. The location makes perfect sense, with easy access from the High School. It will help to fill a need that has been lacking, for many years. I think the young people of the area will be overjoyed to have a new activity to enjoy and will be a positive addition to the community.

Sincerely,



Sally Rochelle
3626 Lake Washington Blvd N
Renton, WA 98056

DENNIS WUERTH
POST OFFICE BOX 308
MALO, WASHINGTON 99150
May 20, 2020

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I'd like to provide this letter of support for the Republic Skate Park.

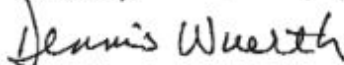
Upon completion, the Skate Park will provide hours of activity for numerous youth, lessen their boredom, and, in all practicality, provide a positive outlet for energies now being directed of less than constructive endeavors.

For years, the citizen's of Republic and Ferry County have expressed concerns regarding the welfare of our youth. The mantra has been that the youth have nothing to do to keep them out of trouble. Recently, local citizens have begun to take action to help remedy that situation. The Skate Park will be the hub of those activities for the youth.

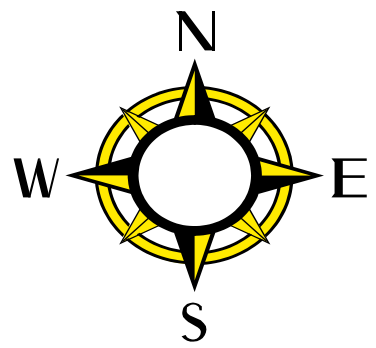
Ferry County is about the size of Rhode Island and 85% is Government land that cannot be taxed by the county. In that regard, along with state deferred tax programs for various land uses, there is no tax revenue to direct towards programs for the youth. Any Federal or State Funds are restricted to specific programs. To compound the issue, the County hovers at the bottom of the state of Washington for per capita income.

Again, I would like to express my support for the Republic Skate Park and the future positive influences it will have on our youth.

Sincerely,


Dennis Wuerth

Granite Creek Survey and Mapping
George H. Stolp; PLS
Professional Land and Construction Consulting Services
P.O. Box 743
Republic Washington 99166
509-775-0265



June 8, 2020

Republic Skate Park Committee
City of Republic
Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office

RE: Republic Skate Park Support

To Whom It May Concern,

We are George and Kymbra Stolp, owners of Granite Creek Survey and Mapping located here in Republic. We would like to show our support for the skate park by **donating our services** for defining the donated parcel, write the legal description, set corners, draw and record the Record of Survey at an **estimated cost of \$2,500.00.**

We believe the skate park would be a positive asset for Republic and the surrounding area by providing youth activities for local youth as well as visiting youth to the area. The proposed location is ideal for youth, as it is directly across the highway from the Republic Elementary, Jr. High, and High Schools where traffic lights and cross walks provide safe access.

Our community is remotely located in the mountains of northeast Washington, although it is a beautiful place to live and raise a family, it is very isolated from bigger city activities, such as shopping, movie theaters, sport complexes, and other organized activities, leaving young people with little to do to stay active and healthy. The skate park would be a much needed outlet for our youth to exercise and socialize safely.

Sincerely,

George and Kymbra Stolp

To Whom it may concern,

I am writing today, as an executive of the Olympia Lacrosse Club board, in support of the purchase of the 83-acre parcel on Yelm Highway that is to be used for future multi-use play fields that will support the game of lacrosse in Olympia. Part of my role, as VP of OLC, is scheduling field reservations for the 7 youth teams that we currently support. I have firsthand knowledge of the need for additional fields in Olympia that can support the game of lacrosse as it proves difficult, each year, to schedule field use for practices and games given the level of competing need for those fields from all of the other youth and adult sports leagues. It is not uncommon to have to put our players on half-sized and even baseball fields due to the lack of dedicated 'lacrosse size' fields in Olympia. Having to practice on these smaller fields limits the skill development of our players and puts them at a disadvantage when playing games with other teams. Lacrosse, in Olympia and the surrounding area, has been offered for just 6 years and is still in its early growth phase. Lacrosse is the fastest growing youth sport nation wide in both boys and girls teams and OLC has growth plans to support 12 to 15 teams in the coming years. We are in desperate need for additional fields to support our growth plans.

The Olympia Lacrosse Club board wholeheartedly supports the development of additional lacrosse sized fields in the city of Olympia.

Kind regards,

Sean Johnson

VP

[Olympia Lacrosse Club](#)

PO Box 1261

Olympia, WA 98507

206-419-4421





OlyEcosystems

Olympia Coalition for Ecosystems Preservation
Protect Preserve Restore

May 4, 2020

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

To Whom It May Concern:

The Olympia Coalition for Ecosystems Preservation (OCEP) is an urban land trust in Olympia, WA. Our mission is to protect, preserve and restore Olympia's key shoreline, nearshore and riparian areas, as well as their associated watersheds, in order to enhance the ecological health of Puget Sound and of our urban wildlife.

I am writing to support the City of Olympia's 2020 RCO *Yelm Highway Community Park Acquisition* grant request. The need for, and value of, this request is supported by the following facts:

- This area has been managed as farmland for at least three generations. Thus, the majority of the acquired land has long been deforested. In 2018, the City of Olympia purchased this property for a future community park.
- Of the approximately 86 acres acquired, 20 acres are wooded with wetland habitat. The entire area is within the watershed of Chambers Creek, an important tributary of the Deschutes River.
- While the primary focus of this future community park is to be recreational ball fields, preservation and enhancement of the wooded portion will help to preserve important habitat.

Thank you for considering this 2020 RCO WWRP application.

Sincerely,

Daniel Einstein, Ph.D.
President of the Board
Olympia Coalition for Ecosystems Preservation
Daniel@olyecosystems.org;
(360) 870-7689

Recreation and Conservation Office
P.O. Box 40917
Olympia WA 98504-0917

To Whom it May Concern:

I write in support of the City of Olympia's four 2020 grant applications.

As a former Olympia Mayor and public policy analyst, I believe I have a thorough understanding of the importance of parks to Olympia's quality of life now and in the future.

Since the passage of the Washington Growth Management Act 30 years ago, there has been a steady increase in allowed housing densities accompanied by a decrease in minimum lot sizes. In the past two legislative sessions, really large increases in housing densities across the board were passed.

The result is that back yards have become smaller, meaning that neighborhood parks have become even more important. This need for more neighborhood parks has added to the preexisting deficits for major maintenance and additional parks in other categories.

Olympia's applications for funding of the following four projects are intended to address this situation:

- Lilly Road Neighborhood Park Acquisition
- LBA Park Field #2 Renovations
- Yelm Highway Community Park Acquisition
- Kaiser Woods Park Acquisition and Development

I respectfully request full funding of these four projects.

Bob Jacobs
360-352-1346

720 Governor Stevens Ave. SE

Olympia 98501

Larry Dzieza, Chair
Council of Neighborhood Associations
3515 Victoria Court, SE
Olympia, WA 98501
CNA.olympia@gmail.com

May 26, 2020

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO)
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917


To Whom It May Concern:

As Chair of the Olympia's Council of Neighborhood Associations am writing to support the City of Olympia's 2020 RCO **Yelm Highway Community Park Acquisition** grant request. Our organization deeply appreciates the importance of parks to our neighborhoods' physical health and mental well-being. We urge positive consideration for this request which is supported by the following facts:

- The Olympia community identified the need for a community park, which would include soccer fields, in both the 2010 and 2016 Parks, Arts and Recreation Plans This property was identified as the preferred site for a future community park in a 2014 Community Park Suitability Assessment.
- There are currently no dedicated soccer fields in Olympia's park system and the last athletic-field complex constructed in Olympia was Yauger Park in 1982.
- Since 1982, Olympia's population has grown by nearly 80 percent and youth soccer participation has grown by more than 100 percent. There has also been growth in other field sports such as lacrosse, ultimate Frisbee, rugby, and youth football/flag football.
- A goal of the 2004 voter-approved 2% utility tax was to increase the park system by 500 acres. With this acquisition, the City has acquired 455 acres towards the 500-acre goal and utilized funds raised from the Voted Utility Tax to pay for the acquisition.

Thank you for considering this 2020 RCO WWRP (Local Parks) grant application.

Sincerely,



Larry Dzieza
Chair, Council of Neighborhood Associations

Recreation and Conservation Office
P.O. Box 40917
Olympia WA 98504-0917

May 13, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

The Friends of LBA Woods is a volunteer stewardship group under the aegis of the City of Olympia's Parks Stewardship Program. The Friends of LBA Woods represents the many members of the Olympia-area community who successfully campaigned in 2012-2017 to save the LBA Woods as public parkland, to support ongoing stewardship of this parkland, and to pass the 2015 Metropolitan Parks District measure. Between 2017 and 2020, we hosted or co-hosted 27 work parties and offered more than a dozen guided nature walks in the LBA Woods.

We are committed to supporting our parks for the physical and mental well-being of our community, especially now as public outdoor spaces—even without full access to amenities—are playing an increasingly critical role in maintaining the health of communities during difficult times.

With this letter, the Friends of LBA Woods fully supports the City of Olympia's four 2020 grant applications for projects (described below), all of which align with the goals of the City's 2016 Parks Plan but also comport with the overarching goal of *Sustainable Thurston* (Thurston County Regional Planning Council, 2013), which states that "A sustainable community will enhance quality of life, foster economic vitality, and protect the environment while balancing our needs today with those of future residents."

Yelm Highway Community Park Acquisition

Funding assistance is essential for the acquisition of the multi-use park Olympia that will satisfy Olympia's long-standing, oft-stated, and well-supported need for dedicated standard-size soccer fields. Careful, thoughtful design and construction of this park promises to be rightfully costly as the current master plan concept plans aim to aesthetically integrate soccer fields, parking areas, areas of protected natural wetlands and forested groves, play areas, and potentially community gardens, bike skills area, nature trails, sports loops, and open fields. Given that this long-awaited park will serve the larger Thurston County community (and likely beyond), the recreation value is especially great and should be supported through larger-than-Olympia funding resources.

Kaiser Woods Park Acquisition and Development

The acquisition of this 67-acre parcel helps balance the type of park available on Olympia's west side. Like LBA Woods, the Kaiser Woods parcel offers trails through mature upland forest and

varied terrain valued by both hikers, walkers, and mountain bikers. The development plans for this park have garnered heavy and lively interest from the public. The Olympia Parks Department is taking great care to develop this park with sensitivity to the natural environment, the various needs of the potential park users, and the neighboring land owners. This exemplary level of kind of care should be supported through grant funding.

LBA Park Field #2 Renovations

Though only 40 years old, the decrepitude of the LBA Park ballfield #2 cannot be overstated. It is unsafe for use and needs a total renovation and improved features to meet ADA standards to be useful for play and inclusive for all.

Lilly Road Neighborhood Park Acquisition

Neighborhood parks make a significant contribution to the quality of life in Olympia. This corner of the north-east quadrant of Olympia is currently underserved by parks. The need for a park in the Lilly Road area was identified as a community need in the 2004 Parks Plan. With the projected increased population growth of Olympia and its Urban Growth Area, this is a timely and important acquisition and one that would help meet the 2016 Parks Plan goal of having a park within one-half mile of every residence.

Sincerely,

Robert Wadsworth
Friends of LBA Woods
Olympia, WA

Recreation and Conservation Office
P.O. Box 40917
Olympia WA 98504-0917

To Whom it May Concern:

Friends of the Waterfront is a nonprofit corporation registered with the Washington Secretary of State. We see the Olympia waterfront area, including waterfront parks and trails, as a treasure for the greater Olympia area. We advocate that the shoreline area be managed for the greatest long term net benefit to the entire community.

We write as a member of the YES Olympia Parks that successfully advocated for the establishment of the Olympia Municipal Parks District and advocates for parks, trails, and recreation projects generally.

To this end, Friends of the Waterfront supports the City of Olympia's four 2020 grant applications as follows.

Yelm Highway Community Park Acquisition

- Olympia currently has no standard soccer fields. Passage of our second voted parks funding measure has provided the wherewithal to tackle this serious deficiency. The soccer fields in this project will serve not just soccer games but also other sports that need rectangular fields such as youth football, ultimate frisbee, and lacrosse. It will also serve participants from all of Thurston County, not just Olympia.
- This project is now in the master planning stage, including a great deal of community involvement. It will be very expensive and will be constructed in stages over a number of years. Funding assistance from the state will be vital.

Kaiser Woods Park Acquisition and Development

- This project, now in the master planning stage, will provide for both mountain bike trails and hiking trails in Kaiser Woods. There has

been very heavy interest in this project from local mountain biking enthusiasts who have participated in large numbers in the planning process.

- Care is being taken to preserve the natural character of this wooded property.

LBA Park Field #2 Renovations

- The LBA Park ballfields were developed over 40 years ago. All aspects of Field #2 are in such poor condition that this field cannot be used due to safety concerns. This puts a strain on the city's other fields.
- Field #2 will be completely renovated, including new ADA features. It will serve the needs of youth teams.

Lilly Road Neighborhood Park Acquisition

- Olympia's Parks Plan calls for neighborhood parks within one-half mile of every residence, which is considered a comfortable walking distance and is intended to both increase walking and decrease vehicle use. This standard has become ever more important as residential zoning becomes denser to accommodate increased population within the current Urban growth Area in compliance with the state Growth Management Act.
- The Lilly Road area does not presently have a neighborhood park. Neighborhood parks contain a variety of facilities to serve family recreation needs, such as children's playgrounds, picnic areas, and restrooms.

Bonnell C. Jacobs,
President



Board of Directors

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Erica Guttman
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Andy Hopwood
Nursery Manager

Native Plant Salvage Foundation

3054 Carpenter Rd. SE, Olympia, WA 98503

Phone: (360) 867-2167 or Fax: (360) 867-2152

www.nativeplantsalvage.org * info@nativeplantsalvage.org

May 11, 2020

Washington Recreation and Conservation Office
1111 Washington St. SE
Olympia, WA 98501

To the Members of the Grant Evaluation Committee:

I write in support of The City of Olympia's application for funding two ongoing projects: the Yelm Highway Community Park and Kaiser Woods Park. Our organization, Native Plant Salvage Foundation, has been working to protect and conserve habitat and water resources in South Puget Sound for over 20 years. These City initiatives directly support our preservation mission.

We encourage you to support the City of Olympia by awarding the grants requested for these projects. Maintaining natural habitat benefits the community in many ways, from direct benefits to wildlife and the native plants that support them, to providing areas for people to enjoy nature—thereby offering both opportunities for nature-based education and engendering appreciation for native ecosystems and sustainable landscaping. Having locations such as Kaiser Woods Park fosters appreciation of nature and encourages people to protect the environment.

Moreover, the native and waterwise landscapes associated with these parks projects will support water-quality protection by intercepting and filtering stormwater, and enhancing water quantity by slowing down rainwater and allowing it time to percolate back into our critical groundwater aquifers. These parks projects will protect these large parcels by preventing the impacts of widespread clearing, grading, and paving—thereby retaining pervious soils needed to protect local waterways, groundwater, and the Salish Sea.

Although a portion of the Yelm Highway Community Park would be developed for recreational sports fields and associated services, this area had previously been used for farm land, so there will be no significant change in soil structure and stormwater-management benefits (and possibly *improved water quality* by reducing farm-related pollution inputs). Additionally, **substantial acreage** of natural areas within the park will be maintained with the same benefits as Kaiser Woods Park. These areas contain native Gary Oak habitat and wetlands, both critical resources to preserve.

As development continues to progress in South Sound, we are losing many of our natural areas and Native Plant Salvage Foundation appreciates efforts such as these to protect diminishing undeveloped lands. We hope to see these projects move forward, and strongly encourage you to support the City of Olympia's applications.

Sincerely,

Joan Thomas

Vice-president, on behalf of the NPSF Board of Directors



Olympia High School

1302 North Street

Olympia, Washington 98501

Phone: 360 596-7000 Fax: 360 596-7001 Website: <http://olympia.osd.wednet.edu>

Patrick Murphy, Superintendent - Matthew H. Grant, Principal -

Andra Kelley Batstone, Asst. Principal - Todd Roos, Asst. Principal - Lindsay Welsh, Asst. Principal -

May 12, 2020

Washington Recreation and Conservation Office:

Please accept this letter in support of the City of Olympia's planned project to create a community recreation space off of Yelm Hwy to include the addition of several sports fields.

I have been a resident of Olympia for two years, and as a sports family man I have been stunned by how short of soccer field space the community of Olympia is. The fact that the Washington state capital city has no dedicated spaces for the highest participation youth sport going is really unbelievable. I was grateful to learn of the work done by the City Parks and Recreation office to evaluate this need and that the process to acquire more park space had already begun.

As the Olympia HS athletic director, I see how often our on-campus field space is shared by community members and organized city youth soccer programs. Our fields have been sufficiently used, but they deteriorate over the year making these field spaces less than ideal to meet the city needs.

Having the city obtain its own soccer spaces will be a win for both organizations, and will be a great investment in the health and well-being of the Olympia community. The benefits for the future of Olympia, Tumwater, and Lacey youth and families will be immense.

My hopes are your additional financial support of this project could assist the acceleration of the park project completion. These fields will be well received when they go online, and the sooner the better.

Thank you for your efforts on this project.

In Sport,

Bob Kickner
Olympia HS
Athletic Director
360-596-7028



Olympia United Soccer Club
PO Box 1683 Olympia WA 98507
(360) 870-9360

Dear Grant Evaluators,

Olympia United Soccer Club (OUSC) fully endorses the grant application made by City of Olympia for funding on the 83-acre parcel on Yelm Highway.

The need for Olympia park space with playable athletic fields is significant. A mix of lighted, synthetic fields and grass fields will provide greater access to sports and recreation for young athletes in our community.

OUSC is a youth recreation soccer club. Our players range from 3-18 years of age with greater than 95% residing within the Olympia School District boundary area. In 2009, OUSC had 1236 players registered into our soccer programs. In 2019, we had 2626 athletes playing in our soccer programs. In the past 10 years our player numbers have more than doubled. However, since there has been no increase in field resources in that time, we have been left scrambling for large rectangular grass spaces on which to hold practices and games.

For the first time in our history, we were forced to close our spring 2020 registration after two weeks and turn players away because we simply lack field resources to register additional teams. Our teams all "share" practices spaces and we utilize every space in Olympia that is available to us. This simply is just not enough space for the demand for soccer fields.

The City of Olympia does not maintain one single dedicated soccer field in any city park. Thus, our programs are nearly 100% dependent on Olympia School fields for practices and games. The pressure on our limited community resources is significant, especially during the spring and fall seasons. This has an enormous impact on grass fields that are often heavily utilized in rainy, inclement weather.

Lighted, turf fields will greatly improve community access to recreation and organized sports during all seasons of play. Additional grass fields will allow for fields to be rotated out of service to improve their usability during the season and take some pressure off our limited Olympia inventory

Olympia United is happy to lend our enthusiastic support to the Yelm Highway Park project and support the installment of long-overdue soccer fields. We look forward to this project's completion and watching young athletes utilizing the space.

In sport,

Carla Borgaard
OUSC Club Manager



PARC Foundation of Thurston County

723 Eastside Street NE
Olympia, WA 98506
Phone: 360-352-0980
Email: info@parcfoundation.org
<http://parcfoundation.org>
EIN 91-1928020

May 11, 2020

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

RE: City of Olympia's Yelm Highway Community Park Acquisition

To: RCO WWRP Grant Review Team:

Please accept this letter as our Foundation's enthusiastic support for the City of Olympia's Yelm Highway Community Park Acquisition. The PARC Foundation of Thurston County has provided funding and support for Parks, Arts, Recreation and Cultural programs throughout region for over two decades. We are a broad coalition of outdoor enthusiasts and community minded individuals.

This acquisition has been on the City's radar for nearly 20 years, because it is a very large piece of incredibly flat land, with good transportation and transit links. One of the most cost-effective places ever to build things like soccer fields. The City has not added any new athletic fields since Yauger Park in 1992, adding greatly to the need.

In 2004, with support from the PARC Foundation, voters authorized a permanent funding measure to support new park acquisition, development and maintenance. The goal was to increase the system by 500 acres- this acquisition gets us to 440, a huge benchmark towards the goal.

This essential project is cost-effective with high return for the community on invested funds. Please support the Yelm Highway Community Park Acquisition.

Warmly,

Joe Hyer
Joe Hyer
President

James D. Reddick
James D. Reddick
Vice-President



May 14,2020

Dear Washington Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO)

I am writing to support Olympia Parks and Recreation and the future access to dedicated soccer fields on Yelm Highway.

I currently work for South Sound YMCA in the Youth sports department. We provide sports for so many local youth and families at the grass roots level. Currently Olympia Parks and Recreation has been very supportive of us in creating space for our soccer families. Recently school construction projects displaced us from an elementary grass field. Olympia Parks and Rec worked with us to find the best field situation to use. I quickly found out that soccer field space was very difficult to acquire. All spaces that looked like a soccer field were all booked solid. Even secondary facilities that seemed like alternatives to soccer fields were heavily used by other sports groups and organizations. Although not ideal, we have been very fortunate to have found a space. I have also seen this community being very creative with using any flat patches of grass. Some of these clearly were not originally planned on being utilized for sports space. I credit our local school districts and Olympia Parks and Recreation for maximizing facility use. Since arriving at this YMCA and this community 3 years ago, I have found it very difficult to establish a soccer program that provides ideal facilities. I think it would be amazing to provide our community with a quality dedicated soccer field / facility. I also coach soccer in this community for a local club. I know that we often are in a bit of a cueing line for access to facilities throughout the year due to lack of field availability. This is especially true during the Fall and Winter seasons.

Overall, I would like to send my strongest support to creating dedicated soccer field space in the near future. I know that these fields will make a massive positive impact on our families and our community.

Sincerely,

Rob Knowles

Senior Director South Sound YMCA



May 22, 2020

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

RE: City of Olympia's Yelm Highway Community Park Parcel Acquisition

To Whom It May Concern:

The Olympia Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee is strongly supportive of the City's 2020 RCO WWRP Yelm Highway Community Park Parcel Acquisition grant request. The need for, and value of, this acquisition is supported by the following:

- The Olympia community identified the need for a community park, which would include soccer fields, in both the 2010 and 2016 Olympia Parks, Arts and Recreation Plans. And the Yelm Highway property was identified as the preferred site for a future community park in the 2014 Community Park Suitability Assessment.
- There are currently no dedicated soccer fields in Olympia's park system and the last athletic-field complex constructed in Olympia was Yauger Park in 1982.
- Since 1982, Olympia's population has grown by nearly 80 percent and youth soccer participation has grown by more than 100 percent. There has also been growth in other field sports such as lacrosse, ultimate Frisbee, rugby, and youth football/flag football.
- The City is currently in the process of developing a master plan for the site and has been seeking the community's input as part of that process. Park development will likely be done in phases, with the first phase tentatively scheduled for 2024.
- A goal of the 2004 voter-approved 2% utility tax was to increase the park system by 500 acres. With this acquisition, the City has acquired 440 acres towards the 500-acre goal and utilized funds raised from the Voted Utility Tax to pay for the acquisition.

Thank you for considering this 2020 RCO WWRP grant application.

Sincerely,

Maria Ruth, Chair
Olympia Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee

3530 22nd Way NE
Olympia WA 98506
21 May 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

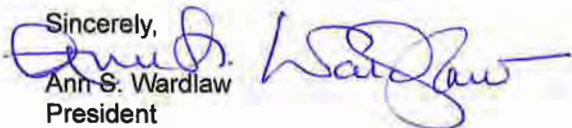
The purpose of this letter is to voice support for a grant to aid in the purchase and development of a park which would be close to my neighborhood. I am the President of the Springwood Homeowners Association, which is comprised of thirty three households. This park would be easily accessible for us by simply crossing Lilly Road and walking a short distance (approximately a quarter mile). There is no park nearby at the present time, and our HOA board and members are definitely in favor of this plan.

We would very much like to see access to the Western Chehalis Trail, which is very close to the off street side of the property. Also, even though three off leash dog parks are planned to open 2021, in Thurston County, none are even close to our side of Olympia. We would greatly encourage part of the open green space of the Lilly Road Park to be utilized in some way for all of our neighbors with dogs.

I strongly support the plan to obtain partial reimbursement from RCO for initial cost of the property and its future development.

If you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,


Ann S. Wardlaw
President
Springwood HOA

April 14, 2020

To whom it may concern,

Providence St. Peter Hospital resides on the corner of Lilly and Ensign Road in Olympia. We pride ourselves on not only being our community's health care leader, but also setting an example of the type of setting we believe promotes health and wellness. The campus the hospital resides on, is a park-like setting. We have set up walking trails and gardens around the campus because we believe parks and nature help with physical and mental well-being of all who visit. We have also been conscious of preserving the trees and surrounding wetlands as they are a vital part of the natural ecosystem.

Physical activity is a major combatant against the national epidemic of obesity. Active recreational outlets for organized physical activity can take place at athletic fields, fitness areas, hiking trails or amenities such as playgrounds in our parks. Providing appropriate park infrastructure is a key component to the health of our city and its residents.

We support The City of Olympia in pursuing a grant from the Washington Recreation and Conservation Office. Please consider the request, as it has a great health benefit to all our residents.

Thank you,



Paul Wilkinson
Interim Chief Executive
Providence Southwest Washington

May 22, 2020

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

RE: City of Olympia's Lilly Road Neighborhood Park Acquisition

To Whom It May Concern:

The Olympia Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee is strongly supportive of the City's 2020 RCO WWRP Lilly Road Neighborhood Park Acquisition grant request. The need for, and value of, this acquisition is supported by the following:

- The 2016 Olympia Parks, Arts and Recreation Plan articulated a goal of having a neighborhood park walking distance (within one-half mile) of all residences in Olympia.
- This portion of the City was identified as an area in need of a neighborhood park as early as the 2004 Olympia Parks, Arts, and Recreation Plan.
- Typically, facilities found in neighborhood parks include a children's playground, picnic areas, a restroom, and open grass areas for passive and active use. Amenities may also include trails, tennis courts, basketball courts, skate courts, public art, and community gardens.
- A goal of the 2004 voter-approved 2% utility tax was to increase the park system by 500 acres. With the acquisition of this 4.98-acre park parcel, the City has acquired 455 acres towards the 500-acre goal and utilized funds raised from the Voted Utility Tax to pay for the acquisition.

Thank you for considering this 2020 RCO WWRP grant application.

Sincerely,



Maria Ruth, Chair
Olympia Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee

Recreation and Conservation Office
P.O. Box 40917
Olympia WA 98504-0917

To Whom it May Concern:

I write in support of the City of Olympia's four 2020 grant applications.

As a former Olympia Mayor and public policy analyst, I believe I have a thorough understanding of the importance of parks to Olympia's quality of life now and in the future.

Since the passage of the Washington Growth Management Act 30 years ago, there has been a steady increase in allowed housing densities accompanied by a decrease in minimum lot sizes. In the past two legislative sessions, really large increases in housing densities across the board were passed.

The result is that back yards have become smaller, meaning that neighborhood parks have become even more important. This need for more neighborhood parks has added to the preexisting deficits for major maintenance and additional parks in other categories.

Olympia's applications for funding of the following four projects are intended to address this situation:

- Lilly Road Neighborhood Park Acquisition
- LBA Park Field #2 Renovations
- Yelm Highway Community Park Acquisition
- Kaiser Woods Park Acquisition and Development

I respectfully request full funding of these four projects.

Bob Jacobs
360-352-1346

720 Governor Stevens Ave. SE

Larry Dzieza, Chair
Council of Neighborhood Associations
3515 Victoria Court, SE
Olympia, WA 98501
CNA.olympia@gmail.com

May 26, 2020

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917


To Whom It May Concern:

As Chair of the Olympia's Council of Neighborhood Associations am writing to support the City of Olympia's 2020 RCO **Lilly Road Neighborhood Park Acquisition** grant request. Our organization deeply appreciates the importance of parks to our neighborhoods' physical health and mental well-being. This proposal will provide a dual value: First, as a neighborhood-oriented park it provides particular value in terms of community identity and social cohesion. Second, its proximity to the regional trail system adds a valuable waypoint to trail travelers. We urge positive consideration for this request which is supported by the following facts:

- The 2016 Olympia Parks, Arts and Recreation Plan articulated a goal of having a neighborhood park within walking distance (one-half mile) of all residences in Olympia and this site is located within that area of need.
- This site is adjacent to a regional trail system that connects the park to over 50 miles of trails throughout Thurston County.
- The site is also near several large medical facilities (Providence Hospital, Kaiser Permanente Medical Center) which has the potential to provide a therapeutic park setting to recharge medical staff during lunch and breaks.
- A goal of the 2004 voter-approved 2% utility tax was to increase the park system by 500 acres. With this acquisition, the City has acquired 455 acres toward the 500-acre goal and utilized funds raised from the Voted Utility Tax to pay for the acquisition.

Thank you for considering this 2020 RCO WWRP (Local Parks) grant application.

Sincerely,



Larry Dzieza
Chair, Council of Neighborhood Associations

Recreation and Conservation Office
P.O. Box 40917
Olympia WA 98504-0917

May 13, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

The Friends of LBA Woods is a volunteer stewardship group under the aegis of the City of Olympia's Parks Stewardship Program. The Friends of LBA Woods represents the many members of the Olympia-area community who successfully campaigned in 2012-2017 to save the LBA Woods as public parkland, to support ongoing stewardship of this parkland, and to pass the 2015 Metropolitan Parks District measure. Between 2017 and 2020, we hosted or co-hosted 27 work parties and offered more than a dozen guided nature walks in the LBA Woods.

We are committed to supporting our parks for the physical and mental well-being of our community, especially now as public outdoor spaces—even without full access to amenities—are playing an increasingly critical role in maintaining the health of communities during difficult times.

With this letter, the Friends of LBA Woods fully supports the City of Olympia's four 2020 grant applications for projects (described below), all of which align with the goals of the City's 2016 Parks Plan but also comport with the overarching goal of *Sustainable Thurston* (Thurston County Regional Planning Council, 2013), which states that "A sustainable community will enhance quality of life, foster economic vitality, and protect the environment while balancing our needs today with those of future residents."

Yelm Highway Community Park Acquisition

Funding assistance is essential for the acquisition of the multi-use park Olympia that will satisfy Olympia's long-standing, oft-stated, and well-supported need for dedicated standard-size soccer fields. Careful, thoughtful design and construction of this park promises to be rightfully costly as the current master plan concept plans aim to aesthetically integrate soccer fields, parking areas, areas of protected natural wetlands and forested groves, play areas, and potentially community gardens, bike skills area, nature trails, sports loops, and open fields. Given that this long-awaited park will serve the larger Thurston County community (and likely beyond), the recreation value is especially great and should be supported through larger-than-Olympia funding resources.

Kaiser Woods Park Acquisition and Development

The acquisition of this 67-acre parcel helps balance the type of park available on Olympia's west side. Like LBA Woods, the Kaiser Woods parcel offers trails through mature upland forest and

varied terrain valued by both hikers, walkers, and mountain bikers. The development plans for this park have garnered heavy and lively interest from the public. The Olympia Parks Department is taking great care to develop this park with sensitivity to the natural environment, the various needs of the potential park users, and the neighboring land owners. This exemplary level of kind of care should be supported through grant funding.

LBA Park Field #2 Renovations

Though only 40 years old, the decrepitude of the LBA Park ballfield #2 cannot be overstated. It is unsafe for use and needs a total renovation and improved features to meet ADA standards to be useful for play and inclusive for all.

Lilly Road Neighborhood Park Acquisition

Neighborhood parks make a significant contribution to the quality of life in Olympia. This corner of the north-east quadrant of Olympia is currently underserved by parks. The need for a park in the Lilly Road area was identified as a community need in the 2004 Parks Plan. With the projected increased population growth of Olympia and its Urban Growth Area, this is a timely and important acquisition and one that would help meet the 2016 Parks Plan goal of having a park within one-half mile of every residence.

Sincerely,

Robert Wadsworth
Friends of LBA Woods
Olympia, WA

Recreation and Conservation Office
P.O. Box 40917
Olympia WA 98504-0917

To Whom it May Concern:

Friends of the Waterfront is a nonprofit corporation registered with the Washington Secretary of State. We see the Olympia waterfront area, including waterfront parks and trails, as a treasure for the greater Olympia area. We advocate that the shoreline area be managed for the greatest long term net benefit to the entire community.

We write as a member of the YES Olympia Parks that successfully advocated for the establishment of the Olympia Municipal Parks District and advocates for parks, trails, and recreation projects generally.

To this end, Friends of the Waterfront supports the City of Olympia's four 2020 grant applications as follows.

Yelm Highway Community Park Acquisition

- Olympia currently has no standard soccer fields. Passage of our second voted parks funding measure has provided the wherewithal to tackle this serious deficiency. The soccer fields in this project will serve not just soccer games but also other sports that need rectangular fields such as youth football, ultimate frisbee, and lacrosse. It will also serve participants from all of Thurston County, not just Olympia.
- This project is now in the master planning stage, including a great deal of community involvement. It will be very expensive and will be constructed in stages over a number of years. Funding assistance from the state will be vital.

Kaiser Woods Park Acquisition and Development

- This project, now in the master planning stage, will provide for both mountain bike trails and hiking trails in Kaiser Woods. There has

been very heavy interest in this project from local mountain biking enthusiasts who have participated in large numbers in the planning process.

- Care is being taken to preserve the natural character of this wooded property.

LBA Park Field #2 Renovations

- The LBA Park ballfields were developed over 40 years ago. All aspects of Field #2 are in such poor condition that this field cannot be used due to safety concerns. This puts a strain on the city's other fields.
- Field #2 will be completely renovated, including new ADA features. It will serve the needs of youth teams.

Lilly Road Neighborhood Park Acquisition

- Olympia's Parks Plan calls for neighborhood parks within one-half mile of every residence, which is considered a comfortable walking distance and is intended to both increase walking and decrease vehicle use. This standard has become ever more important as residential zoning becomes denser to accommodate increased population within the current Urban growth Area in compliance with the state Growth Management Act.
- The Lilly Road area does not presently have a neighborhood park. Neighborhood parks contain a variety of facilities to serve family recreation needs, such as children's playgrounds, picnic areas, and restrooms.

Bonnell C. Jacobs,
President



PARC Foundation of Thurston County

723 Eastside Street NE
Olympia, WA 98506
Phone: 360-352-0980
Email: info@parcfoundation.org
<http://parcfoundation.org>
EIN 91-1928020

May 11, 2020

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

RE: City of Olympia's Lilly Road Neighborhood Park Acquisition

To: RCO WWRP Grant Review Team:

Please accept this letter as our Foundation's ongoing and excited support for the City of Olympia's Lilly Road Neighborhood Park Acquisition. The PARC Foundation of Thurston County has provided funding and support for Parks, Arts, Recreation and Cultural programs throughout region for over two decades. We are a broad coalition of outdoor enthusiasts and community minded individuals.

Our goal is simple (and it's also the Community's goal in the 2016 Parks Plan)- have a neighborhood park within walking distance (1/2 mile) of every residence. This area of Olympia is densely developed, with significant multi-family in addition to single-family units. A neighborhood park will provide a playground, picnic area, open space, as well as recreational amenities. The Lilly Road acquisition is a true case of the essential need and the available land matching up.

Too often, we forget about neighborhood parks in our quest to increase acreage, preserve the environment, and focus on 'big wins'. But the small parks, serving neighborhoods, are just as vital, and often better utilized.

The Lilly Road Neighborhood Park Acquisition will fill an essential need for neighborhood parks in an under-served part of our town. We are happy to offer our full support.

Warmly,

Joe Hyer
Joe Hyer
President

James D. Reddick
James D. Reddick
Vice-President



Alchemy Skateboarding

311 S 7th St. Tacoma, WA 98402 - www.alchemyskate.org

April 21, 2020

Washington Recreation and Conservation Office
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

RE: Letter of Support for Outdoor Improvements at the Sprinker Recreation Center

I am writing on behalf of Alchemy Skateboarding to express our support of Pierce County's proposal to the Washington Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) to fund the planned outdoor improvements at the Sprinker Recreation Center.

Alchemy Skateboarding is the county's only publicly accessible indoor skatepark with a focus on youth programs. It is our mission to create opportunities for youth to learn and grow through skateboarding. Alongside our numerous programs, Alchemy is dedicated to advocating for and organizing skateboarders to promote changes in their communities and push for equitable access to safe places to skate, resources, and support.

We are fully supportive of Pierce County's plan to develop and implement improvements to the Sprinker Recreation Center and believe this opportunity is worthwhile, contributes significantly to user experiences, and merits funding. The existing skatepark provides many opportunities for skaters to practice and improve skills, however some of the terrain can be intimidating or difficult for beginner level skateboarders. We are especially excited at the potential for more paved walking paths that better connect to other areas of the facility as these can be great areas for beginner level skateboarders, or riders less interested in traditional park skateboarding to recreate, learn, and enjoy different styles of skateboarding that are currently not accommodated for.

Thank you for your consideration. We hope you will support and fund this project.

Sincerely,

Taylor Woodruff
Executive Director



April 3, 2020

Washington Recreation and Conservation Office
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

Support Letter for Sprinker Recreation Center's Outdoor Improvements Project

Dear RCO Review Committee:

I am writing on behalf of Bethel Community Services to convey our support of an expansion of Sprinker Recreation Center, one that will include designs to improve outdoor features, which will greatly benefit Spanaway, Parkland and much of Pierce County.

Bethel Community Services is working to build a community of healthy families in Bethel School District, a sprawling rural community comprised of 202 square miles in unincorporated Pierce County. A recent study revealed that there were 105,000 residents living in the district, with an enrollment in Bethel schools of 20,000 students. Bethel citizens love the out-of-doors, and may often be found exploring and enjoying the multiple outdoor activities that are found in greater Pierce County.

It is for that reason that Bethel Community Services wholeheartedly supports the plan to expand and improve services at Sprinker Recreation Center, a plan which will include: an open lawn area, a spray park and family picnic area, multi purpose turf fields, formal entry and walking trails, renovations of the parking lot, rest rooms and concession building. In addition possible options will also include creating a large entry plaza or providing more open lawn space south of the ball fields. We believe that this project will offer a plethora of exciting new outdoor experiences for Bethel youth and families,

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this letter. We trust that you will choose to support and fund this valuable project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Donna Saling'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Donna Saling, Coordinator
Bethel Community Services



Bethel
SCHOOLS

20-1279 WWRP LP #16

THOMAS G. SEIGEL
Superintendent

DR. JENNIFER BETHMAN
Assistant Superintendent

DR. DAVID HAMMOND
Assistant Superintendent

April 2, 2020

Washington Recreation and Conservation Office
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

Re: Letter of Support for Pierce County's Sprinker Recreation Center Site Improvements

Dear RCO Review Committee:

I am writing on behalf of Bethel School District to express our enthusiastic support of Pierce County's proposal to the Washington Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) to improve the Sprinker Recreation Center.

Bethel School District covers 202 square miles of mostly unincorporated Pierce County and serves 120,000 residents and 21,000 students in 27 schools. The Bethel School District serves a diverse and growing population that is often underserved. We rely on centers such as the Sprinker Recreation Center to help to fill the health and recreation needs that the school district cannot provide on its own.

An aspect of the preferred plan that really appeals to us is upgrading the athletic fields and lights. Our own experience with artificially-turfed fields has been very positive – we have decreased our maintenance costs and the fields have only needed to be replaced once in 13 years of heavy use. Installing artificial turf fields and good lighting at Sprinker will save taxpayers money and give our students, families and community members a safe place to play year-round and for unlimited hours each day.

We fully support Pierce County Parks plan to improve the Sprinker Recreation Center. Throughout the planning process, we were instrumental in gathering community input.

Updating the ballfields and the parking lot, and adding amenities for families such as a spray park and picnic shelters, as well as improving access to Bresemann Forest, will give our students and families recreation opportunities beyond what the school district can provide. By providing more team and recreation options, the Sprinker Recreation Center plays a key role in the health and well-being of our community.

Thank you for your consideration. We hope you will support and fund this project.

Sincerely,

Tom Seigel
Superintendent

April 16, 2020

Washington Recreation and Conservation Office

PO Box 40917

Olympia, WA 98504-0917

RE: Letter of Support for Pierce County's Sprinker Recreation Center Outdoor Improvements Project


Dear Recreation and Conservation Review Committee:

I am writing on behalf of Franklin Pierce Schools to express our enthusiastic support of Pierce County's proposal to the Washington Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) to develop the next phase of the Sprinker Recreation Center.

We are fully supportive of Pierce County's plan to continue development of this regional recreation center located in the Parkland/Spanaway community. We believe improving the outdoor features available in our area will be beneficial for a variety of age groups. Both proposed improvement options feature open lawn, spray park, playground, sheltered picnic areas, multi-purpose turf fields, trails, and renovations to the existing restrooms and concessions. The designs provide new space for both organized sports and activities, as well as flexible space for community gatherings. There are few recreational areas available in our part of unincorporated Pierce County and we welcome these additional facilities.

Thank you for your consideration. We hope you will support and fund this project.

Sincerely,



Lance Goodpaster

Superintendent

April 30, 2018

Washington Recreation and Conservation Office
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

RE: Letter of Support for Pierce County Parks Outdoor Improvements at the Sprinker Recreation Center

Dear RCO Review Committee:

I am writing on behalf of The Mayfair Dream Project Team to express our spirited support of Pierce County's proposal to the RCO to improve the outdoor facilities at Sprinker Recreation Center.

Mayfair Dream Project is a Parkland community group dedicated to the revitalization of Mayfair Playfield into a more family-friendly playground to promote a safe, nurturing & healthy environment. Beginning with a Park Awareness event in the spring of 2015, we worked closely with Pierce County Parks, Pierce County Council, Safe Streets Campaign and various local organizations to spread the vision, encourage community involvement, develop a plan, and acquire funding. During this period, our organization hosted several community events which raised the park attendance from a handful of individuals to about a couple of hundred during the festivities. Led by Pierce County Parks, our dream playground was built in September 2016 by a large group of community volunteers from various institutions including Pacific Lutheran University, Franklin Pierce Schools, the local boy scouts, and church groups. The Mayfair Dream Project soon became an example and inspiration to many community groups and county leadership in Parkland and beyond. To this day, we continue to collaborate with Pierce County Parks to host fun community events, park improvements, and clean-ups.

We are fully supportive of Pierce County's plan to improve the outdoor facilities of Sprinker Center. As they did with Mayfair Park, Parks has engaged with the residents to ensure that the design fits the needs of the community members that they serve. The spray park and the picnic shelters, in particular, have certainly been on the wish list of many Parkland families looking for a much-needed safe, healthy, nurturing and cool place to play and gather for many, many years.

Thank you for your consideration. We hope you will support and fund this project.

Sincerely,
Jesus Paez
Co-Leader, Mayfair Dream Project
521 138th Street E.
Parkland, WA
Phone: (253) 632-6135
E-mail: jesuspaez74@yahoo.com

April 14, 2020

Washington Recreation and Conservation Office
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

RE: Letter of Support for Pierce County's Sprinker Recreation Center Outdoor Improvements Project

Dear RCO Review Committee:

I am writing on behalf of USA Softball Seattle/Tacoma Association in support of the Sprinker Recreation Center Outdoor Improvement Project. USA Softball is the national governing body for softball and rents the ballfields several times throughout the year and also supports the leagues and game of softball throughout our region. We are the leader in softball.

We fully support the proposed project which has been needed for many years. The transition from dirt to turf fields will help eliminate rainouts and the reconstruction of the fences and dugouts has been necessary for a long time. These improvements will make the Sprinker Recreation Center one of the most popular and desirable places to play. It will become a location to be considered for many events including national tournaments and high school district and state championships. Having turf surface will also make the possibility of playing more year round instead of March – September.

Thanks for considering the project and hopefully you will decide to fund this needed upgrade.

Sincerely,
Jim Donner
JO Commissioner
USA Softball Seattle/Tacoma



West Central District III

OF WASHINGTON INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

Joseph A. Keller, Director
WCD III
PO Box 39069
Lakewood WA 98496
253-225-1769
jkellerwcd3@gmail.com

Washington Recreation and Conservation Office
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917
May 18, 2020

RE: Letter of Support for Pierce County's Sprinker Recreation Center Improvement Project

Dear RCO Review Committee:

The purpose of this writing is to express the West Central District III's support for the Sprinker Recreation Center Improvement Project. The whole project will have a positive effect on the community, and specifically we are very excited about the improvements being made to the softball fields.

The WCD has had a long-standing relationship with Sprinker and we held our District slow pitch, and more recently, our fastpitch District tournaments at the Sprinker facility. However, the fields became unsafe and were not reliable if inclement weather occurred. The years of wear and tear had taken their toll, and a newer artificial turf facility in Lacey became our home. We did not want to leave, as we had a great, supportive relationship with Pierce County and Sprinker Center.

Should the new project be completed successfully, the West Central District would strongly consider coming back to Sprinker, as the majority of high schools in the WCD reside in Pierce County, and we would like to support the new project. We had such a positive working relationship in the past and would relish the opportunity to re-establish the same again.

The new changes, such as the trail system and other improvements, would attract the athletes and their families who participate in the tournaments back to Sprinker to take advantage of the awesome, new facility year round.

Please note the WCD's wholehearted support for the project. Feel free to contact me at the e-mail and/or number listed on the salutation of this letter.

Respectfully,

Joseph A. Keller, Director WCDIII



June 15th, 2020
Washington Recreation and Conservation Office
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

RE: Letter of Support for Outdoor Improvements at Sprinker Recreation Center

On behalf of Travel Tacoma – Mt. Rainier; Tourism and Sports, we serve as Pierce County's Regional Destination Marketing Organization. In partnership with our municipal city and parks partners across the county, we work hand in hand to help sell, recruit and attract (specific to this instance) sports events that bring travelling tourists.

We are submitting this letter in support of the facility improvements at Sprinker Recreation Center. Sprinker is a valuable asset to Pierce County. We work in direct relationship with Pierce County Parks and Recreation on helping with feasibility studies and plans so that the venue can better serve the needs of the community while becoming a stronger destination venue at the same time.

We hope you will consider funding this project.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dean E. Burke". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

DEAN BURKE | **PRESIDENT & CEO**
TRAVEL TACOMA – MT RAINIER
TRAVEL STYLE: at sea

(253) 284-3250 traveltacoma.com

Tacoma | Mt Rainier | Crystal Mountain | Lakewood | Puyallup | Sumner | Fife | Gig Harbor | DuPont



To Whom it May Concern,

We are the community living in the Dakota, Columbia Gardens, and Courtland Place apartment buildings. We composed the contents of this letter at a People's Academy for Community Engagement Pop-Up on Friday November 22nd, led by Dakota resident Angela Davis and PACE Coordinator Hilary Nichols. This letter will describe the problems experienced by pedestrians in the neighborhood at the intersection 34th and Charlestown.

Issues experienced at 34th and Charlestown:

- It's very unsafe for seniors and people with disabilities
- Cars can't see pedestrians
- Vehicles park in front of the yellow ramp, which makes it very difficult for people in wheelchairs to get to the grocery store
- Cars do not stop at 34th
- Cars go too fast along Charlestown
- Crossing area is poorly lit
- There is uneven pavement

Personal stories about crossing 34th and Charlestown:

- Last year, my neighbor was killed at 34th and Charlestown.
- I have low vision, so I can't see how to cross safely.
- I've seen my friend in a wheelchair almost get hit several times. I don't send my 16-year-old son over for groceries because I fear for his safety.
- Last week, I was going down the sidewalk in my wheelchair from my apartment and it was dark the whole way. A car came out of the Safeway driveway so fast that it came within one foot of hitting me.
- When I take my kids to school, cars are going over the speed limit.
- We have to raise our hands while walking across the intersection just so cars can see us.
- One day I was with my kids, and my boy almost got hit. There's no enforcement of speeding cars.
- Walking to Safeway, an older lady with a cane almost got hit. If I hadn't moved her, she would've been hit.
- There are new apartments coming to the block, so this is about to be an even bigger problem.
- 2 people have died on Charlestown. We're tired of our friends dying.

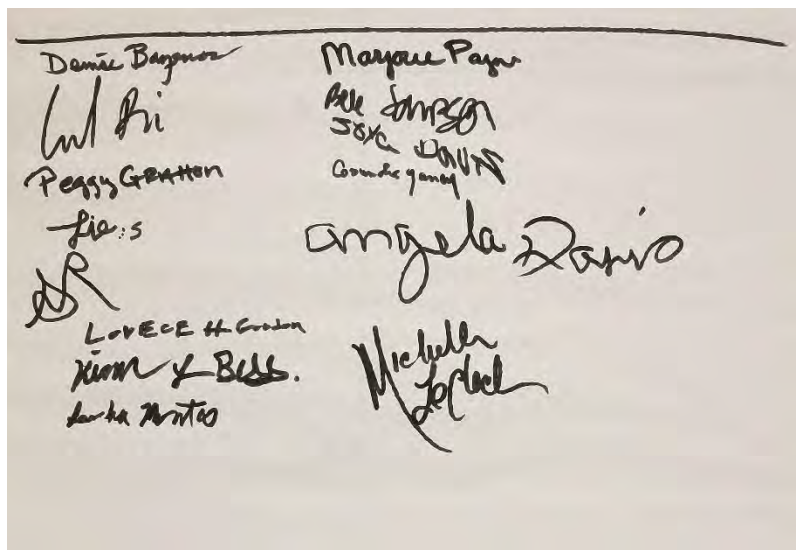


Proposed Solutions

- Install a blinking light crosswalk
- Install a permanent "Stop for Pedestrians" sign
- Install a permanent "Seniors and Children Crossing" sign
- Install a stop sign on 34th at Charlestown
- Install a temporary (aka lawn sign) "Stop for Pedestrians" sign
- Provide tall flags for people to put on their mobility devices
- Install crossing flags like at school crosswalks
- Install additional streetlights at 34th and Charlestown
- Support hiring a crossing guard for seniors
- Reduce the speed limit on Charlestown

This community wishes to meet with you about the issues and proposed solutions detailed here. We invite you to come and do a site visit, followed by a community meeting, so that you can learn about these problems firsthand. To organize, you can contact Angela Davis at comconsea@gmail.com.

Signed,



A collection of handwritten signatures on a piece of paper. The signatures are arranged in two columns. The left column includes: Denise Bagnasco, Lul Piri, Peggy Gannon, Lisa S, Lovee H. Gordon, Kimm & Bess, and Linda Martin. The right column includes: Maryanne Payne, Alex Johnson, Sora Davis, Angela Davis, and Michelle Lopez.

The Community at Dakota, Columbia Gardens, and Courtland Place Apartments



Edmonds Floretum Garden Club
1020 Grandview St., Edmonds WA 98020
www.edmondsfloretumgardenclub.org

Recreation and Conservation Office
1111 Washington Street SE
Olympia, Washington 98501

RE: Letter of Support for Marina Beach Park and Willow Creek

Dear Evaluation Committee,

Please accept Edmonds Floretum Garden Club's letter of support for the City of Edmonds' plans to renovate Marina Beach Park, a waterfront park on Puget Sound in south Snohomish County.

Floretum's 150 members are getting ready to celebrate our 100th anniversary of service to the community. The club is committed to "conservation of natural resources, protection of wildlife, civic beautification, and above all, the love of gardening, while honoring its charter purpose of beautifying Edmonds" as we proclaim in our mission statement. The beaches, creeks, and marsh lands of Edmonds are crucially important to the community, and we are passionate about supporting their health.

The City will improve the outdated park to better serve the community. New and improved amenities include an all-abilities playground, nature play area, accessible scenic overlooks, dog park, a hand boat launch access point, and restrooms at two new entry plazas. The parking lots will be consolidated and pedestrian pathways rerouted for better circulation and flood prevention.

This project is an essential component of the Edmonds Marsh near-shore restoration, which has been popular with the community for decades. This project will reconnect Puget Sound to the estuary marsh by restoring Willow Creek. Willow Creek is an historically salmon-bearing stream currently being piped underground through the park. Just north of the park, the creek will connect with the Edmonds Marsh to return tidal flows, salt-water exchange, and salmon to the marsh. Within the park, the creek will offer stunning views of salmon runs from multiple angles and provide opportunities to learn about this unique ecosystem.

Floretum is pleased to support the City of Edmonds' efforts to redevelop Marina Beach Park to reconnect people with Willow Creek while preserving the community's sense of place and the park's natural beauty. If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you in advance for your time.

Sincerely,

Marty Ronish, Ph.D.
President, Edmonds Floretum Garden Club



July 30, 2020

Recreation and Conservation Office
1111 Washington Street S.E.
Olympia, Washington 98501
WRIA 8 Grant Funding Committee

Dear Esteemed Members of the Recreation and Conservation Office,

Please accept this letter of support from The Off-Leash Area Edmonds (OLAE) for the City of Edmonds' plan to renovate Marina Beach Park as part of the overall Edmonds Marsh-Estuary Restoration Project. OLAE is a local non-profit group that was founded in 2005 to steward, restore, educate and clean-up the off-leash area in Edmonds. Our hard-working volunteers over the past 15 years in conjunction with Rich Lindsay, Parks and Recreation Manager have removed tons of debris and managed five Eagle Scout Project to bring this area to be recognized by the Seattle Times as "the Club-Med of Dog Parks" (see attached page).

This project is an essential component of the Edmonds Marsh near-shore restoration and has been a popular regional park and Native Wildlife Park with the community for decades. The OLAE Board supports the overall Marsh Estuary Restoration project that will reconnect the Marsh to Puget Sound restoring critical estuary functions and salmon migrations, and expanding a wildlife sanctuary. The Marina Beach comprehensive design took over two years to complete and was a massive public outreach project. Initially the consultants came up with a design the completely eliminated the off-leash area. Citizens were up in arms and after hundreds of hours of testimony, open houses and public comments, the final design included a smaller off-leash area where park users will cross a bridge over the tidal channel to our park. The overlook from bridge should provide wonderful views of the tidal exchange and adult salmon migrating back into the Marsh estuary. For the record, water quality tests at the off-leash area are BETTER than any other area tested along that shoreline.

Off Leash Area Edmonds
Post Office Box 1562
Edmonds WA 98020
www.olae.org
O.L.A.E@comcast.net

OLAE is a 501(c)3 organization – EIN# 16-1730771



The Board of OLAE always supports the efforts of the City of Edmonds to redevelop Marina Beach and restore the Edmonds Marsh estuary as we must remember that generations to come need a place: for recreation, for understanding, learning and discovering this unique ecosystem; for enjoying nature's backdrop of beauty; and most importantly for dog owners to have a beautiful "Club-Med" for their dogs to play.

If we can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you in advance for your time.

Sincerely the Board of OLAE (woof),

/s/Brian Albright,
/s/Diane Buckshnis,
/s/Shay Hastler,
/s/Kristie Kloomer,
/s/Glenda Konkol,
/s/Lori Parsons,
/s/Joshua Wilde

cc: City of Edmonds,
OLAE Board Members

Visit www.olae.org to find out details about us!

Off Leash Area Edmonds
Post Office Box 1562
Edmonds WA 98020
www.olae.org
O.L.A.E@comcast.net

OLAE is a 501(c)3 organization – EIN# 16-1730771

Recreation and Conservation Office
1111 Washington Street SE
Olympia, Washington 98501

RE: Letter of Support for Marina Beach Park and Willow Creek

Dear evaluation committee,

Please accept the Port of Edmonds' letter of support for the City of Edmonds' plans to renovate Marina Beach Park, a waterfront park on Puget Sound in south Snohomish County.

A critical element of the Port's mission is to provide a vibrant, attractive environment for the Edmonds-Woodway community, and this project aligns with that goal. As the neighboring property, we are a proponent for increasing the park's quality, restoring the land, and increasing safe access. Additionally, the restrooms will be a substantial improvement over the existing facilities provided to visitors.

The City will improve the outdated park to better serve the community. New and improved amenities include an all-abilities playground, nature play area, accessible scenic overlooks, dog park, a hand boat launch access point, and restrooms at two new entry plazas. The parking lots will be consolidated and pedestrian pathways rerouted for better circulation and flood prevention.

This project is an essential component of the Edmonds Marsh near-shore restoration, which has been popular with the community for decades. This project will reconnect Puget Sound to the estuary marsh by restoring Willow Creek. Willow Creek is an historically salmon-bearing stream currently being piped underground through the park. Just north of the park, the creek will connect with the Edmonds Marsh to return tidal flows, salt-water exchange, and salmon to the marsh. Within the park, the creek will offer stunning views of salmon runs from multiple angles and provide opportunities to learn about this unique ecosystem.

The Port of Edmonds is pleased to support the City of Edmonds' efforts to redevelop Marina Beach Park to reconnect people with Willow Creek while preserving the community's sense of place and the park's natural beauty. If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you in advance for your time.

Sincerely,

Brandon Baker

Marina Manager

Port Of Edmonds



Save.the.Edmonds.Marsh@gmail.com

August 7, 2019

To: Washington Recreation and Conservation Office

The 'Save Our Marsh' community group in Edmonds, WA supports the Marina Beach Park renovation grant applications (PRISM #20-1296 and #1322) from the City of Edmonds because they are a critical component of the Edmonds Marsh-Estuary Restoration Project to restore a fully functional tidal wetland along Puget Sound.

The Edmonds Marsh-Estuary has been partially disconnected from Puget Sound since the 1960's when the tidal outlet was put into a 1,600-foot pipe (with a tide gate) that discharges underwater into Puget Sound. Although the tide gate is secured open in spring and summer to allow limited tidal exchange, the fall and winter exclusion of saltwater into the marsh-estuary for many years has created a dysfunctional tidal wetland ecosystem with poor circulation. The long pipe exiting into saltwater below low tide levels has prevented adult salmon from spawning in upland streams, and has prevented juvenile Chinook salmon from rearing and feeding in an estuary.

There is substantial community support for this restoration project. Many residents and visitors to Edmonds go to the Edmonds Marsh-Estuary and Marina Beach Park to enjoy the natural setting and the recreational and wildlife viewing opportunities. The north edge of the Marsh has observation platforms and a boardwalk that provide excellent viewing opportunities. Over 190 different bird species have been documented at the Edmonds Marsh-Estuary and the restoration project will enhance the estuarine habitat for shorebirds as well as aquatic species. Both coho and chum salmon were observed in the past in the streams draining into the marsh and the Edmonds community is united in its desire to bring salmon back for future generations to enjoy.

The renovation design proposed for Marina Beach Park will allow the public to view adult salmon migrating up the tidal channel. There is a very limited number of publicly accessible locations for people to see wild salmon in their natural setting, and this project will greatly add to the public's wildlife viewing and educational opportunities.

We urge the RCO to approve the grant funding requested that will benefit salmon, wildlife, and people throughout the State that appreciate access to our natural resources.

Sincerely,

Joe Scordino
Save Our Marsh

SAVE OUR MARSH is a community-driven effort to preserve, enhance and restore the Edmonds Marsh-Estuary for the benefit of wildlife and salmon as well as current and future generations of people who enjoy our natural environment.



Snohomish County

Marine Resources Committee

COMMITTEE

MEMBERS

Mike Ehlebracht
(Chair)

Bob Hillmann
(Co- Vice Chair)

Susan Tarpley
(Co- Vice Chair)

Sarah Brown (Past
Chair)

Natasha Coumou

Paul Clampitt

Tom Doerge

Tim Ellis

Laura Gurley

Kip Killebrew

Sara Maxwell

Mike Sadler

Julie Schlenger

Snohomish County Staff

Elisa Dawson,
Senior Planner
MRC Lead Staff

Snohomish County
Surface Water
Management

3000 Rockefeller
Avenue
MS-607
Everett, WA 98201
phone:
425.388.6414
fax: 425.388.6455

www.snocomrc.org

August 5, 2020

Recreation and Conservation Office
1111 Washington Street SE
Olympia, Washington 98501

RE: Letter of Support for Marina Beach Park and Willow Creek

Dear Evaluation Committee,

Please accept Snohomish County Marine Resources Committee's letter of support for the City of Edmonds' plans to renovate Marina Beach Park, a waterfront park on Puget Sound in south Snohomish County.

The City will improve the outdated park to better serve the community. New and improved amenities include an all-abilities playground, nature play area, accessible scenic overlooks, dog park, a hand boat launch access point, and restrooms at two new entry plazas. The parking lots will be consolidated and pedestrian pathways rerouted for better circulation and flood prevention.

This project is an essential component of the Edmonds Marsh restoration, which has been popular with the community for decades. This project will reconnect Puget Sound to the estuary marsh by bringing Willow Creek to the surface. Willow Creek is a historically salmon-bearing stream currently being piped underground through the park. Just north of the park, the creek will connect with the Edmonds Marsh to return tidal flows, salt-water exchange, and salmon to the marsh. Within the park, the creek will offer stunning views of salmon runs from multiple angles and opportunities to learn about this unique ecosystem.

The Marine Resources Advisory Committee is a team of citizen volunteers dedicated to promoting effective stewardship of Snohomish County's marine waters, habitats, species, and shorelines. Appointed by the County Council to represent diverse local interests, committee members are united by our dedication to managing our natural resources for the benefit of all. Together, we seek out the best available scientific information and use it to evaluate, prioritize, and implement strategies for achieving and sustaining a healthy Puget Sound. We believe this project will enhance nearshore habitat in our county as well as provide the community recreational and educational amenities. This project furthers our goal to help create a healthy, enduring marine ecosystem in Snohomish County which contributes to the overall health of Puget Sound and which is shared and protected by all.

Snohomish County Marine Resources Committee is pleased to support the City of Edmonds' efforts to redevelop Marina Beach Park to reconnect people with Willow Creek while preserving the community's sense of place and the park's natural beauty. If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you in advance for your time.

Sincerely,

Mike Ehlebracht

Mike Ehlebracht
Snohomish Marine Resources Committee Chair
Mike.ehlebracht@snoco.org



Connecting you with our watersheds for the future of salmon

August 6, 2020

Recreation and Conservation Office
1111 Washington Street SE
Olympia, Washington 98501

RE: Letter of Support for Marina Beach Park and Willow Creek

Dear evaluation committee,

Please accept Sound Salmon Solutions' letter of support for the City of Edmonds' plans to renovate Marina Beach Park, a waterfront park on Puget Sound in south Snohomish County. Sound Salmon Solutions (SSS) is a small, grassroots 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and a Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group (RFEG). For 30 years we have supported salmon recovery by connecting people with our watersheds through interactive education, hands-on stewardship, and state-of-the-art habitat restoration in partnership with our local community groups, Tribes, governments, agencies, businesses, and landowners in the Stillaguamish, Snohomish, Camano/South Whidbey Island, and southwest Snohomish County watersheds.

SSS operates the Willow Creek Salmon and Watershed Education Center (WCSWEC) that was originally founded over 30 years ago as the Willow Creek Salmon Hatchery and Aquatic Education Center by the Edmonds based Laebugten Salmon Club as a place where the local community could learn about the salmon life cycle and appreciate the need for salmon conservation to support a robust fishery for generations to come. Over those 30+ years three generations of the local community have gotten up close and personal with juvenile coho through helping with their rearing at the hatchery and release into local streams and participating in classroom and outdoor salmon education programs. Known locally as "the Hatchery" it is an Edmonds tradition that Sound Salmon Solutions was honored to be asked to carry on in 2017 when we were invited to assume the lease and operations of the facility.

The City's proposed project is an essential component of the Edmonds Marsh near-shore restoration, which has been popular with the community for decades. This project will reconnect Puget Sound to the estuary marsh by restoring Willow Creek. Willow Creek is an historically salmon-bearing stream currently being piped underground through the park. Just north of the park, the creek will connect with the Edmonds Marsh to return tidal flows, salt-water exchange, and salmon to the marsh.

Being directly upstream from the City's proposed project we are excited that we will be able to make an impactful ecological and educational connection between WCSWEC and the Sound once this project is complete. Once Willow Creek is connected to the sound that allows for fish passage, we will seek permits from WDFW to begin releases of coho juveniles into Willow Creek in hopes of having returns to spawn. We currently have permits to release into other local Edmonds watersheds, mainly Shell Creek.

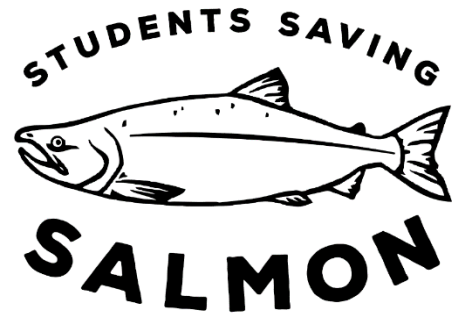
We also welcome the physical connection between the nearshore habitat and riparian habitat at Willow Creek that passes through the Edmonds Marsh that will provide the community an intimate experience of the key habitats crucial to salmon including stunning views of salmon runs from multiple angles within the park as they head up stream toward WCSWEC to spawn. The community's overall sense of place will be enhanced with new and improved amenities including an all-abilities playground, nature play area, accessible scenic overlooks, dog park, a hand boat launch access point, and restrooms at two new entry plazas. As well, safety and flood prevention will be improved through consolidated parking lots and pedestrian pathways.

Sound Salmon Solutions is pleased to enthusiastically support the City of Edmonds' efforts to redevelop Marina Beach Park to reconnect people with Willow Creek while preserving the community's sense of place and the park's natural beauty. We are committed to partnering and collaborating with the City in this project to ensure a meaningful and productive connection between the park and our WCSWEC programs. If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you in advance for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of a long horizontal stroke followed by a circular flourish.

Rodney Pond
Executive Director
Sound Salmon Solutions



August 10, 2020

Washington Recreation and Conservation Office
1111 Washington Street SE
Olympia, Washington 98501

To Whom It May Concern:

Students Saving Salmon club from Edmonds-Woodway High School and Meadowdale High School support the Marina Beach Park renovation grant applications (PRISM #20-1296 and #1322) because it will reopen a tidal channel between the beach and the Edmonds Marsh-Estuary that will allow salmon to once again return to Edmonds streams.

Students Saving Salmon was formed in 2014 by students concerned about the environment, especially salmon and their habitat, and our goal is to return salmon to all of the streams in Edmonds. Students participate in field studies to collect and disseminate scientific information; conduct community outreach, and assist community salmon enhancement and habitat restoration efforts.

We have collected data on water quality, pollutants and habitat conditions in the Edmonds Marsh and its' tributary streams since 2015 that confirm that restoring open tidal exchange is critical for the health of the Marsh-Estuary and return of salmon. Conditions in the Marsh-Estuary have deteriorated since the 1960's when the estuary outlet was put into a 1,600-foot underground pipe with a tide gate that has prevented tidal exchange causing sedimentation backup, proliferation of invasive species, restricted water circulation, overheating, and total blockage of salmon migration.

This project will contribute to Washington State goals to restore the nearshore environment in Puget Sound for salmon and other aquatic and wildlife species, and we urge the RCO to approve the applications.

August 4, 2020

To Whom It May Concern

RE: Van Lierop Park Playground Development Project # 30-1645

The Pierce Conservation District (PCD) is government that works. We work strategically, diligently and passionately to conserve and restore the natural resources of Pierce County. Our work improves both rural and urban communities to benefit the health and well-being of our citizens. We work in five core program areas: Farm Assistance, Water Quality Improvement, Habitat Restoration, Urban Agriculture, and Environmental Education. The District works for clean water, healthy soil, salmon recovery and local food access for all.

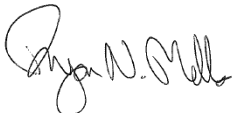
I am writing to express support for the funding application to the Recreation Conservation Office (RCO) for an all-accessible playground at the City of Puyallup's Van Lierop Park. The addition of the all-accessible playground at Van Lierop Park will be a great asset to the community and a draw for people to visit and utilize this beautiful property.

Puyallup originally purchased the Van Lierop property due to a longstanding need for a park in the east valley area of the City. This area was also one of the few remaining agricultural areas within the City that could be developed into a community park while preserving some farmland as open space. Van Lierop Park will also provide a mix of active and passive recreation uses and allow park users to take advantage of the spectacular views of Mt. Rainier.

The new playground will be farm-themed, to acknowledge the bulb farm heritage and agricultural history of the site. The addition of the all-abilities, inclusive playground will allow children and/or family members who use mobility devices to access equipment regardless of physical abilities. Van Lierop Park is also accessible from the Riverwalk Trail as part of a link to the Foothills trail and will create exceptional multi-modal access with major trail connections linking the Riverwalk and Foothills Trails.

Thank you for your consideration of this worthwhile project.

Sincerely,



Ryan Mello



Friends of the Riverwalk

"Trails Uniting Communities"

<https://piercecounitytrails.org/>

May 22, 2020

To whom it may concern:

Re: Van Lierop Park Playground Development Project #20-1645

On behalf of the Friends of the Riverwalk I wish to express our enthusiastic support for referenced project application to Recreation Conservation Office (RCO) for funding to move forward with development of an all-accessible type playground in Van Lierop Park.

Van Lierop Park was named to honor the legacy of the Van Lierop family that farmed this property for five generations. The City of Puyallup acquired 24 acres in 2015; six acres were subsequently sold to Step-by-Step, an admirable nonprofit that works to transform the lives of at-risk young mothers and their babies.

During 2016 and 2017 a public process was undertaken to create a Master Plan to identify what Van Lierop Park would offer. Progress in development of the park, currently in Phase VI, occurs as funding and staff time allow.

To date, the following amenities are complete and open for enjoyment of the public: (1) view corridor and plaza with stone benches and flowerbeds showcasing the property's historic and spectacular sightline to Mount Rainier; (2) segment of a multiuse trail named the "Ernie Bay Connector" in honor of Dr. Ernest C. Bay, 30-year trail champion and leader; (3) parking lot with trail connection to 134th Ave. E.

In conclusion, thanks for the opportunity to comment on this important project and please contact me if our members can to anything more to help the cause along.

Best Regards,

Wm Hilton

William L. "Bill" Hilton, Chairman
Billhltn@aol.com



May 26nd, 2020

Re: **Van Lierop Park Playground Improvements**

To Interested Parties,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Puyallup Sumner Chamber of Commerce. Our mission is to be the Champion of business; promoting an economically vibrant and competitive region where community, family and business prosper. We recognize and embrace that in order to be a desirable and prosperous region, all three bodies of community, family and business need to be fostered.

The City of Puyallup holistically embodies this same notion. They continue to take steps to lead the city on a path to its greatest potential. That is with careful and proactive thought of community, family and business and a level of excellence that raises the bar to not only meet but exceed the expectations of the members of its community. The City of Puyallup is at a unique juncture, to craft the branding, story, look and feel of a community that is brimming with possibility. The grant they are seeking will be money well spent to further cast the great vision they have for its parks and in turn the community, families and businesses that consider Puyallup the home and community they are proud of.

On behalf of the Puyallup Sumner Chamber of Commerce we support the City of Puyallup's request and hope that you will grant them this request.

Thank you for consideration.

Tara Doyle-Enneking

President & CEO

Puyallup Sumner Chamber of Commerce

Puyallup Sumner Chamber of Commerce

323 North Meridian Avenue, Ste. A, Puyallup, WA 98371

www.puyallupsumnerchamber.com



May 26th, 2020

City of Puyallup Park's & Rec. Dept.
330 S. Meridian
Puyallup, Wa 98371

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of Puyallup PTA Council 5.7 we wish to relay our full support of the playground equipment and general improvements that is being considered at Van Lierop Park. These new additions will bring family and friends together for decades to come. Our Puyallup PTA Council is a strong advocate for the children of our beloved Puyallup School District and beyond. The opportunity for this new playground will allow young and old to meet and share the stories of our historic past. A grant of this consideration at a farm that holds traditions, and memories for most of our community will benefit families and individuals beyond our imagination.

We are pleased to endorse the community support this project brings.

Kind Regards,

Jason A. Osburn
Legislative Advocate
Puyallup PTA Council 5.7

Puyallup Highlands Homeowners Association

c/o J and M Management

(Mailing address) 17404 Meridian East, Suite F – PMB 171, Puyallup WA 98375

Office phone: 253.848.1947 x 104, Fax number: 253.848.1948, Office Email: Jennifer@JandMManagement.com

May 21, 2020

To Whom It May Concern,

As representatives of a community of 285 homes located near the proposed development of the Van Lierop Park, we are happy to speak regarding a State Recreation & Conservation Office grant application for playground improvements.

We believe that the availability of trails, sport fields, and other recreational opportunities will enhance the quality of life for our community members. I walked around the area last weekend and was struck by the beauty of the area. It is also a great way to make the view of Mt Rainier accessible to everyone during leisure activities. I also noticed families with small children. An “all abilities” playground will be a wonderful enhancement to this lovely park. Please consider Puyallup Highlands HOA as enthusiastic advocates for the requested grant of \$500,000.

Sincerely yours,

Michael Holbert
Puyallup Highlands HOA,
Board Secretary
mholbert435@gmail.com

cc. Jennifer Starnes, Account Manager – J&M Management
Ph 253-848-1947 x 104



May 26, 2020

To whom it may concern

Re: Van Lierop Park Playground Development Project #20-1645

I am writing on behalf of the Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition (FRTTC) to express our members strong support for referenced funding application to Recreation Conservation Office (RCO) for an all-accessible playground in Van Lierop Park. People in Puyallup use their publicly owned parks to play, to hike, to bike, to fish, to roller-skate, walk their pets, or just to be outside and breathe in some fresh air and commune with nature.

Often overlooked is the part that trails and park amenities and surrounding small businesses play in providing the perfect infrastructure framework in support of alternative modes of transportation for rapidly growing numbers of commuters. Per an article published by New York Times Transit Reporter Christina Goldbaum, entitled "Thinking of Buying a Bike? Get Ready for a Very Long Wait", the United States is facing a shortage of bicycles as COVID-19 anxiety about riding the public buses or subways has sent demand for bicycles surging.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/05/18/nyregion/bike-shortage-coronavirus.html>

The attached map shows the 21-mile contiguous completed spine of the Foothills Trail from the City of Buckley to the East Puyallup (Meeker) Trailhead. Our members now look forward to extending the Riverwalk Trail from the end of the trail under the East Main Street Railroad Bridge, to connect with the "Ernie Bay Connector" trail segment which starts at the northern border of Van Lierop Park and enables access to the Foothills Trail at East Puyallup,

FRTTC is an all-volunteer 501(c)3 nonprofit. Our mission is to assist Pierce County government and communities in the creation, maintenance, and usage of a connected system of non-motorized trails for healthier people from Mount Rainier to Tacoma's Commencement Bay. We also are members of the Puyallup Watershed Active Transportation Community of Interest and maintain an Opportunity Fund used to leverage grant applications for projects within the Puyallup Watershed.

We especially appreciate your willingness to move forward with this positive project for creating parks and trails despite the uncertainties and challenges perpetuated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Please contact us if our members can do more to further the cause.

Best Regards and Stay Safe

Stuart "Stu" Scheuerman, President
Phone: (253)-405-5129
Email: snese01@msn.com

E-mail:

foothills-trail@msn.com

Website:

www.piercecountytrails.org

Officers

President Stuart Scheuerman
Vice President Bill Hilton
Treasurer Loras Gassmann
Secretary Jeremiah Meacham
Past President John Downs

Remembered Presidents

Ernie Bay

Buzz Grant

Board Members

Bryan Bowden

Steve Brown

Dan Bucci

Dixie Gatchel

Pat Johnson

Nicole Martineau

Matt McCollum

John Peachey

Donald (Don) Rich

Dave Seago

John Selby

John Warhol

Ken Woolery

Mission Statement:

*The mission of the Foothills
Rails to Trails Coalition is to
assist Pierce County
government and communities in
the creation, maintenance and
usage of a connected system of
non-motorized trails for healthier
people from Mt. Rainier to Puget
Sound.*

Rotary

Puyallup South Hill



May 21, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

Puyallup South Hill Rotary Club enthusiastically supports the construction of a playground at the new Van Lierop Park. Our club has a 37 year history of creating and participating in a broad spectrum of projects intended to improve the quality of life for residents of our community. This playground will add to those important community enhancements.

South Hill Rotary strongly believes in the importance of active living for young and old. We believe in a healthy community. We appreciate and respect the stunning beauty of Cascade Mountain vistas offered from Puyallup, South Hill, and the Puyallup Valley. This playground project supports all of these beliefs.

For these reasons, the Puyallup South Hill Rotary Club is pleased to be counted among community organizations that endorse the playground construction at Van Lierop Park.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Johnston
President Elect, 2019-2020



May 19, 2020

Recreation Conservation Office
1111 Washington St SE
Olympia, WA 98501

To whom it may concern,

The Spokane River Forum enthusiastically supports the City of Spokane Valley application to the Recreation Conservation Office (RCO) for funding to support acquisition of an undeveloped 45-acre riverfront parcel entitled Flora Road Property. Our understanding is that the Washington Department of Transportation has identified this as surplus property for sale. It is also adjacent to property owned by Washington State Parks.

The Spokane River Forum (the Forum) began development of the Spokane River Water Trail (www.spokanewatertrail.org) in 2010. Working with government, private and non-profit partners, 14 access points have been developed or restored. In Spokane Valley, this includes access points at Barker Road, Sullivan Park, Mirabeau Park and Islands Trailhead. These efforts have resulted in two exceptional outcomes:


- 1) Parking lots are full on weekends as hundreds of people now visit the river for rafting, tubing, angling, and paddling at various times of the year.
- 2) Riparian habitat is better protected because people are directed to well maintained access points rather than harming shoreline areas by scrabbling up and down to find their way to the river.

For Forum priorities, the property has unique and highly desirable opportunities that include:

- 1) The wooded, riparian shoreline should be maintained and made accessible to the community. Particularly as the Valley continues to grow, the importance of protecting public spaces can not be understated.
- 2) This river reach has natural features that support a whitewater play area. This includes Mini Climax Wave, Duplex Wave, Sullivan Hole and Zoo Wave. Access at this location would strongly support unique playboater interests.
- 3) Development of a north side Centennial loop trail connecting this property with Sullivan Park access would also support whitewater play usage, hosting of whitewater events, and provide additional recreation opportunities such as walking and biking.

The Forum is committed to participating in a City of Spokane Valley led public master plan process to determine an overall development plan, including considering other amenities such as disc golf and picnic shelters. As with other water trail locations, the Forum is also committed to development of partnerships to bring a master plan to fruition.

Sincerely,



Andy Dunau

Executive Director

May 22nd, 2020

Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO)
P.O. Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

Dear Recreation and Conservation Office:

It is my pleasure to write this letter in support of the RCO grant application being submitted by the City of Gig Harbor in hopes to secure funding for the construction of Phase 1B of the Gig Harbor Sports Complex (GHSC). As the current serving Chair of the Gig Harbor Parks Commission and a resident of Gig Harbor for the past 30+ years, I have seen this park project transition from that of a desire of the community to an absolute necessity because of conditional circumstances.

In recent years, Pierce County has been recognized as one of the fastest growing counties in the state of Washington. Meanwhile, Gig Harbor has seen an unprecedented amount of growth and development. As one of the fastest growing cities, in one of the fastest growing counties it has become apparent there are certain deficiencies within the infrastructure of the city to be able to provide adequate levels of service for the community. This park will prove to be an asset by filling the basic needs of a recently developed neighborhood with 500+ single family residences, 170+ apartment unit complex, a 500+ residence senior retirement community and even more development in the process.

In February of 2019 the Peninsula School District passed a bond measure, which will build two new schools within the city. An unfortunate outcome of the construction is one of the schools displaced the Milgard Boys and Girls Club, as well as the home of the Senior Center. The loss of these community assets has left a void for recreational opportunities for both young and old alike. The community engagement through the planning stages of the GHSC had robust participation and provided beneficial insight to the needs of the diverse user groups. The park will provide an abundance of sport courts and recreational opportunities like; bocce ball, pickleball, inclusive playground equipment, green open space, restrooms and parking as a part of the phased development of the GHSC.

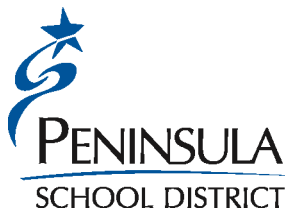
Additionally, the GHSC construction would provide a boost to the local tax revenue stream through hosting various events, sporting tournaments and through support of the adjacently located sporting goods store.

Please accept my sincere thanks in your time and consideration of the grant application, which would help construct many well needed recreation opportunities to an underserved neighborhood.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the letter 'B' inside a circle, followed by a horizontal line.

Ben Coronado
Chair of the Gig Harbor Parks Commission



June 3, 2020

Recreation and Conservation Office
1111 Washington Street SE
Olympia, WA 98501

Re: Letter of Support for City of Gig Harbor's Grant Application

To Whom It May Concern:

Peninsula School District offers our full support for the City of Gig Harbor's grant application to complete the design and construct a portion of the Gig Harbor Sports Complex, Phase 1B located just north of the Tom Taylor YMCA off of Harbor Hill Drive in Gig Harbor, WA.

We believe the completion of this project will enhance our community's active lifestyle culture and perfectly complement our new elementary school that is being constructed nearby.

Sincerely,

Dr. Arthur O. Jarvis
Superintendent
jarvisa@psd401.net



**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

June 9, 2020

Recreation and Conservation Office
1111 Washington St. SE
Olympia, WA 98501

Subject: Letter of Support for Gig Harbor Sports Complex Phase 1B

To the Members of the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board,

The YMCA of Pierce and Kitsap Counties provides this letter of support for the City of Gig Harbor and its grant application to the Recreation and Conservation Office and its request for the Gig Harbor Sports Complex Phase 1B project. The proposed project will provide new park amenities to city residents and the greater Gig Harbor community.

We appreciate your consideration of the City's request.

Sincerely,

Charlie Davis
President and CEO
YMCA of Pierce and Kitsap Counties

May 20, 2020

Recreation and Conservation Office
1111 Washington Street SE
Olympia, WA 98501

Dear Recreation and Conservation Office,

We come to you as a united group in support of the Gig Harbor Sports Complex. We being organized sports entities of the peninsula include: Harbor Soccer, Gig Harbor Little League, Peninsula Youth Football and Cheer, Gig Harbor Lacrosse Association. Combined we service more than 3000 children annually through our various sport activities and the number of participants continues to grow every year!

It is important to us that when the Gig Harbor Sports Complex is complete that it not only contains lit turf fields but amenities that complement the complex such as a playground, bocce ball and pickle ball courts. We see a high use of this area for families who may not have all their children in a sport and need an activity to explore and play on during practice and game times. In addition sports teams and families can gather for team meetings in the extra lawn space and have team bonding time playing bocce ball and pickle ball.

With heavy demand for lit turf sports fields in the Gig Harbor area it is important to complete the sports complex as soon as possible and include the amenities of phase 1B. Thank you for considering this project for the local parks and LWCF grants. We look forward to working together to build this complex and the opportunities it will bring to the community.

Sincerely,



Harbor Soccer
David Kilney
President



Gig Harbor Lacrosse Association
Jennifer Caplinger
President



Peninsula Youth Football
Drew Henrickson
Chairman



Gig Harbor Little League
Ron Brentin
Board Member

May 13, 2020

Recreation and Conservation Office
1111 Washington Street SE
Olympia, WA 98501

RE: SUPPORT FOR GIG HARBOR SPORTS COMPLEX PROJECT

Pierce Transit is writing in support of the Gig Harbor Sports Complex project to be located on Harbor Hill Drive in Gig Harbor, Washington. The site is served by two local Pierce Transit bus routes operating on Borgen Boulevard with bus stops located at Harbor Hill Drive and Borgen Boulevard. We have two bus routes that provide convenient access to the site:

- Route 100 – Gig Harbor to Tacoma Community College: Operates seven days a week providing connections from local Gig Harbor destinations as well as a connection to the Tacoma Community College Transit Center which is served by both local and regional transit bus routes.
- Route 101 – Gig Harbor Trolley: Seasonal summer trolley service operates during the summer through a partnership with the City of Gig Harbor and other local stakeholders. During summer months the trolley operates from Uptown Gig Harbor to Downtown Gig Harbor utilizing the same bus stops near Harbor Hill Drive. The trolley fare is subsidized by the partners and is \$.50 per trip or \$1 for an all-day pass.

Pierce Transit recognizes the importance of parks and equitable access to these valuable community facilities. We strive to help our riders reach these amenities in their daily lives. Surveys of our transit riders show that most of our riders are utilizing transit to reach jobs, school, medical or recreation opportunities. We also know from our rider surveys that 60 percent of our riders live in households with annual incomes of less than \$25,000 or less. Access to amenities like the proposed Gig Harbor Sports Complex are critical for the physical and mental wellbeing of our community. Again, we are happy to support this project and look forward to helping to provide access to the complex with our local transit service.



Sue Dreier, Chief Executive Officer

SD:tl

c: Barbara Hunter, Pierce Transit, Grants Administrator
Nicole Jones-Vogel, AICP, Gig Harbor, Parks Manager





Recreation and Conservation Office
1111 Washington Street SE
Olympia, WA 98501

May 13, 2020

Rotary Club of Gig Harbor North
Robert Anderson, President
5720 122nd Street, Gig Harbor, WA 98332

Dear Ms. Auerbach:

I am Robert Anderson, president of Rotary Club of Gig Harbor North, and I am writing to endorse two grant applications by the City of Gig Harbor. The successful Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) grant applications (local parks and LWCF) would complete the design and then construct a portion of the Gig Harbor Sports Complex, Phase 1B located just north of the Tom Taylor YMCA off of Harbor Hill Drive. The amenities that are planned for in Phase 1B are bocce ball courts, pickle ball courts, event lawn, and playground space.

As you may know the North End of Gig Harbor, where our Rotary Club meets, has been growing very rapidly over the last few years. A new large senior center and many new families have been a major factor in that growth and have led to an explosion of new elementary school students.

While we are all desperately affected by the current Coronavirus pandemic, I am impressed that Gig Harbor leadership continues to look to the future with this initiative. We strongly encourage your organization's support for their proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert T. Anderson".

Robert Anderson
253-753-3013



May 26, 2020

Recreation and Conservation Office
1111 Washington Street SE
Olympia, WA 98501

RE: The City of Gig Harbor's RCO Grant Applications - Gig Harbor Sports Complex

Dear Recreation and Conservation Office:

I am writing to respectfully request your consideration and support for the Gig Harbor Sports Complex, Phase 1B. The Sports Complex project has many community partners and with RCO grant funds, we will be able to improve and transform the current area into a much-needed multipurpose sports complex.

The City of Gig Harbor is submitting two grant applications (Local Parks and LWFC) to complete the design and construction of the Gig Harbor Sports Complex, Phase 1B. The year round use of these sports facilities and playground areas which also includes amenities like a restroom facility, tables, garbage bins, and parking stalls will make the park family friendly and a source of community pride. These improvements will also greatly benefit the growing community as we continue to experience significant local economic growth.

The Gig Harbor Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors supports the City's request for these two RCO grants for development of Phase 1B of the project and asks that you approve these applications for funding this vital community project.

Sincerely,

Warren Zimmerman

Warren Zimmerman
President/CEO
Gig Harbor Chamber of Commerce

CC: City of Gig Harbor

June 10, 2020

Dear Recreation and Conservation Office,

The SouthSound Pickleball Club is a group of over 400 pickleball players. Gig Harbor pickleball players represent all ages from 7 to 80+. Many are new to the game. Many are seniors and former tennis players who found pickleball to be a perfect substitute for the demands of tennis. Many are young people who enjoy the leisure time flexibility offered by pickleball. It is no wonder that pickleball is the fastest growing sport in the U.S. Last year in the U.S. there were 7,928+ venues, and growing at the rate of 111 new locations per month. Many recreations centers are having trouble keeping up.

Not only is pickleball for all ages, pickleball is the perfect family sport in which youngsters can play with their parents and grandparents alike. It is a game that is easy to learn and enjoy within a very short time

We support the Gig Harbor Sports Complex. It is good to see that we are building a sports venue for our growing population, as we know that sports promote a healthier lifestyle and community engagement and encourage active senior involvement in our community, whether as participants or spectators. Unfortunately, Gig Harbor's recent explosive growth has left pickleball players with too few courts. We have 0 (zero) dedicated courts, a ridiculous fact considering our number of players and that pickleball was invented here in Washington and is being considered to become the state game.

We feel the sports complex is a priority and must be completed sooner rather than later. There needs to be special attention to the pickleball courts. These 6 (preferably 8) courts should be included in phase 1A because our players have only one outdoor venue (Sehmel Homestead Park) where we need to bring our own nets and share courts with tennis players and basketball players. Having dedicated courts will give us the potential to contribute financially to the project by holding tournaments as fundraising events. Because our present outdoor courts are not playable during the multitude of PNW wet days, we hope you will consider a roof over the new dedicated courts which is something that we will be again more than willing to contribute to.

Thank you for considering this project and LWCF grants. We look forward to working together to build the complex.

The South Sound Pickleball Club



A typical pickleball venue roof structure used throughout the U.S.



June 11, 2020

Recreation and Conservation Office
1111 Washington Street SE
Olympia, WA 98501

Dear Recreation and Conservation Office:

We support City of Gig Harbor's Local Parks and Land and Water Conservation Fund grant applications.

Parks support health equity and give all residents access to outdoor spaces. Public parks also align with our mission—to protect and improve the health of all people and places in Pierce County.

Increased access to parks and recreation enhances opportunities for physical activity, improves social connections in communities, and helps ensure more residents have access to recreation.

Parks support behavioral health, healthy behaviors, crime prevention and improved air and water quality. Capital improvements increase recreation access, boost property values, and foster economic vitality.

Funding Gig Harbor Sports Complex will help provide much needed play space for youth leagues and inter-generational places to recreate. The facility location provides excellent synergy with the Gig Harbor Little League, YMCA and a proposed school site. The event lawn will encourage community building and a place for passive recreation.

We commend the City of Gig Harbor's work to improve recreational opportunities for more Pierce County residents.

Sincerely,

Jessica L. Gehle, MPH
Environmental Health Division Director





LAKE STEVENS
ARTS & PARKS
FOUNDATION

Funding The Arts & Parks In Our Community

August 6, 2020

To: City of Lake Stevens and Washington State Conservation Office

Regarding: Frontier Heights Park

To whom it may concern:

I am writing on behalf of the Lake Stevens' Art and Parks Foundation. Our primary goal is to work for the citizens of Lake Stevens to bring quality parks and art of many dimensions to the city.

This year, we selected the Frontier Heights Park improvement project, initiated by the city, as a park project for our foundation. We have pledged to team with the city and raise funds from private sources to support this park improvement, particularly children playground equipment.

Frontier Heights Park improvements will directly serve an under-served population and be a major asset for all citizens in the City of Lake Stevens. It is centrally located on the west side of highway 9, a highway that divides our city, making it very accessible to the area of greatest population in the city.

Because this park is so important to local residence and a majority of citizens in Lake Stevens, we encourage your support for this park.

Most Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Spencer". The signature is fluid and cursive.

John Spencer
Foundation President



PO Box 908
Lake Stevens, WA 98258

Date: August 4, 2020

To: City of Lake Stevens and Washington State Conservation Office

RE: Frontier Heights Park

To whom it may concern,

The Rotary Club of Lake Stevens, and our corresponding Foundation, are active supporters of Frontier Heights Park and are working with the City of Lake Stevens to provide funding for the needs of this park. Our Club contributed \$10,000 to Phase 1, and we look forward to supporting Phase 2.

Our Club's foundation is based on supporting the local community and its youth. Over the years, our Club has assisted the City Parks with park equipment, hands on maintenance and community events. We look forward to helping build Frontier Heights Park into a valued resource for this community.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jim Haugen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jim Haugen
Foundation Chairman
Rotary Club of Lake Stevens



Washington State Senate

Olympia Office:

305 John A. Cherberg Building
PO Box 40444
Olympia, WA 98504-0444

Senator Steve Hobbs
44th Legislative District

Phone: (360) 786-7686
FAX: (360) 786-1999
E-mail: Steve.Hobbs@leg.wa.gov

July 16, 2018

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office
c/o James Haugen, City of Lake Stevens
PO Box 257
Lake Stevens, WA 98258-0257

Re: City of Lake Stevens grant request / Frontier Heights

Dear RCO and Mr. Haugen:

Thank you for considering the City of Lake Stevens' application for a grant to develop their "Frontier Heights" project. Lake Stevens is located here in the 44th Legislative District which I serve, and has established itself as a responsible and rapidly growing part of the 44th and Snohomish County.

Lake Stevens has grown from a sleepy bedroom community, to the fastest-growing city in the county for decades now. With more people living in town now, and with sustained numbers of future projected growth, dedicated recreation areas that serve a wide base of residents are critical.

This Frontier Heights project includes pathways, parking, improved drainage, and very importantly, ADA access. Walking, jogging, and cycling will all be available in this new space, and picnic tables will host residents and families taking a break from busier activity. I support this project, and appreciate its focus on serving the most culturally diverse neighborhood in town. Thank you again for considering Frontier Heights and Lake Stevens for this grant award. I endorse the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office funding this grant request.

Sincerely,

Steve Hobbs
44th Legislative District

Cc: Wendy Brown, Policy Director and Legislative Liaison, Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office

Committees: Transportation, Chair

• Energy, Environment & Telecommunications • Financial Institutions & Insurance



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF SNOHOMISH COUNTY
LAKE STEVENS UNIT**

To Whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter on behalf of the Lake Stevens Boys & Girls Club in support of the Frontier Heights pathway and parking project and endorse the Washington State Recreation Conservation Office funding the grant.

Unit Director
Mike Wetmore
mwetmore@bgcsc.org

The City of Lake Stevens continues to grow in population each year and it's vital that our City continues to expand our parks within the city limits to provide recreational outlets for our youth to grow and prosper. Continuing to improve and promote healthy lifestyle spaces brings families together in creating a sense of togetherness.

Program Director
Alicia Landre
alandre@bgcsc.org

Thank you for your time,

Mike Wetmore

Athletic Director
CJ Freeman
cjfreeman@bgcsc.org

Lake Stevens Boys & Girls Club | Bargreen Unit
1609 E Lakeshore Dr.
Lake Stevens, WA 98258



To whom it may concern,

The Lake Stevens Kiwanis Club supports the obtaining of a grant from the Washington State Recreation Conservation Office. The Frontier Heights neighborhood of Lake Stevens is a very unique neighborhood in its diversity of citizens who are in great need of a park that they can call their own. Any grant funding that you could provide would be greatly appreciated.

Ray Mitchell
President Lake Stevens Kiwanis Club

To whom it may concern,

My name is Kierstie Leach and I am the current President of the Frontier Heights Homes Association Board. I have lived in this community my entire life and I'm very devoted to seeing improvements and creating a great family environment that we once had. My parents led the board for many years and were part of the last Board that was able to update the playground equipment. That was almost 16 years ago.

The playground has become very dilapidated and is almost never used anymore. Our HOA is very old and small and just didn't have the budget to make this park all that it can be. When we transferred the park to the City of Lake Stevens last year, we were so excited to see what the City thought they could do with it. Our community members are very excited to see these concepts come to life. We have several new moms and older neighbors who would love a paved walking path as our neighborhood has steep hills in many places, which limits their options that are safe and flat. We have never had any sort of paved parking nor the ability to provide more parking. The additional parking will be added relief to park visitors as our streets surrounding the park are narrow and do not allow extra room for non-resident parking.

This grant will bring wonderful park enhancements and a welcomed safe and fun environment to our community as well as open it up to our City in ways we would have never been able to provide. We here, are very excited see the changes and use the park as more than just an empty field and dilapidated playground.

Thank you for your consideration,

Kierstie Leach

President
Frontier Heights Homes Association Board



Washington Trails Association

705 Second Avenue, Suite 300, Seattle WA 98104 • 206.625.1367 • wta.org

May 22, 2020

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office
1111 Washington Street S.E.
Olympia, Washington 98501

Re: Glendale Forest Acquisition and Development, 20-1532

To whom it may concern,

On behalf of Washington Trails Association, I am writing in enthusiastic support of King County Parks' efforts to acquire and develop the 5-acre forest in the Glendale neighborhood located within the North Highline unincorporated urban area of King County.

Washington Trails Association has a more than 50-year legacy of engaging the hiking community. WTA enhances hiking experiences in Washington state by empowering a diverse and growing community of hikers to explore, steward and protect trails and public lands. WTA is the nation's largest state-based trail maintenance and hiking advocacy nonprofit organization, with more than 24,000 member households and an online community of more than 100,000. Each year almost 5,000 WTA volunteers perform over 160,000 hours of trail maintenance across the state. WTA and King County Parks and Recreation have a great history of shared stewardship of trails and this new aspect of our partnership through Glendale Forest will benefit from years of working together.

WTA believes everyone should have easy access to the health and wellness benefits of time in nature. We are thrilled to partner with King County Parks increase access to these benefits for the surrounding community through the development of the Glendale Forest. The goals of this project align with WTA's [The Trail Next Door](#) campaign, which is focused on trails in cities and urban centers, an often overlooked but critical piece of our state's trail system.

The Glendale Forest site is surrounded by single-family homes and large apartment complexes. It is located three blocks from [Beverly Park Elementary School](#), [Rainier Prep Middle School](#), [Our Lady of Lourdes Parish](#) and the [Sahak Khemararam Buddhist Association](#) religious center and temple.

Glendale Forest would be the first public greenspace in the Glendale community, in an area where lower incomes and higher health disparities make this investment particularly impactful. Educators from nearby schools have already expressed enthusiasm about how this unique

urban forest will provide outdoor classroom opportunities related to environmental learning and stewardship – all within walking distance.

Access to forest greenspace is essential and highly beneficial for the wellbeing of people of all ages, from children to seniors. King County Parks, along with community partners, is pursuing ways to make this site accessible for local families by developing a forest trail and a bridge across the stream.

This request continues King County's long-term commitment to providing equitable public access to urban forests and greenspaces. We strongly endorse the county's proposal and encourage RCO to fully fund the *Glendale Forest Acquisition and Development* grant request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jaime Loucky", written over a light gray rectangular background.

Jaime Loucky
Chief Impact Officer
Washington Trails Association



May 22, 2020

To: Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office
From: Rainier Prep Public Charter School
Re: Glendale Forest Acquisition and Development, 20-1532

Dear friends:

I am writing in support of King County Parks' efforts to acquire and develop the 5-acre forest in the Glendale neighborhood located within the North Highline unincorporated urban area of King County.

Rainier Prep's mission is to prepare all students to excel at four-year colleges and to become leaders in their communities. We are a 5th-8th grade open-enrollment public charter school welcoming 350+ students each year, serving over 90% students of color and over 70% low-income families in the South Seattle/Burien area. As this area's top-performing public middle school, we are delivering high-quality academic challenge and career pathways for families experiencing the most obstacles to college degrees and to representation in leadership positions.

The Glendale Forest site is surrounded by single-family homes and large apartment complexes. It is located three blocks from [Rainier Prep](#). Glendale Forest would be the first public greenspace in the Glendale community, in an area where lower incomes and higher health disparities make this investment particularly impactful. Given Rainier Prep's demonstrated commitment to STEM education, ongoing physical education, and promoting our community's access to their heritage of abundant natural beauty, this unique urban forest will provide outdoor classroom opportunities related to environmental learning and stewardship -- all within walking distance of our school.

Access to forest greenspace is essential and highly beneficial for the wellbeing of people of all ages, from children to seniors. King County Parks, along with community partners, is pursuing ways to make this site accessible for local families by developing a forest trail and a bridge across the stream.

This request continues King County's long-term commitment to providing equitable public access to urban forests and greenspaces. We strongly endorse the county's proposal and encourage RCO to fully fund the *Glendale Forest Acquisition and Development* grant request.

Sincerely, and on behalf of the Rainier Prep community,

Maggie O'Sullivan
School Leader, Rainier Prep



May 22, 2020

To: Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office

From: Steve Daschle, Executive Director, Southwest Youth and Family Services

Re: Glendale Forest Acquisition and Development, 20-1532

I am writing in support of King County Parks' efforts to acquire and develop the 5-acre forest in the Glendale neighborhood located within the North Highline unincorporated urban area of King County.

SWYFS services include behavioral health, family support, education and youth development. An expanded park will offer residents in the community greater access to recreation and exploration of urban park spaces. In these difficult times, the importance of having outdoor opportunities couldn't be more critical. We look forward to the day when we can lead activities for our youth and families to enjoy in this expanded space.

The Glendale Forest site is surrounded by single-family homes and large apartment complexes. It is located three blocks from [Beverly Park Elementary School](#), [Rainier Prep Middle School](#), [Our Lady of Lourdes Parish](#) and the [Sahak Khemararam Buddhist Association](#) religious center and temple.

Glendale Forest would be the first public greenspace in the Glendale community, in an area where lower incomes and higher health disparities make this investment particularly impactful. Educators from nearby schools have already expressed enthusiasm about how this unique urban forest will provide outdoor classroom opportunities related to environmental learning and stewardship – all within walking distance.

Access to forest greenspace is essential and highly beneficial for the wellbeing of people of all ages, from children to seniors. King County Parks, along with community partners, is pursuing ways to make this site accessible for local families by developing a forest trail and a bridge across the stream.

This request continues King County's long-term commitment to providing equitable public access to urban forests and greenspaces. We strongly endorse the county's proposal and encourage RCO to fully fund the *Glendale Forest Acquisition and Development* grant request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "S. Daschle".

Steven P. Daschle
Executive Director



Connecting People & Place to Build Community

May 28, 2020

To: Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office
 From: **White Center Community Development Association (WCCDA)**
 Re: Glendale Forest Acquisition and Development, 20-1532

I am writing in support of King County Parks' efforts to acquire and develop the 5-acre forest in the Glendale neighborhood located within the North Highline unincorporated urban area of King County.

As a neighborhood in North Highline, we know that the ability for community to access spaces and honor its' residents, community partners and organizations through the utilization of urban parks and greenspaces is a value that we believe in. We are excited for the families that attend the schools surrounding this space as we know that many White Center families will be able to benefit from the opportunities that this project will provide to youth and families!

The Glendale Forest site is surrounded by single-family homes and large apartment complexes. It is located three blocks from [Beverly Park Elementary School](#), [Rainier Prep Middle School](#), [Our Lady of Lourdes Parish](#) and the [Sahak Khemararam Buddhist Association](#) religious center and temple.

Glendale Forest would be the first public greenspace in the Glendale community, in an area where lower incomes and higher health disparities make this investment particularly impactful. Educators from nearby schools have already expressed enthusiasm (that are great partners to the communities!) about how this unique urban forest will provide outdoor classroom opportunities related to environmental learning and stewardship – all within walking distance.

Access to forest greenspace is essential and highly beneficial for the wellbeing of people of all ages, from children to seniors. King County Parks, along with community partners, is pursuing ways to make this site accessible for local families by developing a forest trail and a bridge across the stream.

This request continues King County's long-term commitment to providing equitable public access to urban forests and greenspaces. We strongly endorse the county's proposal and encourage RCO to fully fund the *Glendale Forest Acquisition and Development* grant request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sili Savusa', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Sili Savusa
Executive Director

White Center Community Development Association
605 SW 108th Street, Seattle, WA 98146 Tel (206) 694 1082 Fax (206) 725 9097 wccda.org

May 27, 2020

To: Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office
From: Seattle Parks Foundation
Re: Glendale Forest Acquisition and Development, 20-1532

I am writing on behalf of the board and staff of Seattle Parks Foundation to support King County Parks' efforts to acquire and develop the 5-acre forest in the Glendale neighborhood located within the North Highline unincorporated urban area of King County.

Seattle Parks Foundation brings community leaders, donors, and public partners together to create a thriving, accessible and connected system of public space for the health and happiness of all people. We believe that everyone should feel connected to safe and beautiful green spaces and have easy access to recreational opportunities that meet their needs and the needs of a growing and changing population. We focus our work on the gaps in our public space system, where communities lack access to the benefits of green space.

Glendale Forest fills one of those gaps. It would be the first public green space in this lower income community with the attendant challenges to overall health and general well-being of residents.

King County's is deeply committed to providing equitable public access to urban forests and greenspaces. The *Glendale Forest Acquisition and Development* grant request is a direct manifestation of that commitment. Seattle Parks Foundation advocates for full RCO funding of this project.

Thank you,



Thatcher Bailey
President and CEO



Northwest Office
901 5th Ave, Ste 1520
Seattle, WA 98164
206.587.2447
tpl.org

**Washington State
Advisory Board**

Alden Garrett
Chair

Marco Abbruzzese

Joshua Anderson

Tom Bayley

Mary F. Black*

T. William Booth*

Elisabeth T. Bottler*

Tony Cavallieri

Barbara Fielden

Annalee Luhman

Douglass A. Raff*

Thomas S. Reeve

F. Jerome Tone

Brady P. Walkinshaw

Lyn B. White*

Martha M. Wyckoff*

Katie Young

*Emeritus

Northwest Office

David Patton
Northwest Director

Danny Rees
*Northwest Director of
Philanthropy*

May 29, 2020

To: Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office

From: The Trust for Public Land

Re: Glendale Forest Acquisition and Development, 20-1532

I am writing in support of King County Parks' efforts to acquire and develop the 5-acre forest in the Glendale neighborhood located within the North Highline unincorporated urban area of King County. The Trust for Public Land creates parks and protects land for people, ensuring healthy, livable communities for generations to come.

The Glendale Forest site is surrounded by single-family homes and large apartment complexes. It is located three blocks from Beverly Park Elementary School, Rainier Prep Middle School, Our Lady of Lourdes Parish and the Sahak Khemararam Buddhist Association religious center and temple.

Glendale Forest would be the first public greenspace in the Glendale community, in an area where lower incomes and higher health disparities make this investment particularly impactful. Educators from nearby schools have already expressed enthusiasm about how this unique urban forest will provide outdoor classroom opportunities related to environmental learning and stewardship – all within walking distance.

Access to forest greenspace is essential and highly beneficial for the wellbeing of people of all ages, from children to seniors. King County Parks, along with community partners, is pursuing ways to make this site accessible for local families by developing a forest trail and a bridge across the stream.

This request continues King County's long-term commitment to providing equitable public access to urban forests and greenspaces. We strongly endorse the county's proposal and encourage RCO to fully fund the Glendale Forest Acquisition and Development grant request.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this project,

CARY SIMMONS

Cary Simmons, Northwest Parks Program Director

Recreation and Conservation Office
1111 Washington St SE
Olympia, WA 98501

To whom it may concern,

The King Mountain Neighborhood Association (KMNA) Board is writing to you in support of the City of Bellingham's (hereafter referred to as "City") purchase of the 29-acre property, located just south of E Bakerview Rd, for future neighborhood park development. The rate and nature of development in the King Mountain Neighborhood, coupled with the shortage of parks in the north of Bellingham, could result in thousands of Bellingham residents being left without easy access to parks and outdoor recreational spaces. This is a crucial opportunity to remedy that situation.

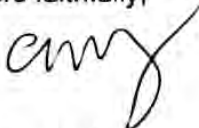
The 2020 PRO Plan identifies the acquisition and development of neighborhood park in the Bakerview corridor as an immediate high-priority project. A park in this area is critical to ensure equitable and accessible park and recreation opportunities for the community and meet the City's level of service goals.

The City has attempted to acquire similar properties over the last few years in this area and were outpaced or outbid by private developers; this acquisition will ensure that, as surrounding areas are developed for residential and commercial use, an adequate area is permanently set aside for open space.

The property includes a combination of cleared, level grassland for recreational amenities and park development, as well as pristine forests and wetlands that will provide a beautiful loop trail experience for park users. In addition, this property is a trail hub for the area and will provide multi-modal trail connectivity between existing and future trails heading north toward Van Wyck Park and King Mountain Open Space as well as a much-needed southern connection to Sunset Pond.

This outdoor recreational space would be an asset to our community, enabling the King Mountain Neighborhood to be developed while increasing multi-modal connectivity, promoting healthy outdoor recreation and maintaining the same, quintessential proximity to nature that is intrinsic to the character of Bellingham.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'cmx' or similar, written over a horizontal line.

Callum McSherry

(President of the KMNA Board)



Superintendent
Greg Baker

Board of Directors
Kelly M. Bashaw
Douglas W. Benjamin
Camille Diaz Hackler
Jenn Mason
Katie Rose

May 28, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

I am pleased to offer a letter of support on behalf of Bellingham Public Schools for the City of Bellingham Parks & Recreation Department in developing much-needed neighborhood parks and trail hubs in Bellingham.

Bellingham Public Schools and the City of Bellingham are long-time partners with a shared goal of supporting the health and well-being of the children of Bellingham. Access to neighborhood parks and expanded trail systems in the parts of town where children and families lack easy access to healthy outdoor activity is a key strategy that benefits our students and entire community.

Bellingham Public Schools is guided by our strategic plan, The Bellingham Promise (The Promise), created in partnership with our community. The Promise commits our district to developing students who are healthy and active individuals who are empowered to discover their passions and contribute to their community. Access to safe and healthy outdoor activities is a critical opportunity that all children deserve as they learn and grow and explore their interests.

We know that often populations of children—particularly children from low-income families and children of color—are less likely to have access to outdoor recreation and play. In Bellingham, children who live in apartments and/or have parents who work beyond the school day have more limited opportunities to play and exercise outside, either due to lack of proximity to outdoor spaces, or an expectation to stay inside until their parents come home from work.

Although Bellingham is surrounded by natural beauty, with the Salish Sea to the west and the foothills of Mt. Baker to the east, children in our community have inequitable access to enjoying the recreation opportunities that are so close. Improving trail systems and building neighborhood parks in areas near housing where children live is a key to improving the health and well-being of an entire generation.

Our district supports the efforts of our community partners like the City of Bellingham to make our community a healthier and more livable location for all our children, families and community members.

Thank you,

Greg Baker
Superintendent
Bellingham Public Schools



OlyEcosystems

Olympia Coalition for Ecosystems Preservation
Protect Preserve Restore

May 4, 2020

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

To Whom It May Concern:

The Olympia Coalition for Ecosystems Preservation (OCEP) is an urban land trust in Olympia, WA. Our mission is to protect, preserve and restore Olympia's key shoreline, nearshore and riparian areas, as well as their associated watersheds, in order to enhance the ecological health of Puget Sound and of our urban wildlife.

In 2016 the City purchased the 67-acre forested Kaiser Woods property in Southwest Olympia to add to its open space inventory. I am writing to support the City of Olympia's 2020 RCO *Kaiser Woods Park Acquisition and Development* grant request. This project will provide funds for development of the park trail system and for partial reimbursement for park acquisition. The need for, and value of, this request is supported by the following facts:

- Kaiser woods is a 67-acre natural area largely characterized largely by second-growth deciduous forest that sits above and to the west of two Olympia neighborhoods: Westbrook and Ken Lake.
- The site is within the Percival Creek watershed, and is in a critical aquifer recharge area. The City plans to manage this area for recreation, while preserving and enhancing these assets.
- The site is characterized by shallow soils over fractured basalt that, if managed appropriately, are an ideal substrata for low-impact hiking and biking trails.

Thank you for considering this 2020 RCO WWRP application.

Sincerely,

Daniel Einstein, Ph.D.
President of the Board
Olympia Coalition for Ecosystems Preservation
Daniel@olyecosystems.org;
(360) 870-7689

Larry Dzieza, Chair
Council of Neighborhood Associations
3515 Victoria Court, SE
Olympia, WA 98501
CNA.olympia@gmail.com

May 26, 2020

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917


To Whom It May Concern:

As Chair of the Olympia's Council of Neighborhood Associations am writing to support the City of Olympia's 2020 RCO **Kaiser Woods Park Acquisition and Development** grant request. Our organization deeply appreciates the importance of parks to our neighborhoods' physical health and mental well-being. We urge positive consideration for this request which is supported by the following facts:

- This site will provide a new recreational amenity (mountain biking) to the Olympia community. Currently there are no sanctioned mountain bike areas in the City or County. This site has good topography and soils for biking and hiking trails.
- The local bike community has been working with the City of Olympia for years to identify a good location for mountain bike trails and this site can provide that amenity.
- The sport of mountain biking continues to grow in popularity and Olympia has a large mountain bike community who are advocates and stewards of mountain bike trails.

Thank you for considering this 2020 RCO WWRP (Local Parks) grant application.

Sincerely,



Larry Dzieza
Chair, Council of Neighborhood Associations

Recreation and Conservation Office
P.O. Box 40917
Olympia WA 98504-0917

To Whom it May Concern:

I write in support of the City of Olympia's four 2020 grant applications.

As a former Olympia Mayor and public policy analyst, I believe I have a thorough understanding of the importance of parks to Olympia's quality of life now and in the future.

Since the passage of the Washington Growth Management Act 30 years ago, there has been a steady increase in allowed housing densities accompanied by a decrease in minimum lot sizes. In the past two legislative sessions, really large increases in housing densities across the board were passed.

The result is that back yards have become smaller, meaning that neighborhood parks have become even more important. This need for more neighborhood parks has added to the preexisting deficits for major maintenance and additional parks in other categories.

Olympia's applications for funding of the following four projects are intended to address this situation:

- Lilly Road Neighborhood Park Acquisition
- LBA Park Field #2 Renovations
- Yelm Highway Community Park Acquisition
- Kaiser Woods Park Acquisition and Development

I respectfully request full funding of these four projects.

Bob Jacobs
360-352-1346

720 Governor Stevens Ave. SE



Capitol Volkssport Club
4627 Timothy Street SE
Lacey, Washington 98503-3672

Washington Recreation and Conservation Office:

I am president of the Capitol Volkssport Club in Olympia (capitolvolkssportclub.org). We are a local branch of an international walking club which originated in Europe in the 1980's by U.S. troops stationed in Europe. Soldiers brought the concept to the United States when they returned from duty. The American Volkssport Association now goes by the name AVA: America's Walking Club (ava.org).

The average age of our local membership is 65 and we have 115 members. We are heavy users of nature trails, sidewalks, city parks, state parks, and national parks around the country. Our local club has scheduled walks three times a week winter and summer. In addition to local club members, walkers from our entire region join us for walks as well. Those wishing to walk on their own can pick up walk directions and maps anytime they wish from twenty different start points in the South Puget Sound region. Attached are two maps indicating start points in Washington and Oregon. Numbers inside the blue dots indicate the number of walks/hikes that start from that location. The walks are usually 10k with a 5k option. Start points for walks/hikes are located throughout the United States. As we say, "To know a place, you must walk it".

You are more knowledgeable than I am about the statistics regarding the mental, physical and economic health benefits to communities with natural areas in which to spend time with family and friends. What I can tell you with authority is that Capitol Volkssport Club would eagerly welcome adding new walking/hiking trails to our catalog of events.

Sincerely,

Holly Spaulding
President
Capitol Volkssport Club
(253) 770-0691
holly.spaulding88@gmail.com



Recreation and Conservation Office
P.O. Box 40917
Olympia WA 98504-0917

May 13, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

The Friends of LBA Woods is a volunteer stewardship group under the aegis of the City of Olympia's Parks Stewardship Program. The Friends of LBA Woods represents the many members of the Olympia-area community who successfully campaigned in 2012-2017 to save the LBA Woods as public parkland, to support ongoing stewardship of this parkland, and to pass the 2015 Metropolitan Parks District measure. Between 2017 and 2020, we hosted or co-hosted 27 work parties and offered more than a dozen guided nature walks in the LBA Woods.

We are committed to supporting our parks for the physical and mental well-being of our community, especially now as public outdoor spaces—even without full access to amenities—are playing an increasingly critical role in maintaining the health of communities during difficult times.

With this letter, the Friends of LBA Woods fully supports the City of Olympia's four 2020 grant applications for projects (described below), all of which align with the goals of the City's 2016 Parks Plan but also comport with the overarching goal of *Sustainable Thurston* (Thurston County Regional Planning Council, 2013), which states that "A sustainable community will enhance quality of life, foster economic vitality, and protect the environment while balancing our needs today with those of future residents."

Yelm Highway Community Park Acquisition

Funding assistance is essential for the acquisition of the multi-use park Olympia that will satisfy Olympia's long-standing, oft-stated, and well-supported need for dedicated standard-size soccer fields. Careful, thoughtful design and construction of this park promises to be rightfully costly as the current master plan concept plans aim to aesthetically integrate soccer fields, parking areas, areas of protected natural wetlands and forested groves, play areas, and potentially community gardens, bike skills area, nature trails, sports loops, and open fields. Given that this long-awaited park will serve the larger Thurston County community (and likely beyond), the recreation value is especially great and should be supported through larger-than-Olympia funding resources.

Kaiser Woods Park Acquisition and Development

The acquisition of this 67-acre parcel helps balance the type of park available on Olympia's west side. Like LBA Woods, the Kaiser Woods parcel offers trails through mature upland forest and

varied terrain valued by both hikers, walkers, and mountain bikers. The development plans for this park have garnered heavy and lively interest from the public. The Olympia Parks Department is taking great care to develop this park with sensitivity to the natural environment, the various needs of the potential park users, and the neighboring land owners. This exemplary level of kind of care should be supported through grant funding.

LBA Park Field #2 Renovations

Though only 40 years old, the decrepitude of the LBA Park ballfield #2 cannot be overstated. It is unsafe for use and needs a total renovation and improved features to meet ADA standards to be useful for play and inclusive for all.

Lilly Road Neighborhood Park Acquisition

Neighborhood parks make a significant contribution to the quality of life in Olympia. This corner of the north-east quadrant of Olympia is currently underserved by parks. The need for a park in the Lilly Road area was identified as a community need in the 2004 Parks Plan. With the projected increased population growth of Olympia and its Urban Growth Area, this is a timely and important acquisition and one that would help meet the 2016 Parks Plan goal of having a park within one-half mile of every residence.

Sincerely,

Robert Wadsworth
Friends of LBA Woods
Olympia, WA

Recreation and Conservation Office
P.O. Box 40917
Olympia WA 98504-0917

To Whom it May Concern:

Friends of the Waterfront is a nonprofit corporation registered with the Washington Secretary of State. We see the Olympia waterfront area, including waterfront parks and trails, as a treasure for the greater Olympia area. We advocate that the shoreline area be managed for the greatest long term net benefit to the entire community.

We write as a member of the YES Olympia Parks that successfully advocated for the establishment of the Olympia Municipal Parks District and advocates for parks, trails, and recreation projects generally.

To this end, Friends of the Waterfront supports the City of Olympia's four 2020 grant applications as follows.

Yelm Highway Community Park Acquisition

- Olympia currently has no standard soccer fields. Passage of our second voted parks funding measure has provided the wherewithal to tackle this serious deficiency. The soccer fields in this project will serve not just soccer games but also other sports that need rectangular fields such as youth football, ultimate frisbee, and lacrosse. It will also serve participants from all of Thurston County, not just Olympia.
- This project is now in the master planning stage, including a great deal of community involvement. It will be very expensive and will be constructed in stages over a number of years. Funding assistance from the state will be vital.

Kaiser Woods Park Acquisition and Development

- This project, now in the master planning stage, will provide for both mountain bike trails and hiking trails in Kaiser Woods. There has

been very heavy interest in this project from local mountain biking enthusiasts who have participated in large numbers in the planning process.

- Care is being taken to preserve the natural character of this wooded property.

LBA Park Field #2 Renovations

- The LBA Park ballfields were developed over 40 years ago. All aspects of Field #2 are in such poor condition that this field cannot be used due to safety concerns. This puts a strain on the city's other fields.
- Field #2 will be completely renovated, including new ADA features. It will serve the needs of youth teams.

Lilly Road Neighborhood Park Acquisition

- Olympia's Parks Plan calls for neighborhood parks within one-half mile of every residence, which is considered a comfortable walking distance and is intended to both increase walking and decrease vehicle use. This standard has become ever more important as residential zoning becomes denser to accommodate increased population within the current Urban growth Area in compliance with the state Growth Management Act.
- The Lilly Road area does not presently have a neighborhood park. Neighborhood parks contain a variety of facilities to serve family recreation needs, such as children's playgrounds, picnic areas, and restrooms.

Bonnell C. Jacobs,
President



May 22, 2020

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

RE: City of Olympia's Kaiser Woods Park Acquisition and Development

To Whom It May Concern:

The Olympia Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee is strongly supportive of the City's 2020 RCO WWRP Kaiser Woods Park Acquisition and Development grant request. The need for, and value of, this acquisition is supported by the following:

- In 2016 the City purchased the 67-acre forested Kaiser Woods property in Southwest Olympia to add to its open space inventory.
- This project will provide funds for development of the park trail system and for partial reimbursement for park acquisition.
- Like the Yelm Highway Community Park site, the City is currently in the process of developing a master plan for the site and has seen inordinately high level of community engagement and input during this process. While a final plan is not yet complete, the goal is to retain the forested character of the site with hiking and biking trails that are designed to minimize environmental impact.

Thank you for considering this 2020 RCO WWRP grant application.

Sincerely,

Maria Ruth, Chair
Olympia Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee



Board of Directors

Kim Klint
President

Joan Thomas
Vice-president

Taghi Ghanaie
Co-Treasurer

Nicholas Wegener
Co-Treasurer

Meredith Poehlitz
Secretary

Jillian Demus

Lauren Nutley

Kirsten Weinmeister

Ex-officio
Erica Guttman
Program Coordinator

Andy Hopwood
Nursery Manager

Native Plant Salvage Foundation

3054 Carpenter Rd. SE, Olympia, WA 98503

Phone: (360) 867-2167 or Fax: (360) 867-2152

www.nativeplantsalvage.org * info@nativeplantsalvage.org

May 11, 2020

Washington Recreation and Conservation Office
1111 Washington St. SE
Olympia, WA 98501

To the Members of the Grant Evaluation Committee:

I write in support of The City of Olympia's application for funding two ongoing projects: the Yelm Highway Community Park and Kaiser Woods Park. Our organization, Native Plant Salvage Foundation, has been working to protect and conserve habitat and water resources in South Puget Sound for over 20 years. These City initiatives directly support our preservation mission.

We encourage you to support the City of Olympia by awarding the grants requested for these projects. Maintaining natural habitat benefits the community in many ways, from direct benefits to wildlife and the native plants that support them, to providing areas for people to enjoy nature—thereby offering both opportunities for nature-based education and engendering appreciation for native ecosystems and sustainable landscaping. Having locations such as Kaiser Woods Park fosters appreciation of nature and encourages people to protect the environment.

Moreover, the native and waterwise landscapes associated with these parks projects will support water-quality protection by intercepting and filtering stormwater, and enhancing water quantity by slowing down rainwater and allowing it time to percolate back into our critical groundwater aquifers. These parks projects will protect these large parcels by preventing the impacts of widespread clearing, grading, and paving—thereby retaining pervious soils needed to protect local waterways, groundwater, and the Salish Sea.

Although a portion of the Yelm Highway Community Park would be developed for recreational sports fields and associated services, this area had previously been used for farm land, so there will be no significant change in soil structure and stormwater-management benefits (and possibly *improved water quality* by reducing farm-related pollution inputs). Additionally, **substantial acreage** of natural areas within the park will be maintained with the same benefits as Kaiser Woods Park. These areas contain native Gary Oak habitat and wetlands, both critical resources to preserve.

As development continues to progress in South Sound, we are losing many of our natural areas and Native Plant Salvage Foundation appreciates efforts such as these to protect diminishing undeveloped lands. We hope to see these projects move forward, and strongly encourage you to support the City of Olympia's applications.

Sincerely,

Joan Thomas

Vice-president, on behalf of the NPSF Board of Directors



PARC Foundation of Thurston County

723 Eastside Street NE
Olympia, WA 98506
Phone: 360-352-0980
Email: info@parcfoundation.org
<http://parcfoundation.org>
EIN 91-1928020

May 11, 2020

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

RE: City of Olympia's Kaiser Woods Park Acquisition & Development project

To: RCO WWRP Grant Review Team:

Please accept this letter as our Foundation's strong support for the City of Olympia's Kaiser Woods Park Acquisition & Development project. The PARC Foundation of Thurston County has provided funding and support for Parks, Arts, Recreation and Cultural programs throughout region for over two decades. We are a broad coalition of outdoor enthusiasts and community minded individuals.

The City purchased the 67-acre forested site in Southwest Olympia in 2016 to add to its open space network. Several nearby developments, plus a whole community of recreation enthusiasts are eager to begin using the new acreage. This project will provide funds for development of a trail system, essential for maintaining the health of the parcel.

In 2004, with support from our Foundation, voters authorized a permanent funding measure to support new park acquisition, development and maintenance. This will become a gem of the system, 67 forested acres in the middle of an urbanized zone. The master planning process is happening now, and the goal is to keep the forested character of the site, while providing low impact hiking and biking trails.

This worthwhile project is a wise investment with a high return for the community and the environment. Please support the Kaiser Woods Park Acquisition & Development.

Warmly,

Joe Hyer
Joe Hyer
President

James D. Reddick
James D. Reddick
Vice-President

June 19, 2020

TO Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my support for this proposed project.

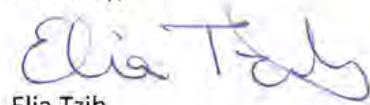
Many of my brightest and fondest memories of my youth occurred in this park. Whether it was the Miss Prosser pageant during the States Day Carnival, talent shows and relay races at the 4th of July Celebration, or just having a picnic on a sunny day near the playground, so many happy memories began here. And in the heart of this park is the playground.

As teen, I volunteered in the construction of the current playground and recall the pride I had for being able to lend a hand in the project, along with so many of our neighbors. It is a meeting place for many families to catch up and share their lives while their kids enjoy running around, making friends, and playing on the different features. It is also an essential part of family traditions and community gatherings.

As a mother of three, I love to continue these traditions and build memories for my growing family. Picnic in the parks with kids on a sunny day just like my parents did with me and my brothers and sister, talent shows at the stage, BBQ in the park with Rotary Club, and the weekly Farmer's Market, are just a few of the events in and around this park that have become favorite activities in my household.

The current playground has lived a good life and hosted the fun filled days of many visitors, but has been worn and weathered and deserves this investment. The City and the community have partnered for many years to make the needed repairs and maintenance, but there comes a time when you have to turn the page and start a new chapter and I hope you consider supporting our playground improvement project. I know my support of this project is not wasted here and want to assure you that your support won't be either. This community is a responsible one who values the important things like family and community. And the playground is just one representation of that.

Sincerely,



Elia Tzib

To whom it may concern:

Hi my name is Matt Garcia, I was born and raised in Prosser and now am father of 3 kids. My Fiancé and I decided to stay in Prosser because we love our town and the great reputation it has for raising kids in the community. As a kid I played every sport and was involved in Boy scouts also an active member of the Catholic church. Now as a parent I'm raising my kids to stay active and involved with everything our town has to offer. During this time with COVID-19 putting our sports and social lives on hold we have been able to make the most out of it. My two oldest kids ages 13 and 6 love playing basketball, and have committed to practicing at the "Green Courts" under my instruction every morning at 8 am. We have been consistently utilizing the park for our training sessions during this pandemic. We are fortunate to live near the park where it has been maintained and taken care of by everyone in the community. If we had attempted to train in the evenings we would be lucky to get a piece of the court from the big groups of kids and some adults playing every night. With the boys and girls club who are occupying the area throughout the day, the mornings are our only chance of getting the court time. Our community is in need of another court due to the high demand.

For the past 7 years I have coached my daughter's AAU basketball team here in Prosser. Over the last 7 years I have seen the Prosser AAU grow from 12 teams to over 25 teams from grades 1st-8th. The sport is becoming more and more popular every year. I'm starting to see many Prosser youth join select teams from Yakima area and Tricities. The reason why they are opting to travel to different towns to play is because Prosser is limited with gyms and courts. Adding a new area to play basketball will increase the amount of practice my kids enjoy having. It will also invite more members of the community to stay active and live healthy lives. I will support the notion to add a basketball court at any of our beautiful parks in Prosser. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Matthew Garcia



LAKE STEVENS
ARTS & PARKS
FOUNDATION

Funding The Arts & Parks In Our Community

August 6, 2020

To: City of Lake Stevens and Washington State Conservation Office
Regarding: Eagle Ridge Park

To whom it may concern:

I am writing on behalf of the Lake Stevens' Art and Parks Foundation. We are a predecessor to the City Art Commission, since 2008. Our primary goal is to work for the citizens of Lake Stevens to bring quality parks and art of many dimensions to the city.

The Art and Parks Foundation through its predecessor organization, the Art Commission, has sponsored many performing arts and artwork throughout the city. The Lake Stevens' Eagle Ridge Park is a terrific venue for nature art along with the community garden built entirely with volunteers, as well as performing art, such as Shakespeare in the Park. However, given the enormous growth in the population of Lake Stevens (over 400% since 2012), completion of the comprehensive plan for Eagle Ridge is needed. Completion of the plan, will provide a much-needed place for passive recreation, including programs the Art and Parks Foundation sponsors throughout the year fostering park use and art. As part of our Art Program, we will partner with the city to sponsor outdoor theater at Eagle Ridge, and work toward funding nature art along Eagle Ridge walkways and trails.

The Eagle Ridge Park is unique in that it provides opportunities for all ages to enjoy the out-of-doors; calm and quiet walkways, gardening and play for kids in a playground of natural elements.

Because this park serves an unmet need for passive activities for all ages, we encourage your support.

Most Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Spencer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first and last names being clearly legible.

John Spencer, Foundation President



PO Box 908
Lake Stevens, WA 98258

Date: August 4, 2020

To: City of Lake Stevens and Washington State Conservation Office

RE: Eagle Ridge Park

To whom it may concern,

The Rotary Club of Lake Stevens, and our corresponding Foundation, are active supporters of Eagle Ridge Park and are working with the City of Lake Stevens to provide funding and volunteer assistance for the needs of this park.

Our Club's foundation is based on supporting the local community and its youth. Over the years, our Club has assisted the City Parks with park equipment, hands on maintenance and community events. We look forward to helping build Eagle Ridge Park into a valued resource for this community.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jim Haugen". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Jim Haugen
Foundation Chairman
Rotary Club of Lake Stevens



Down To Earth Community Gardens

3516 81st Dr. NE, Marysville, WA 98270 425.350.2658 www.downtoearthcommunitygardens.com

To Whom It May Concern:

I write to you requesting your support in funding the new play structure at Eagle Ridge Park in Lake Stevens, Washington. Eagle Ridge Park located in Lake Stevens is a fantastic community for connecting with urban nature.

Adding a play structure at Eagle Ridge Park becomes more than just a space to plant or play. It becomes a place for community gathering, for celebration and for regeneration; these are the spaces that give a community an identity; these are spaces that foster memory-making and pride. In being the catalysts for community placemaking initiatives, your funding is instrumental to making lasting community change.

Eagle Ridge is more than just a place to grow plants or vegetables. It functions as an outdoor community center and frequently hosts large groups of volunteers, upcoming art installations, and soon a play structure. That all seems even more impressive when you realize that Eagle Ridge Community Garden was once a pile of rubble and empty space before The City of Lake Stevens partnered with wonderful nonprofits like Down To Earth Community Gardens bringing this oasis to life.

Eagle Ridge Park offers a particularly valuable solution to the lack of safe, accessible, and developmental appropriate outdoor space for young urban children. This small, restricted- access oasis, overseen by watchful community residents, is conveniently located next to residential neighborhoods.

The community garden that now thrives in Eagle Ridge Park offers a safe environment for outdoor activities for young children. Because the garden was created by the community, Eagle Ridge Community Garden is already fenced, clean, well maintained and filled with the watchful eyes of parents and neighbors. The garden and upcoming playground act much like a collective backyard, considered part of the home and cared for by the community. Community gardens have already begun to take on roles traditionally played by community centers. The proposed playground project will help expand the current function of community gardens and will promote and support the critical role the volunteer gardens and play structures play in their communities.

Activities such as climbing, earth play, play-acting and simple contact with nature have demonstrated overwhelmingly positive effects on early childhood development. These activities promote creative, social, and sensory development in very young children. The garden play area can include elements such as shelter structures and playhouses with benches, tables, as well as sand and water areas and planting beds.

Eagle Ridge Park and the Community Garden brings a sense of community, camaraderie, beautification and more. It is a place for kids to play, neighbors to interact and get to know each other. We are not only building a neighborhood, or offering a patch, we are offering rungs on a ladder. We are creating a spot for kids to work, play and have fun in.

The entire Lake Stevens Community appreciates your consideration for funding the new play structure at Eagle Ridge Park. We invite you to come out to Eagle Ridge Park, plant a seed of change and watch it grow. Please don't hesitate to contact me if I can answer any questions.

Sincerely,

Terry Myer

Terry Myer

Project Coordinator/Director

Down To Earth Community Gardens

downtoearthcommunitygardens@outlook.com

www.downtoearthcommunitygardens.com

425.350.2658



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF SNOHOMISH COUNTY
LAKE STEVENS UNIT**

To Whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter on behalf of the Lake Stevens Boys & Girls Club in support of the Eagle Ridge Park playground and endorse the Washington State Recreation Conservation Office funding the grant.

The City of Lake Stevens continues to grow in population each year and it's vital that our City continues to expand our parks within the city limits to provide recreational outlets for our youth to grow and prosper. Continuing to improve and promote healthy lifestyle spaces brings families together in creating a sense on togetherness.

Thank you for your time,

Mike Wetmore

Unit Director
Mike Wetmore
mwetmore@bgcsc.org

Program Director
Alicia Landre
alandre@bgcsc.org

Athletic Director
CJ Freeman
cjfreeman@bgcsc.org

Lake Stevens Boys & Girls Club | Bargreen Unit
1609 E Lakeshore Dr.
Lake Stevens, WA 98258



To whom it may concern,

Lake Stevens Kiwanis Club strongly supports the efforts to obtain a grant from the Washington State Recreation Conservation Office to improve Eagle Ridge Park. Eagle Ridge Park has been underutilized over the years and this grant could help provide the funding to improve the park and provide the citizens of Lake Stevens another very scenic park to share with their children. The Lake Stevens Kiwanis Club wholeheartedly supports the obtaining of this grant.

Ray Mitchell
President Lake Stevens Kiwanis Club



Washington State Senate

Olympia Office:

305 John A. Cherberg Building
PO Box 40444
Olympia, WA 98504-0444

Senator Steve Hobbs
44th Legislative District

Phone: (360) 786-7686
FAX: (360) 786-1999
E-mail: Steve.Hobbs@leg.wa.gov

July 16, 2018

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office
c/o James Haugen, City of Lake Stevens
PO Box 257
Lake Stevens, WA 98258-0257

Re: City of Lake Stevens grant request / Eagle Ridge Park

Dear RCO and Mr. Haugen:

Thank you for considering the City of Lake Stevens' application for a grant to develop their "Eagle Ridge Park" project. Lake Stevens is located here in the 44th Legislative District which I serve, and has established itself as a responsible and rapidly growing part of the 44th and Snohomish County.

Lake Stevens has grown from a sleepy bedroom community, to the fastest-growing city in the county for decades now. With more people living in town now, and with sustained numbers of future projected growth, dedicated recreation areas that serve a wide base of residents are critical.

This Eagle Ridge Park project aims to create park space that is recreational, cultural, and educational. A new nature-themed playground, with parking, surrounding landscaping, and ADA accessibility via ramp to the play area with accessible parking are planned. I support this project, and appreciate that it supports and encourages active outdoor play for families and residents – their basic health and wellness -- as well as health and wellness of the salmon that spawn in these stream systems.

Thank you again for considering Eagle Ridge Park for this grant award. I endorse the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office funding this grant request.

Sincerely,

Steve Hobbs
44th Legislative District

Cc: Wendy Brown, Policy Director and Legislative Liaison, Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office

Committees: Transportation, Chair

• Energy, Environment & Telecommunications • Financial Institutions & Insurance



August 31, 2020

Re: Jacobson Tree Farm Grant Application

Dear Grant Review Committee Members:

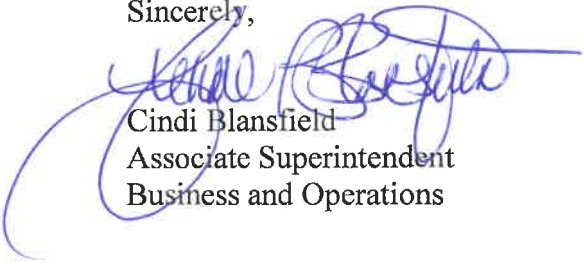
I am pleased to support the City of Auburn's grant application as it related to the Jacobson Tree Farm site on Auburn Lea Hill. The City of Auburn, Washington, a city of 80,000 people, has an outstanding parks system but is woefully short of active and passive park space on the East Hill of Auburn. The Auburn School District recognizes the importance of park space as critical to fostering safety and connecting youth with positive activities.

As Auburn continues to grow, we recognize an increased need for quality outdoor space. The Auburn School District has grown tremendously and the student demographics now represent over 40% students of color. Auburn has a large population of single parent families and many kids are transplanted here from other areas. These kids need a safe place to play and develop the skills both athletic and social that are attained with a visit to a park. Teamwork, success and failure are all realized in a park setting. Parks are also critical in helping youth develop, identity, and combat gang activity and unsafe behavior.

The Auburn School District and the City of Auburn Parks, Arts and Recreation Department have been integral partners in implementing comprehensive education/recreation services. Examples include history at the Historic Mary Olson Farm, Golf at the Auburn Golf Course and Environmental Education at numerous park sites. Thanks to the Jacobson Tree Farms location next to an Elementary and High School, we envision the opportunity for numerous more partnership.

The Auburn School District supports this grant opportunity and highly recommends its funding.

Sincerely,



Cindi Blansfield
Associate Superintendent
Business and Operations



Green River
COLLEGE FOUNDATION

12401 SE 320th Street, Auburn, WA 98002-3622
Phone (253) 286-3330 • Fax (253) 286-3420
E-mail foundation@greenriver.edu

August 6, 2020

Re: Jacobson Tree Farm Grant Application

Dear Grant Review Committee Members:

The Green River College Foundation recognizes the importance of park space as critical to fostering safety and connecting our students with positive activities. Green River College has a large number of International and Local Students who live near this proposed park who strongly desire a local place to relax, reflect and recreate.

The desire for a space to "gather" is a critical need for those who are far from home. I am pleased to support the City of Auburn's grant application as it related to the Jacobson Tree Farm site on Auburn Lea Hill. The City of Auburn, Washington, a city of 80,000 people, has an outstanding parks system but is woefully short of active and passive park space near Green River College on Auburn's East Hill.

As Auburn continues to grow, we recognize an increased need for quality outdoor space. Green River College has grown tremendously and the student demographics are diverse. Our students are constantly looking for places to safely recreate within walking/biking distance of our campus. Teamwork, success and failure are all realized in a park setting. Parks are also critical in helping young adults develop identity as well as develop healthy habits.

Green River College Foundation, Green River College and the City of Auburn Parks, Arts and Recreation Department have been great partners as it relates to the trades, environmental as well as athletics. Due to the location of the proposed Jacobson Tree Farm Park, we envision the opportunity for numerous more partnership.

The Green River College Foundation supports this grant opportunity and highly recommends its funding.

Sincerely,

George Frasier
Executive Director



Port of Woodland

20-1831 WWRP LP #44

July 20, 2018

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office
Jesse Sims, RCO Outdoor Grant Management

RECEIVED

JUL 20 2018

RE: City of Woodland Park Improvements

CITY OF WOODLAND

Dear Mr. Sims:

The Port of Woodland is in full support of the City of Woodland's RCO grant application for the improvements to Horseshoe Lake. This park is a vital community facility providing recreational opportunities to our community from a children's playground to boat and kayak access point, picnic shelters, skate park and much more. These critical amenities provide a quality of place element that attracts families to live here in the Woodland region benefiting our ability to attract businesses and employees, a key point to our mission here at the Port.

The Port is a willing and committed partner to these efforts to provide necessary in-kind donation for the improvements. The Port is a beneficiary of dredge spoils placed on Port property given that material such as sand is a highly valuable commodity and reduces the expense of the overall project to ensure that the project maximizes in-kind donations to the State's resources. The Port holds over 400,000 cubic yards of material, much more than what this project requires.

On behalf of the Port Commission, we truly hope you will consider the City's application for these great improvements to our park benefiting those of all ages seeking to use our wonderful resources and amenities here at the city of Woodland. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at my office at 360-225-6555 or via email jkeene@portofwoodland.com.

Sincerely,

Jennifer A. Keene
Executive Director



July 23, 2018

Matt Rychel General Contractor
PO Box 593
Woodland, WA 98674

Re: Horseshoe Lake improvements for ADA accessibility

To Whom It May Concern;

To improve Horseshoe Lake's handicap access, we are available to donate an amount up to \$15,000 of equipment costs and \$5,000 in labor costs. Please contact us when you move forward in construction.

Sincerely,

Matt Rychel 7/23/18

Matt Rychel, Owner

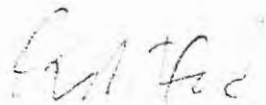
Cc: File

Sauk Mountain View Estates North

To whom it may concern,

Sauk Mountain View Estates North Homeowners Association and the residents in attendance at our annual meeting voted in support of the proposed plan for Olmsted Park in Sedro-Woolley.

We support the use of funds to further improve Sedro-Woolley and ensure that our residents have well-designed and planned outdoor environments. This will provide a great opportunity for growth in our area.



Doug Hartfield, President

Sauk Mountain View Estates North HOA

1524 E Gateway Heights, Sedro-Woolley, WA



Port of Skagit

March 10, 2020

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office
P.O. Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

Re: City of Sedro-Woolley Olmsted Park Grant Application

Dear Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Members,

The Port of Skagit supports the City of Sedro-Woolley's application to the WA State Recreation and Conservation Office for \$500,000 in funding for the new Olmsted Park.

The Port of Skagit (Port) has been working with the City of Sedro-Woolley (City), Skagit County, Department of Enterprise Services (State), and other public entities since 2013 on adaptive reuse and transfer of ownership of the former Northern State Hospital property, now known as the Sedro-Woolley Innovation for Tomorrow Center (SWIFT Center) from the State to the Port. In 2018 the Port took title to the SWIFT Center and then transferred 14.81 acres of the property to the City of Sedro-Woolley for use as a public park.

The currently underutilized SWIFT Center property will be redeveloped into a center for technology and innovation that will spur economic development and job growth in Sedro-Woolley. Increasing public access to the SWIFT Center is a goal of the local project partners that will be realized through this project. Connectivity between the Olmsted Park and the neighboring County-owned Northern State Recreation Area will be achieved through the SWIFT Center campus. The Port has committed up to \$400,000 in matching funds for design and construction of restroom and parking facilities at Olmsted Park, which funds will be available to the City on a reimbursement basis as eligible project expenses are incurred.

The proposed Olmsted Park will have a positive economic impact on the local community. Having robust recreational opportunities including juvenile fishing opportunities, proposed walking paths and formalized trail head adjacent to the SWIFT Center makes locating at the SWIFT Center more desirable to tenants like Sedron Technologies and their employees and will bring more visitors and tourism dollars to the area.

Skagit Regional Airport

La Conner Marina

Bayview Business Park

Skagit Advantage

March 10, 2020

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

Page 2

We trust this application will receive thoughtful consideration and support from the board.

Sincerely,


Commissioner Omdal

~~Absent~~
Commissioner Shuler


Commissioner Ware

cc: Nathan Salseina, City of Sedro-Woolley Public Works Operations Division Supervisor



Sedro-Woolley School District No. 101

801 Trail Road, Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284 • (360) 855-3500 • FAX (360) 855-3574

January 27, 2020

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office
Olympia, WA

Dear Sirs and Madams,

The Sedro-Woolley School District is pleased to provide this letter of support for the City of Sedro-Woolley's Olmsted Park Development Project. The new park will directly benefit our 4,520 students as well as our families and community.

We partner with the City to provide safe outdoor areas for our youth and community, but we cannot meet demand. The addition of greenspace and playfields is needed now.

There has been a pre-design process that included significant public input to help determine public priorities for the new park and it's clear the park is supported by the community. It is crucial to obtain funding from the Washington State Recreation and Conservation grant to complete the park and serve the recreation needs of our youth and community.

The Sedro-Woolley School District fully supports the grant application to complete Olmsted Park.

Sincerely,

Brett Greenwood, Executive Director of Business & Operations
Sedro-Woolley School District



Skagit Conservation District

2021 East College Way, Suite 203, Mount Vernon, WA 98273-2373

Phone: (360) 428-4313 E-mail: skagitcd@skagitcd.org

January 29, 2020

To: RCO proposal reviewers

Re: Letter of support for the City of Sedro-Woolley's Olmsted Park Development Project

I am writing to express the Skagit Conservation District's (SCD) support of the Sedro-Woolley's Olmsted Park Development Project proposal. The proposal is important to provide families a facility to get out and enjoy the outdoors and help reduce pressure on the natural resource areas now occurring at the riverfront park.

The community is growing and now is the time to make sure and build new park facilities that are going to be needed by the growing population. The construction of the facility is in need of support from the RCO funding program and I encourage you to fund this proposal. Sedro-Woolley is a smaller rural community with limited resources and your funding of this proposal will assure a high quality of life for existing and new families.

We encourage you to award the City of Sedro-Woolley the full requested amount.

Respectfully,

Bill Blake
Executive Director



January 23, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

The Board of Directors of the Sedro-Woolley Chamber of Commerce support The City of Sedro-Woolley for our newest city park facility, the Olmstead Park Development Project. The property located 1451 N Fruitdale Road is located at the entrance to the SWIFT Center. The property includes the Northern State Fishing Pond which is home to the annual kids' fishing derby. The name of this park is in tribute to the Olmstead brothers who designed many major projects including Central Park in New York City, and the buildings and grounds where this property is located.

If we are able to bring this park to fruition it will be a major asset to the entrance to the SWIFT Center; and the growing neighborhoods in the area. The project would include playground and sidewalks which are ADA accessible. It will include trails for walking, playgrounds, new landscaping, picnic shelters and tables.

At the end of 2019 the plans for the park are 75% completed. In order to complete the project a grant from the Washington State Recreation and Conservation office would go a long way towards the actual construction phase of this project. While I know many of our civic groups will support the project with donations of time and money, it takes more than volunteers to get the project completed.

We sincerely hope you will give this project all due consideration.

Sincerely

Dani Hoskinson, President
Sedro-Woolley Chamber of Commerce
Board of Directors



Wildcat Steelhead Club, Inc.

A Non-Profit Corporation

P.O. Box 435

Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing as a representative of the Wildcat Steelhead Club to express our sincere support for the City of Sedro-Woolley's Olmstead Park Development Project. Our organization and members have a long history of commitment to enhancing recreational fisheries and wildlife projects throughout Washington, but especially those that are connected to the Skagit River Valley. We highly encourage the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Department to provide the support and funding that Sedro-Woolley is requesting for the construction of the Olmstead Park Project.

This proposed project, located on the former Northern State Hospital grounds, includes a fishing pond on which our club members have for over 45 years sponsored the annual Kid's Fishing Derby. My review of our club history records *(that go back to 1935 when local Sedro-Woolley postal workers began the club)* indicated that on December 5th, 1974 our club members passed a motion "to start the club involvement in...juvenile fishing pond at Northern State rearing ponds". From that original, simple commitment, our members have yearly invested considerable man hours and thousands of dollars from our members to organize and fund the Kid's Fishing Derby each Spring at the Northern State Pond.

Our club members' efforts have also been consistently supported by a great many area businesses with both financial and material donations. Every year we have been assisted generously by WDFW staff and hatchery personnel in obtaining and planting the fish that come from the state hatcheries. The combination of community and Washington State support with our Wildcat Steelhead work efforts has consistently provided a unique and rewarding experience for all the children

and their family members who attend. Every year we are reminded by some of those who attend that this event now touches three and four generations of families. The prizes and the free food and drinks for the children and their family members not only makes it a day to be remembered but a day that every family can afford. There are no entry requirements, and anyone may bring their children to this event.

In the last several years, the Wildcat Steelhead Club members' efforts, time, and money included dredging the pond to keep it from becoming clogged with silt and vegetation debris. It also included many man hours removing downed trees and making paths safe for the children. Those efforts were just part of our long-standing commitment at maintaining the area surrounding the pond to ensure the needed safety and accessibility that the children and their family members must have.

All of the time, money, and commitments that our club members and our community businesses and the City of Sedro-Woolley and Skagit County and WDFW has invested in just the Kid's Fishing Derby represent an enormous commitment to serving our community. Now the Olmstead Park Project will include so much more.

The Washington State Recreation and Conservation Department can greatly enhance those efforts in granting the Sedro-Woolley request for the Olmstead Park Project which will provide a host of other important recreational activities for our area.

Sincerely,



Dr. Comer LaRue

President of the Wildcat Steelhead Club



315 Martin Luther King Jr. Way
PO Box 5299 MS: 315-P8-CHV
Tacoma, WA 98415

pulseheartinstitute.org

May 6, 2020

Ms. DeAnn Beck
Outdoor Grants Manager
Recreation and Conservation Office
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

RE: Letter of Support, City of Covington, Jenkins Creek Park and Trail Activation

Dear Ms. Beck,

Pulse Heart Institute supports the City of Covington's grant application to the Washington Wildlife & Recreation Program (WWRP) for the continued development of Jenkins Creek Park and the Jenkins Creek Corridor. The already protected passive park space and trail easements at the geographic center of Covington are positioned to significantly contribute to several initiatives in open space preservation, public recreation activation, regional trail programming and enhanced access to recreation opportunities.

The planned trail and park improvements, in coordination with adjacent development plans, compliment the two goals of the WWRP: to acquire valuable recreation and habitat lands and to develop recreation areas for a growing population. Funding for this project will specifically connect the existing Jenkins Creek Park trails across the adjacent MultiCare Covington campus and to a planned underpass of the nearby state highway, activating a regional network of public parks and trails.

Our organization is particularly excited to partner with you on this project and create Pulse Park. The health of the community is so important to our well-being and having this kind of trail will assist the residents in their pursuit of becoming more active.

It is a great pleasure to support this project and to join the State of Washington WWRP efforts in the delivery of community services, per our own mission, as well as state, regional, and local public recreation plans.

Sincerely,


Jason Parks
President

/le





**Mid Sound Fisheries
Enhancement Group**

7400 Sand Point Way #202N
SeaBle, WA 98115

June 19, 2020

DeAnn Beck

Outdoor Grants Manager

Recreation and Conservation Office

PO Box 40917

Olympia, WA 98504-0917

RE: Letter of Support, City of Covington, Jenkins Creek Park and Trail Corridor,
WWRP Projects 20-1857, 20-1453 and LWCF 20-1858

Dear Ms. Beck,

The Mid Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group supports the City of Covington's grant applications to the Washington Wildlife & Recreation Program (WWRP) and the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) for the continued development of Jenkins Creek Park and the Jenkins Creek Trail Corridor. The already protected passive park spaces and trail easements at the geographic center of Covington are positioned to significantly contribute to several initiatives in open space preservation, public recreation activation, regional trail programming and enhanced access to recreation opportunities.

The planned trail and park improvements, in coordination with adjacent development plans, compliment the two goals of the WWRP: to acquire valuable recreation and habitat lands and to develop recreation areas for a growing population. Funding for this project will specifically provide outdoor public recreation, reflecting the mission of the LWCF. It is exciting to connect the existing Jenkins Creek Park trails across the adjacent MultiCare Covington campus and to a planned underpass of the nearby state highway, activating a regional network of public parks and trails.

Our organization has been partnering with the City of Covington to restore salmon habitat in Jenkins Creek which is a high priority tributary for salmon restoration in the Green River Chinook Salmon Recovery strategy. These acquisitions and funds to restore habitat will be a significant advancement in those efforts by expanding the amount of the creek corridor that is in public ownership and be helping to restore these sections of the corridor.

It is a great pleasure to support these projects.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeanette Dorner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jeanette Dorner
Executive Director



GREENRIVERCOALITION.ORG



20-1857 WWRP LP #47

SUBJECT

Letter of Support,
City of Covington,
Jenkins Creek Park

DATE

June 22, 2020

RECEIVER

Recreation and
Conservation Funding Board
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 9850410917

Dear Ms. Beck, Outdoor
Grants Manager:

Green River Coalition strongly supports the City of Covington's grant application to the Washington Wildlife & Recreation Program (WWRP) for the continued development of Jenkins Creek Park and the Jenkins Creek Corridor.

These trail and Park improvements will compliment other development plans and efforts, to meet critical WWRP goals, of acquiring valuable habitat and recreation lands, and developing recreation areas for Covington's growing population.

Funding for this project will connect the existing Jenkins Creek Park trails across the adjacent MultiCare Covington campus, and to a planned underpass of the nearby state highway, tying together a network of public parks and trails.

Our coalition has long partnered with the City of Covington in its Jenkins Creek Park, and Jenkins Creek corridor projects to support the increase of habitat functions and values by suppressing non-native plants and replacing them with native trees, shrubs and plants. We have successfully applied for and received federal, county, and private foundation funds to support this work at three sites in the Covington Jenkins Creek corridor, including a grant award we were just notified of last week. We are engaged in planning for additional work and anticipate continued support of these habitat and recreation improvement projects with Covington. This includes seeking additional sources of funding, providing planning and implementation support from our team of 9-12 interns, and engaging volunteer support.

A couple of our board members also live in the area and use the existing Jenkins Creek Park and nearby trail segments for years. I both commute and do recreational bike riding. The Jenkins Creek Trail not only provides in park recreation, but also connects a primary concentration of population to a key commercial center, and additionally to the core downtown area. Along with a host of other benefits, this allows pedestrians and bikers a great alternative to being on high vehicle traffic roadways.

www.photocircotem.com

As a result we are very pleased to see the City of Covington engaged in pursuing this grant opportunity, and strongly encourage WWRP to provide the requested funding.

Best regards,

Greg Wingard,
President
425-496-9177



**DOWNTOWN
WALLA WALLA**
FOUNDATION

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office
PO Box 40917
Olympia WA 98504-0917

To whom it may concern:

The Downtown Walla Walla Foundation fully supports the City of Walla Walla's application for funds to RCO's WWRP Local Parks grant and LWCF grant for the redevelopment of Heritage Square. The proposed redevelopment of the park will have significant positive impacts on the downtown.

- Heritage Square is centrally located in downtown Walla Walla but is currently underutilized. Redevelopment will allow it to be used as a community center and event space, which downtown Walla Walla is significantly lacking.
- Over 100 restaurants, wineries, and retail shops are located within walking distance of this park. The proposed redevelopment would have significant economic impact on these businesses.
- Downtown Walla Walla needs additional family friendly spaces. A redeveloped park in the downtown core will increase the quality of life for Walla Walla families.

The proposed plan from the city has been reviewed and approved by our Foundation's Design Committee. The Downtown Walla Walla Foundation is excited to partner with the City on this project. We anticipate contributing significant staff and volunteer time to the redevelopment of Heritage Square.

Thank you for considering the application for RCO funding!

Sincerely,

Kathryn Witherington
Executive Director



Directors
Chuck Fulton, President
Punkey Adams
Bill Albee
Allan Gillespie

Bob Zagelow

May 28, 2020

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

To Whom It May Concern

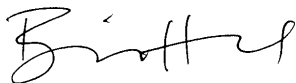
I am writing in support of the City of Walla Walla's grant proposals with Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program and Land and Water Conservation Fund for the redevelopment of Heritage Square in downtown Walla Walla.

Sherwood Trust's work and mission supports a thriving region here where everyone has a sense of belonging and contributes to vibrant communities. A well-designed, active public space in Downtown Walla Walla helps accomplish that goal by offering gathering and celebration space in the heart of our community that is safe, dynamic and open to everyone.

This project would revitalize an underutilized property and help connect our downtown to the larger community. Significantly, it would provide a central 'town square' for public events where there is none now. A redeveloped Heritage Square would serve our community and region now and for generations to come.

Thank you for your consideration of this good and essential project.

Sincerely,



Brian Hunt
CEO

June 26, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

We are writing to express our support for the City of Mountlake Terrace's grant application for improvements to the Evergreen Playfield complex. The Evergreen Playfield was constructed in 1976 on 16 acres and is the largest sport complex in south Snohomish County. It consists of 5 baseball and softball fields, 2 grass soccer and football fields, an all-weather soccer field, a quarter mile track, and four lighted tennis courts. The Evergreen Playfield complex is also used by both locals and visitors for citywide special events and festivals.

The city is applying for WWRP Local Parks grant funding to make much needed improvements to the Evergreen Playfield complex. The grant funds will be matched with city funds to demolish restrooms, the concessions building and maintenance building to construct new buildings in the same location. The existing restrooms are 44 years old and undersized for the size of the complex. The new restrooms will add capacity to serve not only the park users but the broader public. These are the only public restrooms east of I-5 and are easily accessible from 56th Avenue, the gateway to the city's developing Town Center. The existing utility room is also undersized and cannot accommodate the necessary equipment to maintain the fields. The existing concession stand is very difficult for volunteers to operate, it takes 3 people to lift the opening. These much-needed investments in the complex will be of great benefit to the public.

Located in the heart of the city, the Evergreen Playfield is part of our community's identity and continues to increase the quality of life for local families and for those that come and visit Mountlake Terrace. Tour de Terrace, Tree Lighting, National Night Out are large community events that use these facilities, making the complex more accessible and user friendly will allow the city to better serve the public. We ask that you please invest in this versatile space so that the Evergreen Playfield can be enjoyed for generations to come.

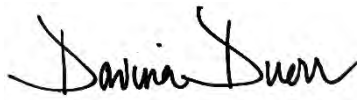
As state legislators representing the City of Mountlake Terrace, we believe this is an important investment for our community, and therefore, our state. Thank you for your consideration of this important funding request.

Sincerely,

Senator Derek Stanford
1st Legislative District

Rep. Davina Duerr
1st Legislative District

Rep. Shelley Kloba
1st Legislative District





May 15, 2020

To whom it may concern

On behalf of the Neighborhood Park Improvement Subcommittee (NPIS), I am writing to express my support for the City of Mountlake Terrace's funding request to improve the Evergreen Playfield Complex Restroom and support facilities.

It is my understanding that the City Mountlake Terrace is applying for grant funding for redevelopment of the Evergreen Playfield Complex restroom and support facilities originally constructed in 1976. The City recently engaged local youth and adult sports organizations to receive feedback on the project and how it would support an existing RCO funded project and future projects in the complex.

The funding request would include demolition and replacement of an existing restroom and support building within the Evergreen Playfield Complex. The new facilities will provide ADA restrooms and up to date facilities for complex users. The support building will allow the city to adequately maintain the athletic facilities within the complex. The existing facilities are past their useful life and are in need of updating.

The Neighborhood Parks Improvement Subcommittee is comprised of 10 citizen volunteers assigned the responsibility for annually inventorying the neighborhood parks and recommending improvements to the Recreation and Parks Advisory Commission (RPAC). Appointed by RPAC, each of the representatives must live within a half mile of the park they represent.

Thank you for your consideration of this important funding request.

Sincerely,

Kathleen M. Tuura

Kathy Tuura, Chair
Mountlake Terrace
Neighborhood Park Improvement Subcommittee



Achieve with us.

Date: May 6th, 2020

To: Whomever It May Concern

From: Donna Tracy
Program Manager
Email - donnat@arcoftricity.com
Cell 509-947-6090

RE: City of Kennewick Pool

The Arc of Tri-Cities is a non-profit organization that has been serving individuals with developmental disabilities and their families since 1952. The Arc's passion is supporting individuals to have access and opportunity to participate fully in their communities.

The City of Kennewick has been a valuable partner in creating those opportunities. Their pool has given our agency the ability to run a summer camp that offers over 160 kids with special needs equal access to summer fun activities. They have been generous with their limited space and extending our campers' time to be able to access the pool while meeting physical needs that include personal care and sensory issues.

We are writing this letter in support of the City of Kennewick's desire to improve its facilities to meet the physical demand. The Arc of Tri-Cities values the City of Kennewick's pool and the summer fun it offers to so many.

We hope that this letter will help in securing the funds that they are seeking to improve our local pool. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely

Donna Tracy



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

To Whom It May Concern:

Every summer we visit Kennewick Serier Memorial Pool twice a week during our summer camp programs. In our summer programs we have about 295-320 children attending. One of the children's favorite field trips we take during the summer is to the pools. With parents working during the week and children having to be in childcare having access to the pool is a great resource for us to help the parents in giving their children a summer experience. The staff there are so welcoming and allow us to have the back area so our kids can rest in the shade if they need a break from swimming. Visiting the pool has been a big part of our summer programs and the children all always excited to go and have a great time. The Kennewick Serier Memorial pool is a fundamental resource for the community as well as for us here at the YMCA of the Greater Tri-cities.

Cecilia Moreno
School Age Child Care Director



CITY OF BINGEN

May 20, 2020

Mr. Jesse Simms, RCO Grants Manager
Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

RE: Letter of Support for White Salmon Valley Pool Metropolitan Park District
For the White Salmon Valley Pool

Dear Mr. Sims,

I write on behalf of City of Bingen in support of the White Salmon Valley Pool Metropolitan Park District's proposal to the Recreation and Conservation Office. As a local community stakeholder, we strongly support this grant application with the focus to build a community pool.

The City of Bingen is in the White Salmon Valley Pool Metropolitan Park District. We feel strongly that there are many benefits of a new pool to our citizens.

Which include the following:

- *Swim lessons/ water safety (we live on the Columbia River not having a resource for swim lessons is not an option.)*
- *Competitive sports*
- *Exercise & well-being*
- *Therapeutics*
- *Family Recreation*
- *Community gathering space*
- *Loss of the original White Salmon Pool*

Thank you for considering the White Salmon Valley Pool Metropolitan Park District's application.

Thanks Again
Robert J. Barnes, Mayor



City of White Salmon Office of City Hall

May 20, 2020

Mr. Jesse Simms, RCO Grants Manager
Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

RE: Letter of Support for White Salmon Valley Pool Metropolitan Park District
For the White Salmon Valley Pool

Dear Mr. Sims,

I write on behalf of the City of White Salmon in support of the White Salmon Valley Pool Metropolitan Park District's (WSVMPD) proposal to the Recreation and Conservation Office. As mayor, I strongly support this grant application with the focus to build a community pool.

Our original city pool was built in the 1930s and became a focal point for our town – bringing together generations and creating memories that are firmly tied to many people's sense of what makes White Salmon a vibrant community. That community has steadfastly supported efforts to build a new pool over the last two decades, and the formation of the WSVMPD two years ago to carry that vision forward would not have been possible without them. A key reason our residents want to continue having a pool is to provide our youth with proper water safety and swim lessons; lifetime skills that are so important, especially with the Columbia and White Salmon Rivers in our backyard. In addition, the pool provides a family recreation and exercise activity for all ages, as well as supporting the therapeutic needs of many residents.

Funding such a project is especially challenging in rural communities such as ours. Our residents and the larger community, by approving the formation of the WSVMPD, have demonstrated their financial commitment to realizing this project. I believe it is these types of projects, with broad community support, that deserve consideration for the additional financial support necessary to make such visions a reality.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Marla Keethler".

Marla Keethler
Mayor

100 North Main Street PO Box 2139 White Salmon WA 98672
Office: (509) 493-1133 Web Site: www.white-salmon.net

The City of White Salmon is an equal opportunity employer and provider.

Dear Grant Selection Committee,

May 24, 2020

I am writing this letter on behalf of the White Salmon swimming community. The White Salmon Pool Metropolitan Parks District is working hard to replace our community's worn out swimming pool. The swimming pool has been a sparkling gem in our city since 1934 and with your aid we can continue to keep our pool the glowing heart of our community.

Not only has this gem supplied our community with a place for our families to 'hang out' in the summer, it has taught thousands of children how to swim. With all of the outdoor recreation, such as boating, jet skiing, tubing, wind surfing, fishing and other activities, on our local lakes and rivers, I am sure we have saved lives through the skills that have been taught at this facility. It is the highest priority for our community to ensure that no lives are lost due to a lack of swimming skills.

There are multiple positive community benefits that an outdoor swimming pool designed for both recreation and competition can provide for White Salmon. Youth and adults can learn to swim, practice and compete in the local sports of competitive swimming and water polo, enjoy synchronized swimming, become certified in Scuba Diving, become a certified Water Swimming Instructor or Lifeguard, take water aerobics, lap swim for fitness, or just enjoy open play for children and families in a safe environment.

As Head Coach since 2000 for the Hood River Valley Swim Team and Columbia Gorge Masters, I have coached hundreds of children and adults from the entire Columbia River Gorge. There are many swimmers from White Salmon who have to travel across the river in order to participate in competitive swimming. These swimmers have high expectations, and have had much success in the sport. In 2012 Scott Bergstrom, White Salmon native, attended the Swimming Olympic Team Trials in Omaha, Nebraska, competing in the 200m Butterfly (the same event as the well known Michael Phelps). He also received a swimming scholarship to attend the University of Denver. Other White Salmon swimmers have gone on to compete in college, including Justine Rawding at Niagara University and Mariah Rawding Bowdoin College. Brett Rawding used the swimming skills he learned to excel in the underwater egress training course in the Army. Naomi Elyard is pursuing kayaking - she took a semester to tackle high level kayaking challenges while attending classes through the World Class Academy Kayak School. I believe you can see how a local pool supports our local youth in achieving their dreams. Having a pool that supports competition and water sports locally will enable athletes to continue their love of swimming no matter where they go and what they pursue in life.

Competition brings more than just opportunities to the athletes. Swim meets and water polo tournaments bring in much needed dollars to the local economy. These are day &/or weekend long

events with one to two hundred people in attendance. The families stay in local hotels, spend money at the local restaurants and grocery stores, and the support they give goes well beyond the weekend. They go wine tasting and become wine club members to support the wineries through the winter; they love art and return for our Fall Art Walk and our Summer Art and Wine Fusion, they are white water aficionados and come back to raft and kayak on the White Salmon River in the summer. The Columbia River Gorge is a tourist destination, and once people come to White Salmon and enjoy the town, many times they look for opportunities to return. These events are much more than the sum of their parts. They really benefit the entire community.

Youth are not the only ones who would benefit from a competitive aquatic venue. The Columbia Gorge Masters swim team provides swim training for many adults from White Salmon as well. We have trained Ironman Triathletes, as well as competitive masters swimmers and adults who just want to stay in good physical shape. Our swimming community is strong and well established, and having a pool to be able to host swim meets in would not only allow our youth but our adults to also have a good reason to come to our town and support our local economy.

Thank you for your support, and please contact me if you have any questions on how this facility would improve the lives of our community. You can reach me at hrvst.coach@gmail.com or (509) 637-4051.

Sincerely,

Shelly Rawding



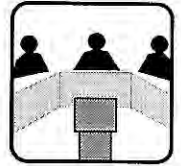
KLICKITAT COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

205 S. COLUMBUS AVENUE, ROOM 103, GOLDENDALE WASHINGTON 98620 • FAX 509 773-6779 • VOICE 509 773-4612

REX F. JOHNSTON, DISTRICT #1

DAVID M. SAUTER, DISTRICT #2

JIM SIZEMORE, DISTRICT #3



May 26, 2020

Mr. Jesse Sims, RCO Grants Manager
 Washington State
 Recreation and Conservation Office
 PO Box 40917
 Olympia, WA 98504-0917

RE: Letter of Support for White Salmon Valley Pool Metropolitan Park District Community Pool

Dear Mr. Sims,

The Klickitat County Board of Commissioners would like to express our support for the White Salmon Valley Pool Metropolitan Park District's Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office grant applications through the Recreation Projects – Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program and the Youth Athletic Facilities Program. If approved, the grants will be used to build a community pool.

The original White Salmon Pool was built in the 1930's and unfortunately, over the years it deteriorated to such a point that by the summer of 2019 it could not be safely reopened again. In 2018, the White Salmon Valley Pool Metropolitan Park District was created by the voters of the district to build, operate and maintain a pool for the White Salmon Valley Community.

A new community pool will offer a means of recreation, exercise, social interaction, relaxation and stress relief for Klickitat and Skamania County residents, businesses, schools, visitors as well as those considering relocating to the area. Other benefits include:

- Swim lessons/ water safety
- Competitive sports
- Therapeutics
- Family Recreation
- Community gathering space
- Uplift community spirits from the loss of the original White Salmon Pool

Klickitat County strongly supports the White Salmon Valley Pool Metropolitan Park District's efforts to build a new community pool and urges the Recreation Conservation Office to consider their grant applications for approval and award.

Should you have questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact our office at (509) 773-4612.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
 Klickitat County, Washington

Jim Sizemore
 Jim Sizemore, Chairman



May 21, 2020

Mr. Jesse Simms, RCO Grants Manager
Washington State
Recreation and Conservation Office
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

RE: Letter of Support for White Salmon Valley Pool Metropolitan Park District Community Pool

Dear Mr. Sims,

I write on behalf of the Mt. Adams Chamber of Commerce in support of the White Salmon Valley Pool Metropolitan Park District's proposal to the Recreation and Conservation Office. As a local community stakeholder, we strongly support this grant application with the focus to build a community pool.

Having this community pool is a very desirable amenity for our residents and local businesses, as well as those considering moving to the area. It is a positive aspect that increases our value to a potential new business owner. The pool is a potential draw to bring people to town who are likely spend money at local businesses.

Other benefits we anticipate from having this pool are:

- **Swim lessons/ water safety** – this is critical as we live along the mighty Columbia and have water tributaries throughout our region. Children must learn how to swim at an early age.
- **Exercise & well-being** – a pool provides physical and mental relief for our residents.
- **Therapeutics** – water therapy is one of the safest for rehabilitation.
- **Family Recreation** – activities the entire family can engage in and create memories while strengthening bonds.
- **Competitive sports** – local athletes will be able to practice and host meets without having to leave the state.
- **Community gathering space** – the White Salmon pool brings people together in a healthy environment, encouraging multi-age interactions.

This community has deep connections to the memories of our pool that is no longer in commission and truly mourns the loss of this resource. It has been challenging for those who have worked for many years to find a solution. On behalf of the Mt. Adams Chamber of Commerce membership, we very much support the proposal for this grant and encourage you to approve it.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tammara Toppel".

Tammara Toppel
Executive Director
Mt. Adams Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center



NorthShore
MEDICAL GROUP

20-1321 WWRP LP #52

May 20, 2020

Mr. Jesse Sims, RCO Grants Manager
Washington State Recreation & Conservation Office
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

RE: Letter of Support for White Salmon Valley Park District Community Pool

Dear Mr. Sims,

NorthShore Medical Group is in support of the White Salmon Valley Pool Metropolitan Park District's values and vision for our community, and support their proposal to the Recreation & Conservation Office. As a local community stakeholder, we strongly support this grant application with the focus to build a community pool.

We are a Rural Health Clinic that specializes in quality primary care, serving both Klickitat and Skamania counties. Our mission encompasses promoting the health and well being of local residents, through physical activity and social determinants of health, such as food insecurity and affordable housing. Other social determinant intangibles are a "sense of community", which community assets such as a public pool have been shown to improve.

As we all come together to forge a path forward in these challenging times, the providers and staff at NorthShore Medical Group strongly support the continued progress towards a community pool facility for White Salmon and surrounding area.

Sincerely,

Cindy Robertson, Administrator



May 15, 2020

Mr. Jesse Simms, RCO Grants Manager
Washington State
Recreation and Conservation Office
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

RE: Letter of Support for White Salmon Valley Pool Metropolitan Park District Community Pool

Dear Mr. Sims,

I write on behalf of Skyline Health in support of the White Salmon Valley Pool Metropolitan Park District's proposal to the Recreation and Conservation Office. As a local community stakeholder, we strongly support this grant application with the focus to build a community pool.

Skyline Health values our partnership with the White Salmon Valley Metropolitan Park District as we work to achieve our mission of providing an exceptional level of health and well-being in our community. The citizens of our rural community have also come to rely on this group and the pool itself as a way to support their physical and mental health needs.

A community pool provides equitable access to a safe and healthy recreation opportunity. For the user, it is affordable and requires little to no equipment. This makes visiting the pool an essential activity for many low-income families. Additionally, swimming is a unique fitness opportunity for seniors and people with certain disabilities. In a community with few adequate sidewalks and paved trails, swimming, water aerobics and aquatic therapy can be a main source of physical activity. Without this option, our seniors and community members with disabilities may have a hard time maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

As a gathering place, the pool gives folks the opportunity to build supportive relationships, which can benefit their mental health. It also gives our young people something fun to do during the summer, which is a challenge for a rural community. Finally, knowing how to swim is an important skill all Gorge residents should have. Our public lands have plenty of swimming holes our residents, especially young folks, love to explore. Learning to swim in a community pool may help prevent a tragic accident.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robb Kimmes", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Robb Kimmes

CEO, Skyline Health



WHITE SALMON VALLEY SCHOOLS

KEY TO THE FUTURE

Dr. Jerry Lewis, Superintendent
District Office
P.O. Box 157
White Salmon, WA 98672
(509) 493-1500
FAX No. (509) 493-2275

20-1321 WWRP LP #52

May 26, 2020

Mr. Jesse Simms, RCO Grants Manager
Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

RE: Letter of Support for White Salmon Valley Pool Metropolitan Park District
For the White Salmon Valley Pool

Dear Mr. Sims,

I write on behalf of White Salmon Valley School District in support of the White Salmon Valley Pool Metropolitan Park District's proposal to the Recreation and Conservation Office. As a local community stakeholder, we strongly support this grant application with the focus to build a community pool.

The White Salmon Valley School District created a partnership with the White Salmon Valley Pool Metropolitan Park District to build the community pool by providing the required property. The school board is excited for this opportunity. Our community has lost our community pool because of age and this has had a significant impact on our community and district.

The construction of a new modern pool will have many benefits for our school district including swim lessons and water safety for our elementary age students and the possibility of competitive sports. Some of the benefits for our community include family recreation, therapeutics, exercise and well-being.

Our community has been planning and waiting for a very long time for the opportunity to have a modern pool. Our school district believes in the vision that the White Salmon Valley Pool Metropolitan Park District has for building this pool for our community.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jerry Lewis, District Superintendent

May 31, 2020

Mr. Jesse Simms, RCO Grants Manager
Washington State
Recreation and Conservation Office
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

RE: Letter of Support for White Salmon Valley Pool Metropolitan Park District
Community Pool

Dear Mr. Sims,

I write on behalf of White Salmon Valley K-8 PTO in support of the White Salmon Valley Pool Metropolitan Park District's proposal to the Recreation and Conservation Office. As a local community stakeholder, we strongly support this grant application with the focus to build a community pool.

The White Salmon Valley Kindergarten through 8th grade PTO works together with the White Salmon Community to enrich the education of all students from Kindergarten through 8th grade. The loss of the community pool has left a gap in our outreach. Each year, the PTO funds swimming lessons for third graders. Many of our students have not had the opportunity to have supervised, safe swimming lessons. Our community borders the Columbia River that is a center point for recreation. The WSVK-8 PTO believes swimming lessons ensure that students have the opportunity to learn to swim so they at least achieve skills of water competency: able to enter the water, get a breath, stay afloat, change position, swim a distance then get out of the water safely. The pool is also a place where all ages can recreate and socialize with neighbors and friends. The people in the community are working hard to make the dream of a new pool come true.

Thank you for your support in this effort, it means a great deal to the WSVK-8 PTO. An accessible community pool is near to our hearts, and I feel confident we will have the funding for all soon.

Sincerely.



Jennifer Newbrook
WSVK-8 PTO Co-Chair

Kurt Grimmer
Tacoma Narrows Airport Advisory Commission
2903 65th Avenue Ct NW
Gig Harbor, WA 98335

August 14, 2020

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (RCFB)
P.O. Box 40917
Olympia, Washington 98504-0917
(360) 902-3000

Subject: 20-1782 & 20-1798 – Narrows West Acquisition
Peninsula Metropolitan Park District (PenMet Parks) – Gig Harbor, WA

Dear RCFB,

The Tacoma Narrows Airport Advisory Commission (TNAAC) supports the PenMet Parks Recreation and Conservation Office Grant Applications for the acquisition of the Narrows West property, also known as Eagles Ridge, owned by Sound Built Homes.

The TNAAC provides a community voice and advice to the Pierce County Council on airport management, operations, and related activities.

The acquisition of the Narrows West property will be valuable to our community, providing open space, habitat protection, trails for a variety of users, other recreational opportunities including disc golf, and allow for connectivity from the airport down to Narrows Park's waterfront.

Parks and properly managed environmental conservation areas are some of the best possible land uses when considering compatible land use adjacent to airports to ensure appropriate noise buffers can be in place between airport activity and residential properties.

In addition, PenMet's development of the Community Recreation Center on 14th Ave NW will be a valuable community resource by routing the Cushman Trail through the site away from traffic. This will be an important safety component for those users either heading to the Narrows Park and the Airport on foot or bicycle.

The TNAAC has worked with PenMet Parks on past projects, and we look forward with support for this new acquisition. We believe it enhances the amenities at the Airport and will encourage the community to visit the Antique Airplane Museum, the airport restaurant, and the Rotary Aviation Zone platform.

We encourage and welcome the support of the RCFB.

Sincerely,

Kurt Grimmer, Chairman
TNAAC
253-312-3460

July 29, 2020

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (RCFB)
P.O. Box 40917
Olympia, Washington 98504-0917
(360) 902-3000

Subject: 20-1782 & 20-1798 – Narrows West Acquisition

Dear RCFB,

The West Sound Disc Golf Association (WSDGA) supports the Peninsula Metropolitan Park District's Recreation and Conservation Office grant applications for the acquisition of the Narrows West property, also known as Eagles Ridge, owned by Sound Built Homes. The WSDGA provides outdoor community recreation by working with parks departments and private land owners to design and maintain disc golf courses on a volunteer basis in the west sound region of Washington state. WSDGA is a 501c3 non profit organization with over 300 lifetime members.

The acquisition of the property will be valuable to our community providing open space, habitat protection, trails for a variety of users, and other recreational opportunities including disc golf. The rapidly growing sport of disc golf has a lot of support in the Gig Harbor area and this property will finally provide the residents a close park option to learn, practice and compete in a fantastic outdoor sport that is great for all ages.

PenMet's development of the Community Recreation Center will be a valuable community resource, but it will also fill the gap between disc golf courses between Lakewood, Wa. and Port Orchard, Wa. The WSDGA is eager to work with PenMet on a new course that will provide current Gig Harbor area players a "home course" to maintain and be proud of. This opportunity will also give easy access to teach the low-impact sport to many more people that are looking for a healthy, outdoor activity. We look forward with support for this new acquisition.

We encourage and welcome the support of the RCFB, too.

Sincerely,

West Sound Disc Golf Association
Feel free to contact myself or John Synco with any questions
Paul Wright, president WSDGA. (360) 509-0000
John Synco (253) 649-3563



July 29, 2020

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (RCFB)
P.O. Box 40917
Olympia, Washington 98504-0917
(360) 902-3000

Subject: 20-1782 & 20-1798 – Narrows West Acquisition

Dear RCFB,

Great Peninsula Conservancy (GPC) supports the Peninsula Metropolitan Park District's Recreation and Conservation Office grant applications for the acquisition of the Narrows West property. The acquisition will greatly expand the existing Narrows Park and provide unique recreational opportunities within walking distance from Tacoma and Gig Harbor.

Owned by a large housing development company and with panoramic views of the Tacoma Narrows bridge, the property is highly threatened. The Park District has a limited time window to secure the property. Once purchased, the 116 acre property will more than triple the size of the existing and popular Narrows Park, adding pristine shoreline, riparian habitat along Doc Weather's Creek and the potential for over a mile of forested trails and other recreational opportunities such as disc golf and mountain biking. The property not only dovetails with the existing park, but connects to significant public land to the west and north for additional recreational opportunities.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Erik Steffens".

Erik Steffens
Conservation Director



7/22/2020

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EMERITUS

LIFETIME TRUSTEES

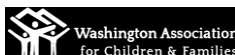
Linda Ashlock
Joe Donoghue
Pam Kaiser
Sharon Osborne
Gary Ponti
Patricia Sundquist
Cliff Tingley

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Gina Cabiddu and I currently serve as the Community Manager of Children's Home Society of Washington's Key Peninsula's Family Resource Center. My roles are to direct all the services provided in Pierce and Mason County, forge and maintain connections with community partners, leaders, and elected officials, and raise and manage the budget for the region within our state-wide organization. It is my pleasure to write this letter of support for Key Peninsula Parks and their Washington Recreation Conversation Office grant application for Phase 4 of Gateway Park's development. This project will provide the Key Peninsula community with a lighted turf field at Gateway park, additional parking and restrooms, and a much-needed safety feature of an additional entrance/exit that is further from the blind highway curve preceding this park.

First, I'll speak to the character of Key Pen Parks. Each member of this team is dynamic, passionate about recreational opportunities, community-oriented, responsive, and accountable. Key Pen Parks and the sites they maintain are community staples and a source of great pride and recreation in our small, rural community. Key Pen Parks is actively engaged with the needs, resources, and partnerships in our area with their energy and longevity in every level of civic engagement. This includes their membership of the Key Peninsula Business Association, hosting traditions of 4th of July hot dog socials and logging shows that honor the history and culture of our area, and grants to community partners that made summer programs in 2019 a reality for under-served youth when other partners closed their facilities abruptly just to name a few examples.

Second, I can speak to the need for park expansions and innovations in this community due to the demographics of our area. Key Peninsula is a rural, isolated community within Pierce County. This leads the parks of the community to be the leading source of recreational entertainment for families in our community. As there is no public transportation on the Key Peninsula, the need for parks within local access is crucial. Not only is commuting to Kitsap County or Tacoma a time burden for families, the gas and bridge toll costs impede families as well. There are schools in Key Peninsula that near 70% free and reduced lunch rates and when the multi-million dollar homes along the waterfront and within Gig Harbor are removed, the average family income plunges to or below the federal poverty line. The lack of transportation and financial resources in addition to the community's poor health outcomes, rates of homelessness, and Child Protective Services investigations set strong context for Key Peninsula being a community of focus for entities such as Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department, United Way of Pierce County, and Pierce County's Help Me Grow.



**SEATTLE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES**

P.O. Box 15190

Seattle, WA 98115

(206) 695-3200 Main

(800) 456-3339 Toll Free

(206) 695-3201 Fax

www.childrenshomesociety.org**OFFICERS****CHAIR**

Andy MacDonald

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Gary Ponti

Patricia Sundquist

Cliff Tingley

Lastly, these parks provide local outlets for families to bond, kids to develop their gross motor skills, and a hosting space for everything from birthdays to mental health awareness events. As the needs of the community shift, so does the use of our parks. Key Pen Parks was a leader in addressing the lack of reliable and available internet during COVID's impact by creating WiFi locations. Lastly, within compliance with ordinances and public health, the parks have been a key means of decreasing social isolation and fostering connection with physical distancing through Gateway Park's trails and fields where picnics are held, youth serving agencies convene to work with students with housing insecurity, and agencies host in-person staff meetings to address community needs.

This grant would enhance the community benefits named above, but also would be crucial for strengthening the safety of the site. The entrance/exit currently is positioned next to a blind corner where vehicles are often traveling between 40 and 60 miles per hour leaving little reaction time for those turning out of the park as well as the oncoming traffic. Key Peninsula needs more sidewalks, wider walking pathways along roadsides, and traffic revisions. This grant would answer that need and reduce the number of and potential accident incidents.

It's an honor to write this letter of support for this project and our partner. As a personal and professional user of this park, please support this application. Please contact me with any questions.

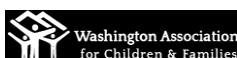
Gina Cabiddu, MSW

253-514-3457

Gina.Cabiddu@chs-wa.org

Community Manager

Children's Home Society of Washington





Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Archaeology and Historic Preservation Department
Treaty Protection and Natural Resources Division
THE SUQUAMISH TRIBE

Post Office Box 498
Suquamish, WA 98392-0498
Phone (360) 394-8529
Fax (360) 598-4666

August 6, 2020

Kaleen Cottingham, Director
Recreation & Conservation Office
P.O. Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

**Subject: Letter of Support for Application 20-1551 D, Van Gasken Sound
View Park**

Dear Ms. Cottingham,

The Suquamish Tribe Archaeology and Historic Preservation Department supports the Recreation & Conservation Office grant application of the City of Des Moines to develop the Van Gasken Sound View Park.

The park vicinity has significant cultural resources which represent the cultural patrimony of local Native American Tribes. I have collaborated with staff at the City of Des Moines on projects in the proposed park vicinity. I am confident that our mission to protect, preserve, and respect the history of significant sites such as the Van Gasken property is shared by the City. We look forward to working with the City on the plans to develop this site into a beautiful open space and to continue to protect cultural resources.

In summary, I request the RCO approve the City of Des Moines grant application.

Respectfully,

Tribal Historic Preservation Officer



August 3, 2020

Kaleen Cottingham, Director Recreation &
Conservation Office (RCO)
P.O. Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

Subject: Letter of Support for Application 15-1551 D, Van Gasken Sound View Park

Ms. Cottingham,

This letter shall serve as the Puyallup Indian Tribe's Historic Preservation department's support for the above named application.

The Tribe has engaged with the City of Des Moines (The City) and discussed the historical significance of this site. I am confident with the goal of protecting, preserving, and respecting the history of the site is shared by everyone involved. Indeed, we look forward to working not just with the City, but all involved parties on the future plans for this location.

The award of this grant to the City is crucial to developing the property into a beautiful park and I respectfully offer the full support of the Puyallup Tribe to the City. I ask that the RCO consider approving their application.

Sincerely,

Brandon Reynon

253.573.7965



Promoting the health and welfare of marine wildlife in the Pacific Northwest

August 1, 2020

RE: SR3 support for City of Des Moines RCO proposal "Van Gasken Sound View Park"

Dear Ms. Cottingham:

I am writing today in support for the Van Gasken Sound View Park development grant request to the Recreation and Conservation Office to protect an iconic waterfront vista overlooking the Puget Sound, and create a beautiful park and open space.

SR³ is committed to supporting the securing of keystone places that our Pacific Northwest needs for a sustainable future. That includes places of beauty and recreation, and there are few with the characteristics found on the Van Gasken property.

This flagship park will offer scenic views, open space, natural areas, and trails, and help boost access to Puget Sound. It will also offer a unique opportunity for community education about the Sound and marine wildlife that will be open to all. Human health is intricately tied to the health of the Sound and protecting these places is vital to all.

We urge you to join the City of Des Moines in supporting this once in a lifetime effort to transform the Van Gasken property into a spectacular park for the citizens of Washington State.

Sincerely,

Casey Mclean
Executive Director
SR³ Sealife Response, Rehab and Research
425-346-9798

August 9, 2020

RE: *Friends of Des Moines Creek* support for City of Des Moines RCO proposal "Van Gasken Sound View Park."

Dear Ms. Cottingham,

I am writing today in support of the Van Gasken Sound View Park development grant request to the Recreation and Conservation Office to protect an iconic waterfront vista overlooking the Puget Sound, and create a beautiful park and open space.

I've been a Des Moines resident, a local ecologist, and leader of the *Friends of Des Moines Creek* volunteer group for over 20 years. In that time, I've been working to enhance, restore and control non-native plants along Des Moines Creek and its connected buffer including wetlands, steep slopes, and uplands. I fully support the acquisition and conservation of properties that includes places of history, native beauty and recreation such as that found on the Van Gasken property.

This flagship park will offer scenic views, open space, natural areas, and connect access to Puget Sound and its tidelands. In addition, the property is the missing link in the wildlife corridor between Overlook II Park, Des Moines Beach Park (Covenant Beach Bible Camp National Historic District), miles of Des Moines Creek, Puget Sound tidelands, Des Moines Creek Park Open Space, the King County Lake to Sound Regional Trail System, and the Des Moines Marina. As a *Friends* volunteer, I've worked to control non-native weeds and replace them with native plants. For my support, weed control in this corridor and the installation of native plants are promised to be an essential component of this project.

I ask you to join the City of Des Moines in supporting this grand effort to transform the Van Gasken property into a spectacular overlook park for the citizens of Washington State.

Sincerely,

Laura Hartema

Laura Hartema
21229 4th Place S
Des Moines, WA 98198



Rosa Cardenas & Araceli Zepeda

1108 Grace Ave, Benton City, WA 99320
509-588-2900 (days)
509-788-5311 (after 5:00pm)
509-588-2907 (fax)



20-1415 WWRP LP #59

July 15, 2020

Funding Board
Recreation & Conservation Office
PO Box 40917
Olympia WA 98504

Dear RCO Funding Board,

As the owner of Carrusel Child Care Center (childcare provider), I am very supportive of Benton City's request for funding to pay for a new Splash Pad.

With an average of 95 children at my business every day, I would appreciate having a safe water park where I could take them for outdoor group play. Summers in Eastern Washington are hot and the kids want to play in the water. Having an accessible splash pad in Benton City would be a big help for my business and would allow the children to engage in healthy outside activity.

Thank you for considering Benton City's grant request.

Best regards, Araceli Zepeda

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Araceli Zepeda". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping "A" and a long, horizontal stroke at the end.

July 15, 2020

Recreation and Conservation Office Funding Board
P.O. Box 40917
Olympia, Washington 98504-0917

Dear Funding Committee,

I am writing in support of Benton City's grant application to RCO to build a Splash Pad. As a parent of two young children, I have been concerned about the lack of places for my kids to be able to safely play in the water. The nearest other splash pad is in Richland, in the Tri-Cities, about 12 miles away. Having a water play park right in our town would be wonderful.

I have lived in Benton City for 32 years and they have been talking forever about getting a pool or other water park. My family is really excited to have this finally happen.

Thank you for supporting this project.

Sincerely,



Paula Kauer



Benton City Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Information Center
513 9th Street | Benton City, WA 99320
(509) 588-4984

July 17th, 2020

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
P.O. Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

Dear Funding Board,

On behalf of the Benton City Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Information Center, I am writing today to express support of the new Splash Pad grant application being submitted to RCO by the City of Benton City.

One of the core objectives at the Benton City Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Information Center is to actively engage the community at-large by planning regular all community events & activities that are designed to increase the functional and aesthetic value of the City of Benton City.

Temperatures continue to rise in Central Washington during the summer and it's vitally important the local youth in our community have a place where they can escape the heat. The new Splash Pad will offer a free, accessible opportunity for families to engage in healthy exercise and recreational fun together.

Benton City has been planning to build a pool or water park for many years now, and the City lacks sufficient park options to effectively serve our younger demographic. The nearest spray park is in the Tri-Cities (over 10 miles away) or in Sunnyside (over 30 miles away). It is time to deliver this recreation amenity for the deserving local youth here in our community. Many families in our area do not have the resources to visit commercial water parks or to pay for pool memberships. This new Splash Pad will address the need for local children to have access to safe, healthy and local water play experience.

Thank you for your time and consideration of the Splash Pad grant request. Our Organization firmly believes this project will significantly impact and moreover enhance the quality of life for our community's youth, their families and our growing local economy.

Respectfully,

Dakota Renz, Executive Director & Board President
Benton City Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Information Center
513 9th Street | Benton City, WA 99320
(509) 588-4984 | president@bentoncitychamber.org

DATE: 9/16/20

To Whom It May Concern:

As a parent of a student currently enrolled in a Belfair, Washington school, I fully support the Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group's Sweetwater Creek Water Wheel Park Project.

The new park, trail and restored stream will be a tremendous benefit to the parents and students of Belfair and North Mason County. Settings such as the one proposed in this project play an important role in the quality of life issues, healthy lifestyles, and meet the need for increased recreational opportunities in Mason County. Now more than ever in this digital age, I believe kids and students need more places to play and learn outside. The park will be in a location that is ideal for local parents and kids; due to it's proximity to the City of Belfair and transit lines it can be reached by foot, bike, bus or car, making it extremely accessible. I am especially supportive of the project's implementation of a natural playground that will allow kids the opportunity to interact with nature, rather than plastic toys and structures. This project will provide a chance for my child to learn about the environment in an engaging outdoor setting, as well as witness habitat restoration with the return and importance of native plants and salmon. As a parent, I believe these experiences are invaluable if we want our children to be stewards of the environment and astute citizens.

I am hopeful that this project will receive funding so that we may raise our children in safer, healthier, and greener spaces. I believe this project will greatly enhance the quality of life in our community and improve the city of Belfair overall.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Clayton David', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

[Clayton David]

DATE: 9-16-2020

To Whom It May Concern:

As a teacher in Belfair, Washington, I fully support the Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group's Sweetwater Creek Water Wheel Park Project.

The new park, trail and restored stream will be a tremendous benefit to the teachers, parents and students of Belfair and North Mason County. This project would play an important role in improving our community's quality of life issues, healthy lifestyles, and meet the need for increased recreational opportunities in Mason County. As an educator I have seen the importance and effectiveness of active, hands-on learning experiences in outdoor spaces, which Belfair desperately needs and this project would provide. I look forward to potentially using this space for field trips and for more engaging class lessons. This project will provide a chance for students to learn about the environment in an outdoor setting, as well as witness habitat restoration with the return and importance of native plants and salmon. As a teacher, I believe these experiences are invaluable if we want our students to be stewards of the environment and astute citizens. The park will be in a location that is ideal for local teachers, parents and kids; due to it's proximity to the City of Belfair and transit lines it can be reached by foot, bike, bus or car, making it extremely accessible.

I am hopeful that this project will receive funding so that we may give more opportunities to students to experience the outdoors and learn from nature. I believe this project will greatly enhance the quality of life in our community and improve the city of Belfair overall.

Sincerely,

Michael Siptroth

[Michael Siptroth]

P.S. I led the Belfair Elementary School Environmental Studies after school Club since 2003 which served hundreds of students ~~thru~~ 2020. These students walked the existing trails along Sweetwater Creek, did science experiments, and lamented that a dam prohibited salmon from coming upstream. They urged us to take it down, using sledge hammers! I told students that wouldn't work but that people were working on it, so now we can fulfill this dream! Also the North Mason Kiwanis Club joined us in a "One Day" project to expand the existing trail & put back mulch on it. Dozens of adults & students came to volunteer on this community activity showing citizens do care! Another connection is the existing trails at the Thelen Center. People in Belfair need to exercise more & visitors will appreciate opportunities!



To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to direct your attention to the Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group's Sweetwater Creek Water Wheel Park Riparian Protection Project.

This important project will restore salmon runs to the upper reaches of Sweetwater Creek by creating a new stream channel around a historic water wheel. This exciting project will also bring a sorely needed park and trail to the Belfair Urban Growth Area that is accessible to everyone under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

This project will create a world-class outdoor learning and recreational experience for people of all ages in Mason County directly adjacent to a restored salmon stream. Learning stations dealing with hydro- and solar-power generation, salmon ecology, and other aquatic resources issues, will greatly improve public understanding of these important issues and enhance existing North Mason School District curriculum, including a long-running and highly successful Salmon in the Classroom program.

In addition, this project will restore the historic water wheel; acquire, clean up and protect a nuisance property; and create a trailhead for a proposed regional trail network.

In light of the positive impact this project represents to both the local community and the environment, I am happy to offer my full support to this project and I am urging you to assist in bringing the Sweetwater Creek Water Wheel Park Riparian Protection Project Plan to fruition.

Sincerely,

Representative Dan Griffey

DATE: 9/16/20

To Whom It May Concern:

As a teacher in Belfair, Washington, I fully support the Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group's Sweetwater Creek Water Wheel Park Project.

The new park, trail and restored stream will be a tremendous benefit to the teachers, parents and students of Belfair and North Mason County. This project would play an important role in improving our community's quality of life issues, healthy lifestyles, and meet the need for increased recreational opportunities in Mason County. As an educator I have seen the importance and effectiveness of active, hands-on learning experiences in outdoor spaces, which Belfair desperately needs and this project would provide. I look forward to potentially using this space for field trips and for more engaging class lessons. This project will provide a chance for students to learn about the environment in an outdoor setting, as well as witness habitat restoration with the return and importance of native plants and salmon. As a teacher, I believe these experiences are invaluable if we want our students to be stewards of the environment and astute citizens. The park will be in a location that is ideal for local teachers, parents and kids; due to it's proximity to the City of Belfair and transit lines it can be reached by foot, bike, bus or car, making it extremely accessible.

I am hopeful that this project will receive funding so that we may give more opportunities to students to experience the outdoors and learn from nature. I believe this project will greatly enhance the quality of life in our community and improve the city of Belfair overall.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'S. David'.

[Samantha David]

**The HUB Center for Seniors
111 NE Old Belfair Hwy Belfair, WA 98528**

360-275-0535

Tax ID #02-0700148

HUBhappenings.org

August 7, 2020

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of The HUB Center for Seniors, I am pleased to offer my support of the Upper Sweetwater Creek Waterfall Park project.

The benefits of park would bring to our community are numerous. Being an organization that serves seniors and people with disabilities we are delighted with the prospect of an ADA accessible trail.

As Mason County grows bringing infrastructure to the community that allow for more healthy outdoor recreation is a large asset to the community.

By strengthening our resources we build a stronger more vibrant community. This project would move us in a positive direction.

The Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group continues to be a shining star in the community and this project would be a jewel in their crown of environmental achievements.

I stand in support of the Upper Sweetwater Creek Waterwheel Project!

Thank You

Beth Gizzi
Executive Director
The HUB Center for Seniors
360-275-0535
thehubcenterforseniors@gmail.com
HUBhappenings.org

SWEETWATER CREEK PROPERTIES, LLC

PO Box 1119

Belfair, WA 98528

March 5, 2016

To: Whom it May Concern

Re: Sweetwater Creek / Waterwheel Park Project

We are pleased to offer a letter of support for the proposed Sweetwater Creek / Waterwheel Park Project. Sweetwater Creek owns 800' of commercial property across State Route 3 from this property. The need for this park and others like it is well documented in our community. We have discussed the increased needs for parks and trails for almost 15 years now, from when the original Belfair 'Master Plan' was formulated and adopted. But before the Belfair Mastr Plan was created I was on the Theler Board for over 10 years and during that time this property was purchased and always intended to be a Park. We will certainly remain engaged supporters and willing community partners in the plans moving forward.

Within the family we also own 65 acres of property to the east and northeast of this park project. We see this Waterwheel park and trailhead project as the initial and most vital piece to the future regional trail system that's been discussed and planned in the past. After the development of this park, we are committed to donating approximately one half mile of trail easement to support the regional trail component of this widely supported community effort.

Our family was raised in Belfair. We clearly understand the needs. We have watched for years as our children and now our children's children remain underserved as they continue to seek recreational opportunities in a small rural town such as ours. Right now our community is growing rapidly, our schools are filling and our area is quickly becoming a destination. The continued needs are becoming greater. There is not a better time for our community to be adding parks and expanding trail systems. We definitely need this park.

We hope you find this project worthy of your funding.

Sincerely

Jack Johnson

Manager, Sweetwater Creek Properties, LLC

360 731-7101 jjc@hcc.net



August 6, 2020

To Whom it May Concern

Re: Sweetwater Creek Waterwheel Park Project #20-1840

North Mason Rotary is extremely excited about the proposed Sweetwater Creek Waterwheel Park Project. This park has been discussed for some time in our club and throughout our community and North Mason Rotary has made a great contribution to the project design. We are elated to see the project continue moving forward.

North Mason Rotary has and will continue to support this project in any way possible. As our community continues to evolve, our need for parks and trails is paramount to making North Mason a place where people want to visit, live, work and raise their families.

This park is also essential progress toward recreational activities for the underserved youth in our community. It will offer an ADA accessible pathway and fishing dock, several interpretive displays related to solar and hydropower generation, salmon ecology and riparian ecosystems while providing access to salmon beyond a major fish passage barrier. It will also serve as an economic development piece as we create an environmentally based 'sense of place' in our community.

As an organization, North Mason Rotary enthusiastically supports this project without hesitation and hope you find it worthy of your funding. The Sweetwater Creek Water Wheel Park will make a significant difference in thousands of lives for years to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Ladner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Chris Ladner, President 2020-2021



August 4, 2020

To: Whom it May Concern

Re: Sweetwater Creek/Waterwheel Park Project

The North Mason Chamber is aware and extremely supportive of the continuation of the Sweetwater Creek/Waterwheel Park Project. This park has been discussed for several years in our community and elated to see it moving forward.

As our community continues to evolve and grow, our need for parks and trails is paramount to our local developing tourism, recreation, education, and melds directly to our beautification project which was started in 2016 and currently nearing completion of phase 2.

Through our partnership with the Mason County EDC, we continue to direct our focus on expanding our eco-tourism-based commerce which dovetails so well with this project. We truly believe the Sweetwater Creek/Waterwheel Park Project will create a park and trail system that will become a destination regionally and statewide. It will serve as a marketing piece and a sense of pride for Mason County and the Olympic Peninsula as a whole.

The educational opportunities will be an essential development for environmental and Ichthyology science labs, including restoring salmon habitat runs and providing recreational activities for our underserved youth.

As an organization, we enthusiastically support this project and recommend funding for this project that will impact generations.

Sincerely,

Pam Volz

Pam Volz, President & CEO
North Mason Chamber of Commerce
pvolz@northmasonchamber.com
360.275.4267



Wahkiakum Board of County Commissioners

District No. 1 Commissioner: Mike Backman

District No. 2 Commissioner: Daniel L. Cothren, Chair

District No. 3 Commissioner: Gene Strong

P. O. Box 586
Cathlamet WA 98612
(360) 795-8048

July 21, 2020

Recreation and Conservation Office
PO Box 40917
Olympia WA 98504-0917

Re: Grant Proposal by Wahkiakum County Port District No. 2

Dear RCO,


The Wahkiakum Board of County Commissioners strongly supports the application submitted by Wahkiakum County Port District No. 2 to the Washington State Recreation Conservation Office. Port District No. 2 operates Vista Park, which is a major recreational and tourist feature within Wahkiakum County. It is a 75-acre park located on the Columbia River and is used extensively by both residents and visitors. Common activities include camping, picnicking, outdoor recreational games and easy beach access with a spectacular river view.

The Port District's proposal would update and expand the current nature trail at Vista Park. This trail is the only walking trail found within Wahkiakum County. In fact, hiking trails like this are relatively rare throughout the entire southwest region of the state; the next nearest trail is approximately an hour away.

The current trail at Vista Park goes for only about 400 yards before it becomes accessible only by a climbing rope up a steep bank. Port District No. 2 is seeking funding for a 60-foot aluminum footbridge to make the remainder of the trail easily accessible, creating an approximate one-mile trail. In addition, the bridge would also allow staff to better maintain the current trail and open the possibility of adding on to the existing trail in the future. In addition to providing outdoor recreation and exercise for local residents, the trail expansion project would also be a good draw to the community, bringing in additional tourism revenues.

Thank you for consideration of this important opportunity to improve outdoor recreational access in Wahkiakum County.

Sincerely,


Mike Backman
County Commissioner


Daniel L. Cothren, Chair
County Commissioner


Gene Strong
County Commissioner



July 22, 2020

Re: Washington Recreation and Conservation Office

To whom it may concern,

The Wahkiakum Chamber of Commerce supports Port District #2 of Wahkiakum County application to the Washington Recreation and Conservation Office to update and expand the current nature trail at Skamokawa Vista Park.

The Chamber appreciates Port District #2 moving forward with this grant application. We understand that this nature trail is a big attraction and it would afford safer hiking to guests of Vista Park. It is our hope that this grant helps Port District #2 install a sixty-foot aluminum footbridge to make the remaining part of the trail accessible. With the addition of this bridge, it would give the port staff easier access to the trail for upkeep and room for possible expansion to the existing trail.

We join the Port District's efforts in bring this trail back to life not only for the park but for the community.

As the Chamber of Commerce for the county, we strongly encourage economic development and support any efforts to bring vitality to the community. We want to encourage more activities for people to enjoy the great outdoors. This is a perfect opportunity to turn something we already have into something even better.

We support Port District #2 in their grant application and urge favorable consideration of the application by the Chamber of Commerce.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Moonen

Executive Director
WAHKIAKUM CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Wahkiakum Chamber of Commerce

P.O. Box 52 - 102 Main Street - Cathlamet, WA 98612
www.wahkiakumchamber.com - (360) 795-9996 - wchamber@cni.net

Recreation and Conservation Office
PO Box 40917
Olympia WA 98504-0917

Dear RCO,

I'm writing to support Wahkiakum County Port District Two's proposal to the Recreation and Conservation Office. I'm a private boutique camping entrepreneur, and one of Western Wahkiakums few tourism interests. I was also one of the first Hipcamp locations in the PNW, and over the last four years I've hosted people from all over the world.

Here's the bottom line. When campers ask me where to go hiking, I send them out of County. I've cobbled together a couple partnerships with local groups to establish small trails, but nothing like what is being proposed by the WCPDT (Wahkiakum County Port District Two).

Their completed project would immensely improve recreational access on a unique trail at Vista Park, one of the few public access points on the lower Columbia River within Wahkiakum County. Arrowhead Trail in Vista Park provides access to the Columbia River estuary and old growth forest in Skamokawa, but needs improvements to be viable. The proposed foot bridge opens access to this special area, and will be utilized by much needed tourists visiting one of the most impoverished counties in the State, while providing high demand outdoor therapy for stressed out urban dwellers.

Thank you for consideration of this important opportunity to improve recreational access in Wahkiakum County.

Bradlee "Sol" Mertz
Manager, Rose Creek Retreat
360-869-9821



Wahkiakum Marine Resources Committee

July 28, 2020

Recreation and Conservation Office
PO Box 40917
Olympia WA 98504-0917

Dear RCO,

The Wahkiakum County Marine Resources Committee supports Wahkiakum County Port District Two's proposal to the Recreation and Conservation Office for trail improvements at Vista Park in Skamokawa. Their proposal for funding would improve recreational access in Wahkiakum County.

The Wahkiakum County Marine Resources Committee is part of the Washington State Coastal Marine Resources Committee (MRC) Program. The MRC Program is managed by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife in coordination with counties on the Washington Coast, and was initiated by the Washington State Legislature in 2007. The mission of the Wahkiakum MRC is to understand, steward, and restore the marine and estuarine ecological processes of the coast in support of ecosystem health, sustainable marine resource-based livelihoods, cultural integrity, and coastal communities.

In Wahkiakum County, the MRC prioritizes improved education and access on our waterfront as a primary goal. Our MRC stakeholders see the economic opportunity in improved recreational access to our marine resources, along with continued education and outreach on the fisheries and wildlife unique to our area that attract recreational users across the region. For this reason, they voted unanimously in support of Port Two's project at their July meeting.

Thank you for consideration of this important opportunity to improve recreational access in Wahkiakum County.

Sincerely,

Carrie Backman, coordinator, on behalf of Wahkiakum MRC



Wahkiakum County

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

July 28, 2020

Recreation and Conservation Office
PO Box 40917
Olympia WA 98504-0917

Dear RCO,

I'm writing to support Wahkiakum County Port District Two's proposal to the Recreation and Conservation Office. Their proposal for funding would improve recreational access on a unique trail at Vista Park in Wahkiakum County. This trail is a site I have used for WSU Extension nature and youth education programs. It is a special area, walking underneath towering old growth cedars and hemlock, with several native plants along the trail and excellent vantage points for bird watching along the Columbia River. Currently, the trail requires agility to scale a muddy, steep bank. This can be a major challenge for young families or older enthusiasts to use the trail, and causes some to turn back, well before they see the overlooks of the river, the large osprey nest on the Columbia River channel marker, or the giant cedars.

This park is one of a few public access points on the lower Columbia River in Wahkiakum County. This funding would build a much-needed pedestrian bridge and eliminate the treacherous section of the trail. This bridge opens access to more visitors to walk along the Columbia River and under old growth trees – a rare combination and experience.

Thank you for consideration of this important opportunity to improve recreational access in Wahkiakum County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carrie Backman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Carrie Backman, WSU Wahkiakum County Extension Director

Carrie.backman@wsu.edu; 360-795-3278

Rodney L. Anderson
Secretary-Manager

PHONE 509-687-3548

Lake Chelan Reclamation District
POST OFFICE BOX J
MANSON, WASHINGTON 98831

20-1472 WWRP LP #65

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Dave Clark, *President*
Todd Jeffries, *Vice President*
Paul Mogan
Nate England
Chad Steiner

April 14, 2020

Recreation and Conservation Office
PO Box 40917
Olympia WA 98504-0917

RE: Manson Parks & Recreation District
PROJECTS: Leffler Field and Old Swim Hole

Dear RCO Review Committee:

As the manager of Lake Chelan Reclamation District, I am writing in support of the Manson Parks & Recreation District's RCO funding efforts. I appreciate the leadership the District has shown in moving forward with the Leffler Field and Old Swim Hole projects. I am confident that the recreational and public access benefits of the proposed projects will encourage economic growth and overall healthy living for the Manson community.

These projects support the both District's and the community's commitment to providing outdoor recreation while balancing economic growth and the quality of living in our small town.

I sincerely appreciate your consideration of these applications.

Warm Regards,



Rodney L. Anderson
Secretary-Manager
randerson@lcrd.org

MANSON COMMUNITY LIBRARY

April 15, 2020

Recreation and Conservation Office
PO Box 40917
Olympia WA 98504-0917

RE: Manson Parks & Recreation District
PROJECTS: Leffler Field and Old Swim Hole

Dear RCO Review Committee:

As the Branch Librarian at Manson Community Library, I am writing in support of the Manson Parks & Recreation District's RCO funding efforts. I appreciate the leadership the District has shown in moving forward with the Leffler Field and Old Swim Hole projects. I am confident that the recreational and public access benefits of the proposed projects will encourage economic growth and overall healthy living for the Manson community.

These projects support the both District's and the community's commitment to providing outdoor recreation while balancing economic growth and the quality of living in our small town.

I sincerely appreciate your consideration of these applications.

Warm Regards,

Cindy Simmons
Branch Librarian
Manson Community Library
manson@ncrl.org



Manson Fire Department

Chelan County Fire District 5
P.O. Box D Manson WA 98831-0438
mansonfire.org

April 13, 2020

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office
PO Box 40917
Olympia WA 98504-0917

RE: Manson Park & Recreation District

PROJECTS: Leffler Field & Old Swimming Hole

Washington RCO Review Committee;

I am the Chief of Chelan County Fire District 5 now for over 22 years and I serve the same constituent base as the Manson Park & Recreation District. I am life member of the community of Manson and hold high values and expectations for the character of the community, economic growth and recreational opportunities. Manson is a unique and special place in the State of Washington, and we want to keep it that way.

I support the Manson Park & Recreation District's RCO funding efforts to move the District forward with the Leffler Field and Old Swimming Hole Projects. The District has taken the needed steps in leadership with planning and managing to meet the needs of the community and guests, at the same time keeping to the values and character important to Manson.

I am confident that the recreational and public access benefits of the proposed projects will encourage economic growth and overall healthy living for the Manson community.

These projects support the both District's and the community's commitment to providing outdoor recreation while balancing economic growth and the quality of living in our small town.

I appreciate your consideration of the Manson Park & Recreation District's applications. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. I have provided you my personal cell number.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "R. Arnold Baker", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

R. Arnold Baker, Chief
Chelan County Fire District 5
(509) 670-2775 cell
arnoldb@mansonfire.org

Station 1, 250 West Manson Blvd.
Telephone 509-687-3222, Fax 509-687-6022

Station 2, 2010 Wapato Lake Road
Telephone 509-687-9041

Manson School District

20-1472 WWRP LP #65

April 20, 2020

Recreation and Conservation Office
PO Box 40917
Olympia WA 98504-0917

RE: Manson Parks & Recreation District
PROJECTS: Leffler Field and Old Swim Hole

Dear RCO Review Committee:

On behalf of the Manson School Board of Directors, I am writing in support of the Manson Parks & Recreation District's RCO funding efforts. We appreciate the leadership the Parks District has shown in moving forward with the Leffler Field and Old Swim Hole projects. I am confident the recreational and public access benefits of the proposed projects will encourage economic growth and overall healthy living for the Manson community and specifically our students and families.

These projects support the both District's and the community's commitment to providing outdoor recreation while balancing economic growth and the quality of living in our small town.

I sincerely appreciate your consideration of these applications.

Warm Regards,



Matt Charlton
Superintendent
Manson School District
mcharlton@manson.org

April 13, 2020

Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO)
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

RE: Manson Park & Recreation District
PROJECTS: Leffler Field and Old Swim Hole

Dear RCO Review Committee:

As the General Manager of Wapato Point Resort, I am writing in support of the Manson Park & Recreation District's RCO funding efforts. I appreciate the continued leadership and initiative the District has shown in moving forward with the Leffler Field and Old Swim Hole. I am confident that the recreational opportunities created by the proposed project will yield immense economic and health benefits for Manson's residents.

Our Owners and Guests have been enjoying the Manson area, including the parks, for over 40 years. We believe funding of these projects are vital in adding and maintaining the necessary amenities our community will enjoy for another 40 years.

These projects support both the District's and the community's commitment to providing outdoor recreation while balancing economic growth and the quality of living in our small town.

Public engagement is vital to building a stronger, healthier, and happier community. I sincerely appreciate your consideration of these applications. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Eric Featherstone, IOM, CAE, CMCA
General Manager
Wapato Point Resort
509-687-9511
Eric@Wapatopoint.com



GREENRIVERCOALITION.ORG



20-1824 WWRP LP #71

SUBJECT

Letter of Support,
City of Covington,
Welcome Park

DATE

May 17, 2020

RECEIVER

Recreation and
Conservation Funding Board
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 9850410917

Dear Ms. Beck, Outdoor
Grants Manager:

Green River Coalition strongly supports the City of Covington's grant application to the Washington Wildlife & Recreation Program (WWRP) for the land acquisition to create Welcome Park.

Parcel #262205-9016 has been identified as a potential site for a park and welcoming feature/sign at the west side of the city adjacent to SE 272nd Street; with the current working name of the park being "Welcome Park." This 0.97-acre parcel is adjacent to an undeveloped 21-acre parcel owned by King County Parks, and is anticipated to be a future segment of the King County Soos Creek Trail extension. Also, Green River Coalition is working on habitat restoration projects on two private land parcels just to the southwest of the proposed grant acquisition, on the south side of SE 273rd Street. We also are directing and supporting restoration at multiple other sites within the Soos Creek Trail corridor, thus have a strong interest in public acquisition and protection of park land, open space, and habitat conservation.

Benefits of acquiring this property include increasing the contiguous park area in the Soos Creek corridor, providing local access to a regional trail system, and securing a site for a welcoming feature/sign. The city's Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan and Comprehensive Plan support the acquisition as it helps address a deficit of parkland in the city.

The planned park compliments two goals of the WWRP: to acquire valuable recreation and habitat lands, and to develop recreation areas for a growing population.

As mentioned, our coalition is actively engaged in habitat restoration nearby this proposed acquisition. We also collaborate with other entities such as King County, and State Parks on regional trail planning, corridors and connection. A couple of our board members also live in the area and have used the existing Soos Creek Regional Trail for years. As a result we are very pleased to see the City of Covington engaged in purchasing this parcel and protecting it as parkland, and strongly encourage WWRP to provide the requested funding.

@photocirc.com
www.photocirc.com

Best regards,

Greg Wingard,
President



DeAnn Beck
Outdoor Grants Manager
Recreation and Conservation Office
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

May 20, 2020

RE: Letter of Support, City of Covington, Welcome Park

Dear Ms. Beck,

The Rainier Audubon Society supports the City of Covington's grant application to the Washington Wildlife & Recreation Program (WWRP) for the land acquisition to create Welcome Park.

Parcel #262205-9016 has been identified as a potential site for a park and welcoming feature/sign at the west side of the city adjacent to SE 272nd Street; the current working name for the project is "Welcome Park." This 0.97-acre parcel is adjacent to an undeveloped 21-acre parcel owned by King County Parks and is anticipated to be a future segment of the King County Soos Creek Trail extension.

Benefits of acquiring this property include increasing the contiguous park area in the Soos Creek corridor, providing local access to a regional trail system, and securing a site for a welcoming feature/sign. The city's Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan and Comprehensive Plan support the acquisition as it helps address a deficit of parkland in the city.

The planned park compliment two goals of the WWRP: to acquire valuable recreation and habitat lands and to develop recreation areas for a growing population.

Our organization is particularly excited to see this important birding area being preserved.

It is a great pleasure to support this project and to join the State of Washington WWRP efforts in the delivery of community services, per our own mission, as well as state, regional, and local public recreation plans.

Sincerely,
Dan Streiffert
Conservation Chair
Rainier Audubon Society
Dan_streiffert@hotmail.com



**Mid Sound Fisheries
Enhancement Group**

7400 Sand Point Way #202N
SeaBle, WA 98115

June 19, 2020

DeAnn Beck

Outdoor Grants Manager

Recreation and Conservation Office

PO Box 40917

Olympia, WA 98504-0917

RE: Letter of Support, City of Covington, Welcome Park, WWRP Project 20-1804

Dear Ms. Beck,

The Mid Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group supports the City of Covington's grant application to the Washington Wildlife & Recreation Program (WWRP) for the land acquisition to create Welcome Park.

Parcel #262205-9016 has been identified as a potential site for a park and welcoming feature/sign at the west side of the city adjacent to SE 272nd Street; the current working name for the project is "Welcome Park." This 0.97-acre parcel is adjacent to an undeveloped 21-acre parcel owned by King County Parks and is anticipated to be a future segment of the King County Soos Creek Trail extension.

Benefits of acquiring this property include increasing the contiguous park area in the Soos Creek corridor, providing local access to a regional trail system, and securing a site for a welcoming feature/sign. The city's Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan and Comprehensive Plan support the acquisition as it helps address a deficit of parkland in the city. The planned park addresses two goals of the WWRP: to acquire valuable recreation and habitat lands and to develop recreation areas for a growing population.

Our organization is particularly excited to support this project because it will add to the area of contiguous publicly owned lands along the Soos Creek Corridor which will increase our collective ability to protect and restore salmon habitat in the Soos Creek basin, a high priority tributary for salmon restoration in the Green River Chinook Salmon Recovery strategy.

It is a great pleasure to support this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeanette Dorner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jeanette Dorner
Executive Director



King County

Department of Natural Resources and Parks

Parks and Recreation Division

King Street Center, KSC-NR-0700
201 South Jackson Street, Suite 700
Seattle, WA 98104-3855

206-477-4527 Fax 206-588-8011
TTY Relay: 711

August 5, 2020

DeAnn Beck
Outdoor Grants Manager
Recreation and Conservation Office
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

RE: Letter of Support, City of Covington, Welcome Park

Dear Ms. Beck,

King County Parks and Recreation Division supports the City of Covington's grant application to the Washington Wildlife & Recreation Program (WWRP) for the land acquisition to create Welcome Park.

Parcel #262205-9016 has been identified as a potential site for a park and welcoming feature/sign at the west side of the city adjacent to SE 272nd Street; the current working name for the project is "Welcome Park." This 0.97-acre parcel is adjacent to an undeveloped 21-acre parcel owned by King County Parks and is anticipated to be a future segment of the King County Soos Creek Trail extension.

Benefits of acquiring this property include increasing the contiguous park area in the Soos Creek corridor, providing local access to a regional trail system, and securing a site for a welcoming feature/sign. The city's Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan and Comprehensive Plan support the acquisition as it helps address a deficit of parkland in the city.

The planned park compliment two goals of the WWRP: to acquire valuable recreation and habitat lands and to develop recreation areas for a growing population.

King County Parks is particularly excited to support this acquisition to secure a route for the future extension of the Soos Creek Trail (Soos Creek 7) that is planned to connect the existing trail with central Covington residential and mixed commercial areas, thereby providing access directly to the trail from growing urban areas. We also support this acquisition to secure the opportunity for the City of Covington to create a public park, gathering space, and gateway for their growing City as well as a trailhead for the future Soos Creek Trail.

It is a great pleasure to support this project and to join the State of Washington WRRP efforts in the delivery of community services, per our own mission, as well as state, regional, and local public recreation plans.

Sincerely,

Jean E White

[Jean E White \(Aug 5, 2020 14:43 PDT\)](#)

Jean White

Regional Trails Program Manager

cc: Sujata Goel, Government & External Relations, Capital Planning & Land Management
Section, Department of Natural Resources & Parks






CalhunPitRCOLetterofSupport

Final Audit Report

2020-08-05

Created:	2020-08-05
By:	Sujata Goel (sujata.goel@kingcounty.gov)
Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAAqI3-SxpaBc9TQrWU8_I4gMgw0uGEoUCM

"CalhunPitRCOLetterofSupport" History

-  Document created by Sujata Goel (sujata.goel@kingcounty.gov)
2020-08-05 - 5:41:11 PM GMT- IP address: 24.19.189.236
-  Document emailed to Jean E White (jean.white@kingcounty.gov) for signature
2020-08-05 - 5:43:03 PM GMT
-  Email viewed by Jean E White (jean.white@kingcounty.gov)
2020-08-05 - 9:42:50 PM GMT- IP address: 23.103.201.254
-  Document e-signed by Jean E White (jean.white@kingcounty.gov)
Signature Date: 2020-08-05 - 9:43:15 PM GMT - Time Source: server- IP address: 73.19.20.45
-  Signed document emailed to Sujata Goel (sujata.goel@kingcounty.gov) and Jean E White (jean.white@kingcounty.gov)
2020-08-05 - 9:43:15 PM GMT



City of Stevenson

Phone (509)427-5970
FAX (509) 427-8202

7121 E Loop Road, PO Box 371
Stevenson, Washington 98648

To whom it may concern:

I am writing in support of the Park Plaza in downtown Stevenson.

Even before being elected mayor, I participated in the planning, design, and soliciting support for the Park Plaza project.

Now, as mayor, this project is even more important for several reasons, notably:

- As part of our recent downtown plan: ***"Park Plaza - At the 'heart' of Downtown Stevenson, this public space is intended to serve as the primary civic gathering space for community events. The Park Plaza is intended to foster '18-hour activity' from morning to evening hours. Moreover, the space should be active during all seasons of the year. The Park Plaza should strengthen adjacent land uses and spur additional development."***
- As part of our mission statement: ***"Stevenson is a friendly, welcoming community that values excellent schools and a small-town atmosphere. The natural beauty is enjoyed by residents and visitors through a **network of recreational opportunities**. The strength of Stevenson's economy is built upon **high quality infrastructure and a vibrant downtown that provides for residents' daily needs**. Stevenson takes advantage of our unique location on the Columbia River by balancing jobs, commerce, housing, and recreation along the waterfront."***

In addition, this project has the components of a successful public gathering space – ADA accessible, provides recreation for health with walkable viewpoints, promotes the arts with an amphitheater, and allows for multi-generational use.

Here at the City of Stevenson, we believe this project has the needed components for a successful gathering and recreational space for visitors and tourists, and most importantly, our residents. As the mayor, I couldn't be more excited to extend my support to this project.

Scott Anderson
Mayor, City of Stevenson



City of Stevenson

Planning Department

(509)427-5970

7121 E Loop Road, PO Box 371
Stevenson, Washington 98648

TO: Recreation & Conservation Office, Grants Committee
FROM: Ben Shumaker, Community Development Director
DATE: September 4th, 2020
SUBJECT: Skamania County Courthouse Plaza

The Stevenson Comprehensive Plan considers the Skamania County Courthouse Lawn to be one of the community's "sacred places" because of the psychological impact it has on our whole community. It's highly visible location defines, reinforces, and transmits what is important to the community's inhabitants.

The site is home to the community's Christmas tree lighting ceremony, the first choice for political and free-speech demonstrations, a natural location for concerts, and provides premier barrel rolling hills for the youngest area residents. Unfortunately though, the site is equipped with more memories than it is with amenities and there is a great potential for its enhancement.

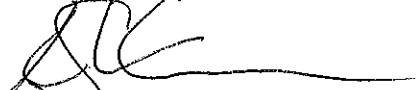
The proposal submitted by Skamania County and the Stevenson Downtown Association is a wonderful example of the enhancements this sacred place deserves. The first phase of this project is all about making important connections:

- Physically, it provides ADA connections between the commercial core, the courthouse, and the neighborhoods beyond.
- Visually, it connects the quality design aesthetic of other downtown improvements with this marquee location.
- Civically, it connects Stevenson's retail core and all of its users with the seat of the County government.

For these reasons and others to be realized in future phases, the Plaza is one of the 4 priority projects identified in the city's draft Downtown Plan for SUCCESS! The economic-resilience focus of this plan is inherent in its title. In this case SUCCESS is an acronym for Stevenson's Urban and Commercial Core Economic Sustainability Strategies. The Courthouse Plaza project aligns with those strategies because it fosters "18-hour" activity in the downtown core throughout all seasons of the year. This will strengthen the viability of adjacent businesses and spur additional development.

The City is excited about the local investments our community is making in this sacred place. We are committed to creating and sustaining the momentum it takes to advance this project. We fully support Skamania County's request to the RCO for funding. Your contribution will help us realize our vision and match the aspirations of our community. Please invest in our SUCCESS!

With gratitude,


Ben Shumaker
City of Stevenson



July 12, 2018



Dear Members of the RCO Local Parks Board:

I am writing to implore your support for the Skamania Park Plaza Project. The courthouse lawn is the center of civic life in Skamania County and the Park Plaza project would greatly enhance our ability to gather together and enjoy performing and cultural arts.

As an Executive Board Member of the Southwest Washington Contractors Association and a long-standing member of this community, I can say with authority that this Plaza will set a new standard of design in our community and showcase the best craftsmanship we have to offer. Our kids deserve a place to gather and perform, and that is sorely lacking currently. Furthermore, the older members of our community are excluded from participating in the many events that occur on the lawn currently due to the steep grade and stairs.

Our community is lucky to have so many excellent tradespeople who are eager and persistent in their desire to leave their mark on this project. I have personally reviewed cost estimates and conceptual plans and find them to be accurate and complete. I will continue to support the project throughout its development by providing leveraged resources, including labor and building materials as needed. Further, I plan to recruit other organizations and businesses that can provide the same level of support so that our resources can stretch further and this project can come to fruition.

In closing, this project will fulfill years of unmet need in our community and I wholeheartedly recommend the funding of the Park Plaza Renovation.

Sincerely,

Jerry Sauer, Executive Board Member, Southwest Washington Contractors Association



Stevenson - Carson Secondary Schools
Stevenson High School
Wind River Middle School

P.O. Box 850 Stevenson, WA 98648
(509) 427-5631 fax (509) 427-5639
www.scsd303.org



April 20, 2018

To whom it may concern,

The proposed Stevenson Park Plaza on the lawn provides many of the elements that create a healthy community, which is the basis of strong schools.

The amphitheater would provide an exciting place for students to perform their passion for music and theater; both locally and from outside our community. This area would provide an additional opportunity for audience members to enjoy the scenic gorge area while partaking in organized performances and concerts.

As an additional venue, the park plaza could potentially bring artists from other areas to Stevenson. The Skamania Performing Arts Foundation brought community member and students together in a variety of performances for over ten years here in Stevenson. This prospect would allow Stevenson to showcase our community participants and invite additional artistic performers to enrich the lives of our students and community members alike.

People in our community enjoy the beauty of where we live. This is an exciting community project that will allow future growth and possibilities for future generations.

Respectfully,

Suz Clark-Bennett, SHS teacher

Kathleen Morrow, WRMS teacher

TO: Washington Recreation and Conservation Office
CC: Jonathan Schilk
FROM: Barbara Goebel, President; Bellingham Pickleball Club
Maggi Kriger, Secretary; Bellingham Pickleball Club
bellingshampickle@gmail.com ; www.bellingshampickleball.org
DATE: June 22, 2020
RE: Project 20-1786D, Cordata Park Phase Two

We are sending this letter in support of the City of Bellingham's application for a state grant to be used in development of Cordata Park Phase Two. The Park Master Plan includes construction of four outdoor pickleball courts, about which the community is very excited.

Our mission at the nonprofit Bellingham Pickleball Club (BPC) is to promote the development of pickleball skills, facilities, and community in the greater Bellingham area. Started in 2018, we have a quickly growing membership of 300 players, drawn equally between women and men. Another 200 receive our updates, but aren't club members. Local pickleball players include all ages, abilities, and socioeconomic levels. We estimate there are currently 800-1000 local pickleball players, and lots more who come to play from outside of Bellingham and Whatcom County.

The development of four new outdoor courts at Cordata Park would be most welcome and embraced by the pickleball community in Bellingham and surrounding cities. We enthusiastically support the City of Bellingham's application for a Recreation and Conservation Office grant. The city will find these courts quickly becoming a hub of healthy activity for the community at-large, and the neighboring area in particular.

Pickleball demographics in the past were mostly retired persons, but now young children are playing with grandparents, teens & young adults embracing it with vigor, and many working age people enjoying it as a social, fun, and challenging sport. Courts aren't just being used during the day by those who are retired, but also in the evening, weekends, and even lunch hour by those in the younger demographics.

Specific to this grant, Cordata residents have high percentages of senior citizens, young families, community college students, and those of lower socioeconomic status. BPC has already told the park department that we will to offer free beginner clinics when these new courts are built, and provide loaner paddles and balls to get people going. If there is a need, we can also find ways to grant equipment to those who can't afford it, but wish continue with playing.

In community surveys we have conducted, people state that pickleball gives them an increased sense of community, with ongoing opportunities to socialize and have fun, exercise and stay fit, and improve skills for recreational and/or competitive play. In fact, long wait times experienced by players at current venues in Bellingham is a limiting factor in the growth and development of our community focused club. In a PRO PLAN survey conducted in 2019 by the city of Bellingham, hundreds of community members requested more pickleball courts.

This explosive demand for access to high-quality courts is also experienced in other communities across the United States. According to the USA Pickleball Association (USAPA), the number of pickleball venues increased 20% in the years 2018-2019 (from 6,593 to 7,928).

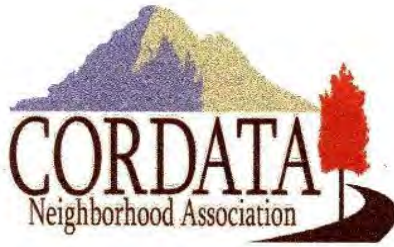
Pickleball is considered one of the fastest growing sports in America, with 3.3 million players (a 10% increase between 2015-2018 according to the Sports & Fitness Industry Association). Membership in the USAPA has doubled in size since 2017. In addition, to retired senior citizens who have played the game since it was invented, the fastest growth rates have been in “younger” players less than 50 years.

As dedicated pickleball players and club leaders, we advocate for the health and wellness benefits of this easy-to-learn and fun sport. Studies are now appearing documenting the positive health benefits of pickleball in terms of improved cardiorespiratory fitness, lower blood pressure, higher social engagement, and reduced depression.

Increased tourism is another documented community benefit of pickleball. When pickleball players travel, they often consult “Places to Play Pickleball”, and base their destination on the availability of courts. Additionally, when pickleball players come to visit family members in the Bellingham area, they often want to stay longer when there is access to courts. And day trips from surrounding areas in order to play, is also common. L

The existing court capacity in Bellingham is already being maxed out. Last summer it was common to have 60 people waiting to play. With the fast growth of the sport and outreach by BPC, we believe that the pickleball courts at Cordata Community Park will quickly become a treasured place of activity and social connection for a wide spectrum of ages, abilities, and socio-economic status. The best of what we hope for in our community parks

The Bellingham Pickleball club enthusiastically supports this grant, and would be happy to answer any questions and do anything we can to support the success of this effort.



CORDATA NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Post Office Box 30061

Bellingham, WA 98229

To: Whom it May Concern, Washington Recreation and Conservation Office

Date: May 26, 2020

Re: Support for City of Bellingham Application Project 20-1786, Cordata Community Park Phase Two

Dear Washington RCO Program Staff and Officials,

This letter expresses the Cordata Neighborhood Association's excitement and support for the City of Bellingham Park and Recreation Department's application to the Washington Recreation and Conservation Office for funding toward Phase Two development of Cordata Community Park.

Cordata is one of Bellingham's faster growing neighborhoods and one which was planned to include a range of commercial, residential and institutional land uses. We are growing steadily, including many new multifamily residential projects, and, with that, the need for quality open space, recreation opportunities, and trail connectivity is growing as well.

The Association is pleased that the City was able to act quickly to acquire the Cordata Community Park property in 2015 and begin to develop the area's first active use park, and that it will also serve as a hub for an expanding trail system. Phase One development has progressed impressively over the last year and, with the trails recently becoming open to the public earlier this month, the community is eager to enjoy all the amenities the park has to offer.

The Association applauds the City's timely efforts to develop this park and expresses its appreciation for the efforts such as the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program to ensure our neighborhoods are healthy places to live and work.

Sincerely,

K McD

Kate McDonald, President

Cordata Neighborhood Association

Tax Deductible: ID# 17053217309029



Superintendent

Greg Baker

Board of Directors

Kelly M. Bashaw

Douglas W. Benjamin

Camille Diaz Hackler

Jenn Mason

Katie Rose

May 28, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

I am pleased to offer a letter of support on behalf of Bellingham Public Schools for the City of Bellingham Parks & Recreation Department in developing much-needed neighborhood parks and trail hubs in Bellingham.

Bellingham Public Schools and the City of Bellingham are long-time partners with a shared goal of supporting the health and well-being of the children of Bellingham. Access to neighborhood parks and expanded trail systems in the parts of town where children and families lack easy access to healthy outdoor activity is a key strategy that benefits our students and entire community.

Bellingham Public Schools is guided by our strategic plan, The Bellingham Promise (The Promise), created in partnership with our community. The Promise commits our district to developing students who are healthy and active individuals who are empowered to discover their passions and contribute to their community. Access to safe and healthy outdoor activities is a critical opportunity that all children deserve as they learn and grow and explore their interests.

We know that often populations of children—particularly children from low-income families and children of color—are less likely to have access to outdoor recreation and play. In Bellingham, children who live in apartments and/or have parents who work beyond the school day have more limited opportunities to play and exercise outside, either due to lack of proximity to outdoor spaces, or an expectation to stay inside until their parents come home from work.

Although Bellingham is surrounded by natural beauty, with the Salish Sea to the west and the foothills of Mt. Baker to the east, children in our community have inequitable access to enjoying the recreation opportunities that are so close. Improving trail systems and building neighborhood parks in areas near housing where children live is a key to improving the health and well-being of an entire generation.

Our district supports the efforts of our community partners like the City of Bellingham to make our community a healthier and more livable location for all our children, families and community members.

Thank you,

Greg Baker
Superintendent
Bellingham Public Schools

RECEIVED

JUN 03 2020

WA STATE
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

Re: Letter of support for WWRP Water Access #20-1668
Birch Bay Beach Park grant

Dear Members of the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board,

As a citizen who has worked on recreation projects in this area for 30 some years I would like to express my strong support for the Whatcom County Birch Bay Beach Park project. Birch Bay is a unincorporated community of 11,000 residents that swells to twice its size during summer weekends. Birch Bay currently does not have a Park on the beach just a few access points with some parking.

As one of the warmest bays on Puget Sound this area is very popular with tourists and locals, and provides a safe place for people to enjoy the beach and Bay. The purchase of this property a few years ago was the result of many public meetings and cooperation with Whatcom County Parks. This project will provide a central meeting place for the community, outdoor recreation, access to the beach and parking.

Please seize this opportunity to provide a wonderful Park for all Washington residents and visitors for generations to come. This will be an incredible investment for Washington!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ted Morris". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ted" being more prominent than the last name "Morris".

Ted Morris
9479 Stein Road
Custer, WA 98240

Letters Submitted by the Public Regarding Project Proposals for the State Lands Development and Renovation Category

These attachments include public correspondence (letters of support and opposition) received by RCO during the grant evaluation process. The number in parenthesis represents the number of letters submitted for that project.

Letters are in Ranked Order

- | | |
|---|--------|
| • 20-1501D Tiger Summit Trailhead Renovation and Addition (9) | Rank 1 |
| • 20-1503D Highpoint Trailhead Addition (8) | Rank 2 |
| • 20-1445D Raging River State Forest Trail System Final Phase (4) | Rank 3 |
| • 20-1256D Blanchard State Forest Sustainable Toilets (5) | Rank 4 |
| • 20-1410D Leyendecker Access Area Redevelopment (1) | Rank 5 |
| • 20-1291D Boulder Lake Trail and Campsite Renovations (5) | Rank 6 |
| • 20-1504D Mclane Creek Board Walk Replacement Phase 2 (15) | Rank 8 |
| • 20-1538D Lewis Butte-Riser Lake Trailhead Development (1) | Rank 9 |
| • 20-1257D Similkameen River Water Access Improvement (3) | Rank10 |



July 22, 2020

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
PO Box 40917, Olympia, WA 98504-0917

Re: Letter of support for WWRP-SLD 20-1501 DEV: Tiger Summit Trailhead Renovation and Addition

Dear Members of the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board:

The Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance enthusiastically supports the Washington State Department of Natural Resources' (DNR's) proposal to renovate and expand the Tiger Summit Trailhead in Tiger Mountain State Forest. Located just 25 miles from downtown Seattle, Tiger Mountain is one of the busiest mountain bike destinations in the greater Puget Sound Region, attracting more than 200,000 multi-use visitors per year. This easy to reach trailhead off Highway 18 attracts recreationists who enjoy the trail network and existing forest road network, as well as Highway through travelers looking for a scenic rest-stop.

The existing 50-car trailhead, which was constructed over 30 years ago to serve the entire state forest, is too small to meet current demand. Visitors are resorting to parking in the SR18 ROW, which is increasingly leading to traffic backups as people turn off and re-enter the highway from the current unimproved lot. Equestrians have avoided the trailhead completely because it is too congested for trailers. They are instead parking on the shoulder of a county road where they need to cross the road at a blind corner to access the equestrian trails in the southern part of the forest.

The proposed renovation and addition will improve access and safety by essentially tripling the number of parking spaces and by providing a much-needed designated parking area for horse trailers. The trailhead will also work well for events and socializing by providing sitting areas and a modular design that allows some parking bays to be closed off for event staging without disrupting parking and circulation in the rest of the trailhead.

These improvements are long overdue, and we fully support DNR in their ongoing work to improve public access and provide enjoyable and sustainable recreation opportunities for a wide range of users. Evergreen MBA is Washington's largest mountain bike organization with over 6,500 members and more than 55,000 social media followers statewide. We are dedicated to trail building and maintenance, as well as volunteerism, education, and advocacy. We look forward to seeing this new facility come online, and much appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback and support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Yvonne Kraus".

Yvonne Kraus, Executive Director

206-450-3261. yvonne@evergreenmtb.org



BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF WASHINGTON
PO Box 1132
ELLENSBURG, WA 98926
WWW.BCHW.ORG

July 30, 2020

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

Re: Letter of support for WWRP-SLD 20-1501 DEV: Tiger Summit Trailhead Renovation and Addition

Dear Members of the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

I am writing on behalf of **Back Country Horsemen of Washington** to express our enthusiastic support for the Washington State Department of Natural Resources' (DNR's) proposal to renovate and expand the Tiger Summit Trailhead in Tiger Mountain State Forest. Located just 25 miles from downtown Seattle, Tiger Mountain is a very popular destination for thousands of people looking for opportunities to enjoy themselves and rejuvenate in the outdoors by hiking, mountain biking and horseback riding on the extensive system of trails and forest roads that the forest provides. The existing 50-car trailhead, which was constructed over 30 years ago to serve the entire state forest, is too small to meet current demand, so people are parking in the SR18 ROW, sometimes backing up traffic as people turn off the highway. Equestrians avoid the trailhead completely because it is too congested for trailers, parking instead on the shoulder of a county road where they need to cross the road at a blind corner to access the equestrian trails in the southern part of the forest.

The proposed renovation and addition will improve access and safety by essentially tripling the number of parking spaces and by providing a much needed designated parking area for horse trailers. The trailhead will also work well for events and socializing by providing sitting areas and a modular design that allows some parking bays to be closed off for event staging without disrupting parking and circulation in the rest of the trailhead.

These improvements are long overdue, and they will greatly improve not just public safety and access, but also people's overall experience visiting the forest. We consider DNR to be a valuable partner in the stewardship of public lands, and we fully support DNR in their ongoing work to improve public access and provide enjoyable and sustainable recreation opportunities for a wide range of users.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice our support for this important project.

Sincerely,
s/ **Kathy Young**
Public Lands Chairman
Back Country Horsemen of Washington
public_lands@bchw.org

s/**Mary Kane**
President, Tahoma Chapter
Back Country Horsemen of Washington
ranchomariamv@gmail.com

Back Country Horsemen of Washington (BCHW), is a 501 (c) (3) organization with 31 chapters across the state dedicated to: keeping trails open for all users; educating horse users in Leave-No-Trace practices; and providing volunteer service to resource agencies.



Washington Trails Association

705 Second Avenue, Suite 300, Seattle WA 98104 • 206.625.1367 • wta.org

July 9, 2020

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

RE: Letter of support for WWRP-SLD 20-1501 DEV: Tiger Summit Trailhead Renovation and Addition

Dear RCO Grant Review Committee:

I am writing on behalf of Washington Trails Association to express our enthusiastic support of Washington State Department of Natural Resources' (DNR's) proposal renovate and expand the Tiger Summit Trailhead in Tiger Mountain State Forest.

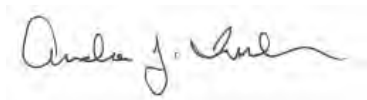
Washington Trails Association has a more than 50-year legacy of engaging the hiking community. WTA enhances hiking experiences in Washington state by empowering a diverse and growing community of hikers to explore, steward and protect trails and public lands. WTA is the nation's largest state-based trail maintenance and hiking advocacy nonprofit organization, with more than 24,000 member households and an online community of more than 100,000. Each year almost 4,500 WTA volunteers perform over 160,000 hours of trail maintenance across the state.

Located just 25 miles from downtown Seattle, Tiger Mountain is a very popular destination for thousands of people looking for opportunities to enjoy themselves and rejuvenate in the outdoors by hiking, mountain biking and horseback riding on the extensive system of trails and forest roads that the forest provides. Many hikers enjoy going from traversing from Tiger Summit Trailhead to the Tradition Plateau Trailhead. The existing 50-car trailhead, which was constructed over 30 years ago to serve the entire state forest, is far too small to meet current demand, so people are parking in the SR18 right-of-way, sometimes backing up traffic as people turn off the highway.

The proposed renovation and addition will improve access and safety by essentially tripling the number of parking spaces and by providing a much needed designated parking area for horse trailers. The trailhead will also work well for events and socializing by providing sitting areas and a modular design that allows some parking bays to be closed off for event staging without disrupting parking and circulation in the rest of the trailhead.

These improvements are long overdue, and they will greatly improve not just public safety and access, but also people's overall experience visiting the forest. We consider DNR to be a valuable partner in the stewardship of public lands, and we fully support DNR in their ongoing work to improve public access and provide enjoyable and sustainable recreation opportunities for a wide range of users.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice our support for this important project.
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Andrea J. Imler", written in a cursive style.

Andrea Imler
Advocacy Director
Washington trails Association
aimler@wta.org



President
Doug McClelland (*), Former Assistant Region Manager
Washington State Department of Natural Resources

Secretary
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Executive Director
Jon Hoekstra (*), Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust

20-1501 WWRP SLD #1

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Joel Yoker, President, Snoqualmie Valley Youth Activities and
Community Center

(*) Executive Committee Member
(X) Ex-Officio {non-voting} Director

MTSGREENWAY.ORG

Washington State Recrea
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

va d

Re: WWRP-SLD 20-1501 DEV: Tiger Summit Trailhead Renova

Dear Members of the Recrea va d,

Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust to express our
enthusias or the Washington State Department of Natural Resources' (DNR's)
proposal to renovate and expand the Tiger Summit Trailhead in Tiger Mountain State
Forest. Located just 25 miles from downtown Sea er Mountain is a very popular
des or thousands of people looking f o enjoy themselves and
rejuvenate in the outdoors by hiking, mountain biking and horseback riding on the
extensive system of trails and forest roads that the forest provides.

The Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust and partner organiza ve worked for 30
years to conserve lands on Tiger Mountain for public ownership, build and maintain trails
for all ag onnect wildlife habitat in this important lowland forest.

The exis ar trailhead at Tiger Summit, which was constructed over 30 years ago
to serve the en e state forest, is unsafe and too small to meet current demand. People
are parking in the SR18 right-of-way, some a
the highway. Equestrians avoid the trailhead completely because it is too congested for
trailers, parking instead on the shoulder of a county road where they need to cross the
road at a blind corner to access the equestrian trails in the southern part of the forest.

The proposed renova ove access and safety by tripling the
number of parking spaces and by providing a much needed designated parking area for
horse trailers. The trailhead will also work well for events and socializing by providing
eas and a modular design that allows some parking bays t or event
staging without disrupt cula est of the trailhead.

These improvements are long overdue, and they will greatly improve not just public safety
and access, but also people's overall e orest. We consider DNR to
be a valuable partner in the stewardship of public lands, and we fully support DNR in their
ongoing work to improve public access and provide enjoyable and sustainable recrea
or a wide range of users.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice our support for this important project within the
Mountains to Sound Greenway Na age Area.

Sincerely,

Amy Brockhaus

Amy Brockhaus
Deputy Director





July 27, 2020

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

Re: Letter of support for WWRP-SLD 20-1501 DEV: Tiger Summit Trailhead Renovation and Addition

Dear Members of the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

I am writing on behalf of the Issaquah Alps Trails Club to express our enthusiastic support for the Washington State Department of Natural Resources' (DNR's) proposal to renovate and expand the Tiger Summit Trailhead in Tiger Mountain State Forest. Located just 25 miles from downtown Seattle, Tiger Mountain is a very popular destination for thousands of people looking for opportunities to enjoy themselves and rejuvenate in the outdoors by hiking, mountain biking and horseback riding on the extensive system of trails and forest roads that the forest provides. The site is used year-round and your investment will be appreciated literally every day of the year! The existing 50-car trailhead, which was constructed over 30 years ago to serve the entire state forest, is too small to meet current demand, so people are parking in the SR18 ROW, sometimes backing up traffic as people turn off the highway. Equestrians avoid the trailhead completely because it is too congested for trailers, parking instead on the shoulder of a county road where they need to cross the road at a blind corner to access the equestrian trails in the southern part of the forest.

The proposed renovation and addition will improve access and safety by essentially tripling the number of parking spaces and by providing a much-needed designated parking area for horse trailers. The trailhead will also work well for events and socializing by providing sitting areas and a modular design that allows some parking bays to be closed off for event staging without disrupting parking and circulation in the rest of the trailhead.

These improvements are long overdue, and they will greatly improve not just public safety and access, but also people's overall experience visiting the forest. We consider DNR to be a valuable partner in the stewardship of public lands, and we fully support DNR in their ongoing work to improve public access and provide enjoyable and sustainable recreation opportunities for a wide range of users.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice our support for this important project.

David Kappler

VP Advocacy
Issaquah Alps Trails Club
davidkappler@hotmail.com
425-652-2753



July 9, 2020

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

Re: Letter of support for WWRP-SLD 20-1501 DEV: Tiger Summit Trailhead Renovation and Addition

Dear Members of the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board:

I am writing on behalf of The Wilderness Society to express our enthusiastic support for the Washington State Department of Natural Resources' (DNR's) proposal to renovate and expand the Tiger Summit Trailhead in Tiger Mountain State Forest. Located just 25 miles from downtown Seattle, Tiger Mountain is a very popular destination for thousands of people looking for opportunities to enjoy themselves and rejuvenate in the outdoors by hiking, mountain biking and horseback riding on the extensive system of trails and forest roads that the forest provides. The existing 50-car trailhead, which was constructed over 30 years ago to serve the entire state forest, is too small to meet current demand, so people are parking in the SR18 right of way, sometimes backing up traffic as people turn off the highway. Equestrians avoid the trailhead completely because it is too congested for trailers, parking instead on the shoulder of a county road where they need to cross the road at a blind corner to access the equestrian trails in the southern part of the forest.

The proposed renovation and addition will improve access and safety by essentially tripling the number of parking spaces and by providing a much-needed designated parking area for horse trailers. The trailhead will also work well for events and socializing by providing sitting areas and a modular design that allows some parking bays to be closed off for event staging without disrupting parking and circulation in the rest of the trailhead.

These improvements are long overdue, and they will greatly improve not just public safety and access, but also people's overall experience visiting the forest. We consider DNR to be a valuable partner in the stewardship of public lands, and we fully support DNR in their ongoing work to improve public access and provide enjoyable and sustainable recreation opportunities for a wide range of users.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice our support for this important project.

Sincerely,

Kitty Craig
Washington State Deputy Director
kcraig@twc.org
206-473-252



King County

Department of Natural Resources and Parks Parks and Recreation Division

King Street Center, KSC-NR-0700
201 South Jackson Street, Suite 700
Seattle, WA 98104-3855

206-477-4527 Fax 206-588-8011
TTY Relay: 711

July 9, 2020

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

Re: Letter of support for WWRP-SLD 20-1501 DEV: Tiger Summit Trailhead Renovation and Addition

Dear Members of the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

I am writing on behalf of King County Parks and Recreation to express our enthusiastic support for the Washington State Department of Natural Resources' (DNR's) proposal to renovate and expand the Tiger Summit Trailhead in Tiger Mountain State Forest. Facilities for public use and recreation play a very important role in our regions health and well-being and makes it possible for the public to access public lands.

Tiger Mountain is a very popular destination for thousands of people looking for opportunities to enjoy themselves and rejuvenate in the outdoors by hiking, mountain biking and horseback riding on the extensive system of trails and forest roads that the forest provides. The existing trailhead is too small to meet current demand. The proposed renovation and addition will improve access and safety by essentially tripling the number of parking spaces and by providing a much needed designated parking area for horse trailers. The trailhead will also work well for organized events.

These improvements will greatly improve public safety, access, and experience. We consider DNR to be a valuable partner in the stewardship of public lands, and we fully support DNR in their ongoing work to improve public access and provide enjoyable and sustainable recreation opportunities for a wide range of users.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice our support for this important project. If you have any questions you can contact me at (206) 477-6478 or kelly.heintz@kingcounty.gov.

Sincerely,

Kelly Heintz

Kelly Heintz
Project Manager
Open Space Section



PO Box 346 | North Bend, WA 98045 | (425) 831-1900 | www.siviewpark.org

July 22, 2020

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

Re: Letter of support for WWRP-SLD 20-1501 DEV: Tiger Summit Trailhead Renovation and Addition

Dear Members of the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board,

I am writing on behalf of Si View Metropolitan Park District to express our enthusiastic support for the Washington State Department of Natural Resources' (DNR's) proposal to renovate and expand the Tiger Summit Trailhead in Tiger Mountain State Forest. Tiger Mountain State Forest a close neighbor of Si View Metropolitan District, and a popular recreation destination for Snoqualmie Valley residents, greatly enhancing recreation opportunities both locally and regionally.

Si View Metropolitan Park District is a special purpose district that provides recreation opportunities to over 40,000 Snoqualmie Valley residents. The mission of our District is to work in partnership with the Community to enhance the quality of life through the facilitation of recreation programs and parks in Snoqualmie Valley. Trail and open space access have routinely been prioritized as one of the top three priorities by District residents in multiple statistically valid surveys conducted by the District. The proposed trailhead improvements at Tiger Mountain Summit closely align with the District's mission and our residents priorities in accessing outdoors spaces.

The proposed renovation and addition will improve access and safety by essentially tripling the number of parking spaces and by providing a much-needed designated parking area for horse trailers. These improvements are long overdue, and they will greatly improve not just public safety and access, but also people's overall experience visiting the forest. We consider DNR to be a valuable partner in the stewardship of public lands, and we fully support DNR in their ongoing work to improve public access and provide enjoyable and sustainable recreation opportunities for a wide range of users.

Si View Metropolitan Park District is pleased to support the proposed improvements to the Tiger Summit Trailhead. If I can be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me 425-831-1900 or tstombaugh@siviewpark.org. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. Stombaugh", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Travis Stombaugh
Executive Director

**Parks & Community Services**

301 Rainier Blvd. S | P.O. Box 1307
Issaquah, WA 98027
425-837-3300
www.issaquahwa.gov

7/30/20

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

Re: Letter of support for WWRP-SLD 20-1503 DEV: Highpoint Trailhead Addition

Dear Members of the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

I am writing on behalf of **City of Issaquah** to express our enthusiastic support for the Washington State Department of Natural Resources' (DNR's) proposal to construct a much needed addition to the Highpoint Trailhead. The Highpoint Exit 20 on I-90 is being envisioned as a kind of a "Gateway to the Outdoors" as it is located at the eastern edges of the Seattle-Bellevue-Issaquah metropolitan areas, just 20 miles from downtown Seattle, and provides access to thousands of acres of public forests on both sides of the highway.

Hundreds of thousands of visitors including families and school groups come each year to hike, walk, and/or attend educational tours on Tradition Plateau and West Tiger Mountain on the South Side of the highway as well to hike, bike and horseback ride in Grand Ridge Park and on a regional trail on the north side of the highway. The existing trailhead facilities cannot accommodate the growing use levels so people park along the frontage roads to access the forests. The empty lots at the exit also attract a lot of illegal dumping and unauthorized camping in the woods near the exit.

DNR, King County and non-profit partners were recently able to acquire the last private inholdings on the south side of the highway, making it possible to begin making some of the envisioned improvements. The proposed project is the first phase of a larger vision for the gateway. The proposed trailhead addition creates a new formal entry round-a-bout to the forest, additional parking spaces, a Trailhead Direct Shuttle stop and school bus loading zone, picnic areas, vault toilet, information kiosks and access to trails on both sides of the highway. Future improvements will include educational, day use, nature play and interpretive facilities to welcome school groups, families with small children and people who are new to the outdoors.

We believe that the proposed project will offer a great public benefit by providing a welcoming entry to Washington's beautiful forests. We consider DNR to be a valuable partner in the stewardship of public lands, and we fully support DNR in their ongoing work to improve public access and provide enjoyable and sustainable recreation opportunities for a wide range of users.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice our support for this important project.

Sincerely,

Jeff Watling
Parks and Community Services Director
jeffw@issaquahwa.gov or (425) 837-3325



King County

Department of Natural Resources and Parks Parks and Recreation Division

King Street Center, KSC-NR-0700
201 South Jackson Street, Suite 700
Seattle, WA 98104-3855

206-477-4527 Fax 206-588-8011
TTY Relay: 711

July 9, 2020

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

Re: Letter of support for WWRP-SLD 20-1503 DEV: Highpoint Trailhead Addition

Dear Members of the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

I am writing on behalf of King County Parks and Recreation to express our enthusiastic support for the Washington State Department of Natural Resources' (DNR's) proposal to construct a much needed addition to the Highpoint Trailhead. We have been involved in the initial planning and design of this project and are excited to see it move towards completion.

The Highpoint Trailhead is a gateway to the many trails and mountains in the Cascade Mountains and provides access to thousands of acres of public forests. Hundreds of thousands of visitors including families and school groups come each year to hike, walk, and/or attend educational tours on Tradition Plateau and West Tiger Mountain on the South Side of the highway as well to hike, bike and horseback ride in Grand Ridge Park and on a regional trail on the north side of the highway. The existing trailhead facilities cannot accommodate the growing use levels so people park along the frontage roads to access the forests. The empty lots at the exit also attract a lot of illegal dumping and unauthorized camping in the woods near the exit.

DNR, King County and non-profit partners were recently able to acquire the last private inholdings on the south side of the highway, making it possible to begin making some of the envisioned improvements to the Highpoint trailhead. The proposed project is the first phase of a larger vision for the gateway. The proposed trailhead addition creates a new formal entry round-a-bout to the forest, additional parking spaces, a Trailhead Direct Shuttle stop and school bus loading zone, picnic areas, vault toilet, information kiosks and access to trails on lands owned by King County, DNR and the City of Issaquah. Future improvements will include educational, day use, nature play and interpretive facilities to welcome school groups, families with small children and people who are new to the outdoors.

We believe that the proposed project will offer a great public benefit by providing a welcoming entry to Washington's beautiful forests. We consider DNR to be a valuable partner in the stewardship of public lands, and we fully support DNR in their ongoing work to improve public access and provide enjoyable and sustainable recreation opportunities for a wide range of users.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice our support for this important project. If you have any questions you may contact me at (206) 477-6478 or kelly.heintz@kingcounty.gov.

Sincerely,

Kelly Heintz

Kelly Heintz
Project Manager
Open Space Section
King County Parks and Recreation



President
Doug McClelland (*), Former Assistant Region Manager
Washington State Department of Natural Resources

Secretary
Josh M. Lipsky(*), Partner, Cascadia Law Group PLLC

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Jason Broenneke (*), Partner, KPMG LLP

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Marie Quasius(*), Senior Port Counsel, Port of Seattle

20-1503 WWRP SLD #2
Program Committee Chair
Cora Johnson (*), Geotechnical Engineer, GeoEngineers
Executive Director
Jon Hoekstra (*), Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust

July 15, 2020

Washington State Recreation Department
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

Re: WWRP-SLD 20-1503 DEV: High Point Trailhead

Dear Members of the Recreation Department,

The Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust to express our enthusiasm for the Washington State Department of Natural Resources' (DNR's) proposal to construct a new trailhead at the High Point Trailhead at Tiger Mountain. Just south of Interstate 90 exit 20, this popular trailhead is being envisioned as a "Gateway to the Outdoors" as it is located at the eastern edges of the SeaTac and Everett metropolitan areas, just 20 miles from downtown SeaTac. The trailhead provides access to thousands of acres of public forests on both sides of the interstate highway.

The Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust and partner organizations have worked for 30 years to conserve lands on Tiger Mountain for public ownership, build and maintain trails, and bring school groups to learn about the importance of forest conservation and balance with population growth.

Hundreds of thousands of visitors including families and school groups come each year to hike, walk, and attend educational and study trips on Tiger Mountain and West Tiger Mountain on the south side of the highway. Many more hike, bike and ride horses in Grand Ridge Park and on a King County regional trail on the north side of the highway. The existing trailhead cannot accommodate the growing use levels, so people park along the frontage roads, near the highway exit ramps, to access the forests. While the ease of access makes this a good location for school groups and hikers, the location also acts as illegal dumping and unauthorized camping.

This project will amplify the challenges of these challenges. This proposal builds on decades of land conservation investment by DNR and King County, as well as private investment from non-profit organizations. WWRP funding will create a formal entry, bringing a sense of place to this popular trailhead. The new trailhead, as a well-designed bus stop for the Trailhead Direct recreation area, will provide a new trailhead, new toilets, picnic areas, and information. This will dramatically improve this forested gateway and make it an inviting, safe, accessible place for people of all ages.

We believe that the proposed project is a great public benefit by providing a welcoming entry to Washington's forests. We consider DNR to be a valuable partner in the stewardship of public lands, and we fully support DNR in their ongoing work to improve public access and provide enjoyable and sustainable recreation for a wide range of users.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice our support for this important project within the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust management area.

Sincerely,

Amy Brockhaus, Deputy Director

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Kristin Bail (X), Supervisor, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest
Jim Becker, Retired, Founder, SmartLab Toys and becker&mayer!
Laurie Benson (X), South Puget Sound Assistant Region Manager for Conservation, Recreation, and Transactions, WA Dept. of Natural Resources
Gary Berndt, Wildland Fire Liaison, WA State Dept. of Natural Resources
Mark Boyar (*), President, Middle Fork Outdoor Recreation Coalition
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Bill Chapman (*), Past President, Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust
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Kitty Craig, Deputy Director, Washington Program, The Wilderness Society
Deloa Dalby, Savor Snoqualmie Valley Leadership Team; The Mountaineers Foothills Branch
Bob Ellis, Lifetime Educator and Cyclist,
Karl Forsgaard, Manager of Implementations, Thomson Reuters; Alpine Lakes Protection Society
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Kari Glover, Retired, Global Integration Partner, K&L Gates LLP,
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Roger Millar (X), Secretary of Transportation, WSDOT
Chad Nesland, Director, Microsoft Procurement, Microsoft
Thomas O'Keefe, Pacific Northwest Stewardship Director, American Whitewater
Amanda O'Rourke, CPA, Partner, Greenwood Ohlund & Co.
David Patton, Northwest Area Director, The Trust for Public Land
Kizz Prusia, Project Associate, Triangle Associates
Charles Raines, Director Cascade Checkerboard Project, Sierra Club, Washington State Chapter
Janet Ray, Retired, Asst VP, Corporate Affairs and Publishing, AAA Washington
Jim Reinhardsen (*), President, Laird Norton Properties
Vik Sahney, Board VP, E&I Committee Chair, The Mountaineers
Meredith Shank, Social Venture Partners
Jill Simmons, Executive Director, Washington Trails Association
Al Smith, Partner, Perkins Coie LLP
David Sturtevant, Retired, Vice President CH2M HILL
Chris Thomas, Senior Director, Public Policy, Lyft
Harry Thomas, Chief Marketing Officer, AAA Washington
Leah Tivoli, Manager, City of Seattle
Alison Washburn, Bellevue Store Manager, REI Co-op
Jody Weil (X), Supervisor, Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest
Joel Yoker, President, Snoqualmie Valley Youth Activities and Community Center

(*) Executive Committee Member
(X) Ex-Officio (non-voting) Director

MTSGREENWAY.ORG

2701 FIRST AVENUE SUITE 240 SEATTLE, WA 98121 | 206.382.5565 | INFO@MTSGREENWAY.ORG





July 27, 2020

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

Re: Letter of support for WWRP-SLD 20-1503 DEV: Highpoint Trailhead Addition

Dear Members of the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

I am writing on behalf of the Issaquah Alps Trails Club to express our enthusiastic support for the Washington State Department of Natural Resources' (DNR's) proposal to construct a much-needed addition to the Highpoint Trailhead. We see this facility as the Western Gateway to the Mountains to Sound Greenway. As volunteer hike leaders and stewards in the Greenway we meet countless people simply not knowing the many options for recreation and what options best meet their individual/family/group interests and abilities. With High Point at Exit 20 on I-90 being the "Gateway to the Outdoors" information about hundreds of recreation and education options could be available along with a real variety of quality options available right at High Point.

Hundreds of thousands of visitors including families and school groups come each year to hike, walk, and/or attend educational tours on Tradition Plateau and West Tiger Mountain and on the South Side of the highway as well to hike, bike and horseback ride in Grand Ridge Park and on a regional trail on the north side of the highway. The existing trailhead facilities cannot accommodate the growing use levels so people park along the frontage roads to access the forests. The empty lots at the exit also attract a lot of illegal dumping and unauthorized camping in the woods near the exit.

DNR, King County and non-profit partners were recently able to acquire the last private inholdings on the south side of the highway, making it possible to begin making some of the envisioned improvements. The proposed project is the first phase of a larger vision for the gateway. The proposed trailhead addition creates a new formal entry round-a-bout to the forest, additional parking spaces, a Trailhead Direct Shuttle stop and school bus loading zone, picnic areas, vault toilet, information kiosks and access to trails on both sides of the highway. Future improvements will include educational, day use, nature play and interpretive facilities to welcome school groups, families with small children and people who are new to the outdoors.

We believe that the proposed project will offer a great public benefit by providing a welcoming entry to Washington's beautiful forests. We consider DNR to be a valuable partner in the stewardship of public lands, and we fully support DNR in their ongoing work to improve public access and provide enjoyable and sustainable recreation opportunities for a wide range of users.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice our support for this important project.

Sincerely,

David Kappler

VP Advocacy
Issaquah Alps Trails Club
davidkappler@hotmail.com
425-652-2753

8/9/20

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

Re: Letter of support for WWRP-SLD 20-1503 DEV: Highpoint Trailhead Addition

Dear Members of the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board:

I am writing on behalf of Issaquah Middle School to express our enthusiastic support for the Washington State Department of Natural Resources' (DNR's) proposal to construct a much-needed addition to the Highpoint Trailhead. The Highpoint Exit 20 on I-90 is being envisioned as a kind of a "Gateway to the Outdoors" as it is located at the eastern edges of the Seattle-Bellevue-Issaquah metropolitan areas, just 20 miles from downtown Seattle, and provides access to thousands of acres of public forests on both sides of the highway. Tiger Mountain is used by our school both for education and for service projects with our ecology club, the IMS "Green Team."

Hundreds of thousands of visitors including families and school groups come each year to hike, walk, and/or attend educational tours on Tradition Plateau and West Tiger Mountain on the South Side of the highway as well to hike, bike and horseback ride in Grand Ridge Park and on a regional trail on the north side of the highway. The existing trailhead facilities cannot accommodate the growing use levels so people park along the frontage roads to access the forests. The empty lots at the exit also attract a lot of illegal dumping and unauthorized camping in the woods near the exit. On several of our service trips (invasive plant removal, clean-up), our school's Green Team has had encounters with homeless camping areas, including human waste and hypodermic needles. Making the gateway much more user-friendly will discourage these anti-social actions.

DNR, King County and non-profit partners were recently able to acquire the last private inholdings on the south side of the highway, making it possible to begin making some of the envisioned improvements. The proposed project is the first phase of a larger vision for the gateway. The proposed trailhead addition creates a new formal entry roundabout to the forest, additional parking spaces, a Trailhead Direct Shuttle stop and school bus loading zone, picnic areas, vault toilet, information kiosks and access to trails on both sides of the highway. Future improvements will include educational, day use, nature play and interpretive facilities to welcome school groups, families with small children and people who are new to the outdoors.

This proposed project will offer a great public benefit by providing a welcoming entry to Washington's beautiful forests. The current chain-link fencing, weeds, and crumbling old road are not welcoming in any way. As co-managers of this area of the NRCA with the City of Issaquah, DNR is a valuable partner in the stewardship of public lands. DNR's ongoing work to improve public access and provide enjoyable and sustainable recreation opportunities for a wide range of users is a great opportunity for recreational use, schools, and scenic enhancement.

For 26 years, my "Backyard Forest" elective at Issaquah Middle has used the High Point-Lake Tradition area for this forest ecology class, utilizing the Big Tree, Adventure, Around-the-Lake, and Bonneville trails. Even for students who live in the Issaquah area, getting out into the nearby woods is not as

common an activity as you might suppose. For many of our students, the Tradition Plateau is their introduction to our local forests and ecosystems. This new entryway would be excellent for schools that cannot walk to Tiger Mountain State Forest and City of Issaquah lands as our school has the fortune to be able to do. Current parking limitations make it difficult for field trips to be accommodated. Additionally, these entry lands have mature forest, including some remnant old growth firs, which would make investigation of our woodlands more accessible with just a short walk from the new parking lot.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice our support for this important project.

Sincerely,

Kurt Wieland
Teacher
Issaquah Middle School

wielandk@issaquah.wednet.edu

or

hikingnewt66@gmail.com



Washington Trails Association

705 Second Avenue, Suite 300, Seattle WA 98104 • 206.625.1367 • wta.org

July 9, 2020

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

RE: Letter of Support for WWRP 20-1503-DEV-Highpoint Trailhead Addition

Dear RCO Grant Review Committee:

I am writing on behalf of Washington Trails Association to express our enthusiastic support of Washington State Department of Natural Resources' (DNR's) proposal to construct a much needed addition to the Highpoint Trailhead.

Washington Trails Association has a more than 50-year legacy of engaging the hiking community. WTA enhances hiking experiences in Washington state by empowering a diverse and growing community of hikers to explore, steward and protect trails and public lands. WTA is the nation's largest state-based trail maintenance and hiking advocacy nonprofit organization, with more than 24,000 member households and an online community of more than 100,000. Each year almost 4,500 WTA volunteers perform over 160,000 hours of trail maintenance across the state.

Hundreds of thousands of visitors including families and school groups come each year to hike, walk, and/or attend educational tours on Tradition Plateau and West Tiger Mountain on the South Side of the highway as well to hike, bike and horseback ride in Grand Ridge Park and on a regional trail on the north side of the highway. The existing trailhead facilities cannot accommodate the growing use levels so people park along the frontage roads to access the forests. The empty lots at the exit also attract a lot of illegal dumping and unauthorized camping in the woods near the exit.

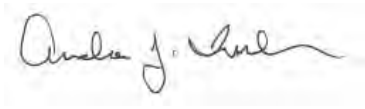
DNR, King County and non-profit partners were recently able to acquire the last private inholdings on the south side of the highway, making it possible to begin making some of the envisioned improvements. The proposed project is the first phase of a larger vision for the gateway. The proposed trailhead addition creates a new formal entry round-a-bout to the forest, additional parking spaces, a Trailhead Direct Shuttle stop and school bus loading zone, picnic areas, vault toilet, information kiosks and access to trails on both sides of the highway. Future improvements will include educational, day use, nature play and interpretive facilities to welcome school groups, families with small children and people who are new to the outdoors.

We believe that the proposed project will offer a great public benefit by providing a welcoming entry to Washington's beautiful forests. This project will enhance one of the most popular areas for hiking in the state and provide an improved outdoor educational facility that is greatly needed in the area.

WTA considers DNR to be a vital partner in the stewardship of public lands. We fully support DNR in their ongoing work to improve public access and provide enjoyable and sustainable recreation opportunities for a wide range of users.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice our support for this important project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrea J. Imler", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Andrea Imler
Advocacy Director
Washington trails Association
aimler@wta.org



July 9, 2020

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

Re: Letter of support for WWRP-SLD 20-1503 DEV: Highpoint Trailhead Addition

Dear Members of the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board:

I am writing on behalf of The Wilderness Society to express our enthusiastic support for the Washington State Department of Natural Resources' (DNR's) proposal to construct a much-needed addition to the Highpoint Trailhead. The Highpoint Exit 20 on I-90 is being envisioned as a "Gateway to the Outdoors" as located at the eastern edges of the Seattle-Bellevue-Issaquah metropolitan areas, just 20 miles from downtown Seattle, and provides access to thousands of acres of public forests.

Hundreds of thousands of visitors including families and school groups come each year to hike, walk, and/or attend educational tours on Tradition Plateau and West Tiger Mountain on the South Side of the highway as well to hike, bike and horseback ride in Grand Ridge Park and on a regional trail on the north side of the highway. The existing trailhead facilities cannot accommodate the growing use levels so people park along the frontage roads to access the forests. The empty lots at the exit also attract a lot of illegal dumping and unauthorized camping in the woods near the exit.

DNR, King County and non-profit partners were recently able to acquire the last private inholdings on the south side of the highway, making it possible to begin making some of the envisioned improvements. The proposed project is the first phase of a larger vision for the gateway. The proposed trailhead addition creates a new formal entry round-a-bout to the forest, additional parking spaces, a Trailhead Direct Shuttle stop and school bus loading zone, picnic areas, vault toilet, information kiosks and access to trails on both sides of the highway. Future improvements will include educational, day use, nature play and interpretive facilities to welcome school groups, families with small children and people who are new to the outdoors.

We believe that the proposed project will offer a great public benefit by providing a welcoming entry to Washington's beautiful forests. We consider DNR to be a valuable partner in the stewardship of public lands, and we fully support DNR in their ongoing work to improve public access and provide enjoyable and sustainable recreation opportunities for a wide range of users.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice our support for this important project.

Sincerely,

Kitty Craig
Washington State Deputy Director
kcraig@twso.org
206-473-252



July 22, 2020

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

PO Box 40917, Olympia, WA 98504-0917

Re: Letter of support for WWRP-SLD 20-1503 DEV: Highpoint Trailhead Addition

Dear Members of the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board:

The Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance enthusiastically supports the Washington State Department of Natural Resources' (DNR's) proposal to construct a much-needed addition to the Highpoint Trailhead. The Highpoint Exit 20 on I-90 is located at the eastern edges of the Seattle-Bellevue-Issaquah metropolitan areas, just 20 miles from downtown Seattle, and provides access to thousands of acres of public forests on both sides of the highway. It's being envisioned as a "Gateway to the Outdoors."

Hundreds of thousands of visitors including families and school groups come each year to hike, walk, and/or attend educational tours on Tradition Plateau and West Tiger Mountain on the South Side of the highway as well to hike, bike and horseback ride in Grand Ridge Park and on a regional trail on the north side of the highway. The existing trailhead facilities cannot accommodate the growing use levels so people park along the frontage roads to access the forests. The poor design of the current lots at the exit also attract a lot of illegal dumping and unauthorized camping in the woods near the exit.

DNR, King County and non-profit partners were recently able to acquire the last private inholdings on the south side of the highway, making it possible to begin making some of the envisioned improvements. The proposed project is the first phase of a larger vision for the gateway. The proposed trailhead addition creates a new formal entry round-a-bout to the forest, additional parking spaces, a Trailhead Direct Shuttle stop and school bus loading zone, picnic areas, vault toilet, information kiosks and access to trails on both sides of the highway. Future improvements will include educational, day use, nature play and interpretive facilities to welcome school groups, families with small children and people who are new to the outdoors.

We believe that the proposed project will offer a great public benefit by providing a welcoming entry to Washington's beautiful forests. We fully support DNR in their ongoing work to improve public access and provide enjoyable and sustainable recreation opportunities for a wide range of users.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice our support for this important project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Yvonne Kraus".

Yvonne Kraus, Executive Director

206-450-3261, yvonne@evergreenmtb.org



Washington Trails Association

705 Second Avenue, Suite 300, Seattle WA 98104 • 206.625.1367 • wta.org

August 7, 2020

Washington Recreation and Conservation Office
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

RE: Letter of Support for Washington State Department of Natural Resources WWRP State Lands Development grant proposal, Raging River State Forest – Final Phase Trail System Development, Application #20-1445.

Dear RCO Review Committee:

I am writing on behalf of Washington Trails Association to express our enthusiastic support of the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) proposal to the Washington Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) for a project under the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program's State Lands Development category.

Washington Trails Association has a more than 50-year legacy of engaging the hiking community. WTA enhances hiking experiences in Washington state by empowering a diverse and growing community of hikers to explore, steward and protect trails and public lands. WTA is the nation's largest state-based trail maintenance and hiking advocacy nonprofit organization, with more than 24,000 member households and an online community of more than 100,000. Each year almost 4,500 WTA volunteers perform over 160,000 hours of trail maintenance across the state.

We are very supportive of the following project:

WWRP State Lands Development: Raging River State Forest, Final Phase Trail System Development (#20-1445)

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will use this grant to fund the fourth and final trail system development phase of 10 new trail miles in Raging River State Forest, located approximately 20 miles east of Seattle. The primary recreation opportunity provided by the project will be improved non-motorized multiple-use trail recreation in the Raging River State Forest area. The proposed new trails will give visitors a safer alternative to using service roads, further develop important missing trail links to reduce trail conflicts, provide under-served downhill mountain biking trails, and provide additional trail access predominantly for equestrian use. Continuing successful project collaboration between DNR & non-profit trail advocacy & user groups in the Snoqualmie Corridor will ensure high quality trail opportunities meeting targeted user experiences are delivered.

Thank you for your consideration. We hope you will support and fund this project.

Sincerely,

Andrea Immler
Advocacy Director



BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF WASHINGTON
PO Box 1132
ELLENSBURG, WA 98926
WWW .BCHW.ORG

August 7, 2020

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office
P.O. Box 40917
Olympia, Washington 98504-0917

RE: Washington Wildlife & Recreation Program – State Lands Development

**WWRP State Lands Development: Raging River State Forest, Final Phase
Trail System Development (#20-1445)**

Dear Members of the WWRP-SLD Evaluation Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the Back Country Horsemen of Washington to express our enthusiastic support of DNR's proposal to complete construction of a highly popular trail system within close proximity to the state's largest population center, within the Raging River State Forest.

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to complete the final phase of trail system development, targeting 10 new trail miles in Raging River State Forest, approximately 20 miles east of Seattle, expanding the trail system for mountain biking, hiking, and equestrian opportunities. The proposed new trails will give visitors a safer alternative to using service roads, further develop a trail loop system in the central forest basin, connecting the in-progress south equestrian zone and northern mountain biking zones with hiking access as a secondary use. The primary recreation opportunity provided by the project will be improved non-motorized multiple-use trail recreation in the Raging River State Forest area.

The equestrian community is very excited about connecting in-progress equestrian primary management objective trail opportunities in the South Raging River State Forest area to the central Raging River SF basin. With the potential for designated trail connections linking south Raging River area to the established equestrian trail network on Taylor Mountain Forest (King County Parks), this project will provide a major benefit by providing access to new terrain and allowing for long distance outings.

This grant opportunity is strongly supported with the benefit of providing safe and enjoyable new equestrian trail riding experiences, an opportunity that is underserved in King County.

Thank you,


Kathy Young

President, Back Country Horsemen of Washington
president@bchw.org



July 30, 2020
Recreation and Conservation Office
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

Letter of Support: Washington State Department of Natural Resources, Recreation Program
WWRP State Lands Development: Raging River State Forest, Final Phase Trail System Development (#20-1445)

Dear WWRP Review Committee,

The Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance (Evergreen) strongly supports the Department of Natural Resources WWRP grant application for the final phase of the Raging River State Forest Trail System.

Raging River is quickly becoming one of the most popular mountain bike trail networks for Puget Sound mountain residents and visitors. It offers some of the closest riding on state lands to the Seattle Metropolitan area, where we have seen significant growth in our sport, as well as the need for more comprehensive and connected trail systems.

The final phase of the Raging River State Forest will allow development of 10 additional trail miles, expanding the trail system for mountain biking, hiking, and equestrian opportunities. The proposed new trails will give visitors a safer alternative to using service roads, further construct a key Mountains to Sound Greenway Regional Trail missing link, offer opportunities for mountain bike loops, and provide access to a remote zone with equestrian and hiking trail opportunities.

Funding this final of four total development phases is crucial to keep up with demand and it presents completion of a long-time vision for, and RCO investment in, this State Forest. We believe it is the most important mountain biking project and milestone opportunity within the 2020 WWRP grant cycle!

Evergreen MBA is Washington's largest mountain bike organization with over 6,500 members and more than 55,000 social media followers statewide. We are dedicated to trail building and maintenance, as well as volunteerism, education, and advocacy. As a trusted partner with public land managers across the state, Evergreen's volunteers contributed over 30,000 hours of volunteer labor in 2019.

We strongly support the Department of Natural Resources in its effort to create a comprehensive and connected trail system in the highway 18 corridor. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important project and we stand ready to assist the DNR with on going maintenance assistance!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Yvonne Kraus".

Yvonne Kraus
Executive Director



August 10, 2020

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO)
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

Re: WWRP State Lands Development: Raging River State Forest, Final Phase Trail System Development (#20-1445)

Dear WWRP Advisory Committee and RCO Funding Board,

On behalf of the City of North Bend, I am writing to clearly state our support of the Department of Natural Resource's development of approximately 10 miles of new trail within the Raging River State Forest. The City of North Bend's economy is heavily driven by outdoor recreation tourism, and our residents greatly benefit from these adjacent amenities. The hiking, equestrian, and biking community represents a large portion of our visitors. This grant opportunity will provide completion of a significant trail system that will heavily benefit hiking, equestrian, and mountain bike recreation and help establish the 1-90 Corridor as Puget Sound's outdoor recreation destination.

Funding this proposal will increase the quality of recreation experience for visitors and residents alike, accessing trails from Interstate 90, Exit #27, Snoqualmie Point Trailhead, increase tourism/visitation, and increase economic development for the local community, including North Bend.

Sustainably designed trails will reduce user conflict by increasing trail system mileage, increase safety, and implement the Snoqualmie Corridor Recreation Plan. All of these benefits will draw users, and users become visitors and tourists who ultimately support our local economy. Final Phase trail system expansion, coupled with current Phase 2 efforts, will deliver a regionally significant 45+ mile trail system that will also benefit residents.

We look forward DNR being awarded this grant and building the 10 miles of new trail, finishing one of the most significant high quality user experience trail systems in the state.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this proposed project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jesse Reynolds", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jesse Reynolds, AICP
Senior Long Range Planner
City of North Bend

**Washington Trails Association**

705 Second Avenue, Suite 300, Seattle WA 98104 • 206.625.1367 • wta.org

May 22, 2020

Washington Recreation and Conservation Office
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

RE: Washington State Department of Natural Resources, Project #20-1256; Blanchard State Forest Sustainable Toilet

Washington Trails Association pleased to offer our strong support for the Washington State Department of Natural Resource's grant proposal for Project #20-1256.

Washington Trails Association has a more than 50-year legacy of engaging the hiking community. WTA enhances hiking experiences in Washington state by empowering a diverse and growing community of hikers to explore, steward and protect trails and public lands. WTA is the nation's largest state-based trail maintenance and hiking advocacy nonprofit organization, with more than 24,000 member households and an online community of more than 100,000. Each year almost 5,000 WTA volunteers perform over 160,000 hours of trail maintenance across the state.

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant for campground and trailhead restroom development in the Blanchard State Forest, located in western Skagit County. Development will include permitting, purchase and installation of two sustainable toilets at the existing Lily and Lizard lake backcountry campgrounds and one toilet facility at the existing Blanchard Upper Trailhead parking area. Blanchard State Forest provides non-motorized recreation on 15 miles of trail and primitive camping opportunities for users from Skagit, Whatcom, Snohomish counties as well as all of Washington.

The primary outcomes achieved by this project will be improved recreational user experiences and reduced environmental impacts associated with increases in public use to the Blanchard State Forest. This project will help effectively manage human sanitation in an environmentally sustainable manner.

WTA supports this project and looks forward to partnering with the Department of Natural Resources on furthering sustainable recreation in the area.

Sincerely,

Andrea Imler
Advocacy Director



June 2, 2020

Attn: Rick Foster
Baker District Recreation Maintenance Manager
Washington Department of Natural Resources

Re: RCO Grant Application
Applicant: Washington Department of Natural Resources
RCO application 20-1256, Blanchard State Forest Sustainable Toilets

Dear RCO Review Committee,

The Skagit Parks and Recreation Advisory Board enthusiastically supports the DNR grant application for two sustainable toilets, one at Lily and Lizard Lake campground, and one at the Blanchard Upper Trailhead. Both restrooms are located within Blanchard State Forest in Skagit County. Development will include the permitting, purchase and installation of sustainable bathrooms to reduce environmental issues at the Lily and Lizard Lake campgrounds and along the shorelines. This project will help to effectively manage human sanitation in an environmentally sustainable manner, which will benefit the overall user experience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "B. Adams".

Brian Adams, Director
Skagit County Parks and Recreation

1730 Continental Place
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

(360) 416-1350 phone

[http://skagitcounty.net/offices/
parks/index.htm](http://skagitcounty.net/offices/parks/index.htm)



Greater Bellingham Running Club
Connecting Runners. Building Community. Giving Back.
501(c)3

July 9, 2020

RE: Project: WWRP #20-1256, Blanchard State Forest Sustainable Toilets

To RCO Review Committee,

On behalf of the Greater Bellingham Running Club I would like to express our support for the Blanchard State Forest Sustainable Toilets project. The project will help bring expanded facilities to the increasingly visited state forest and decrease the overall impact of unmanaged waste out on the trails. Even though most people follow the Leave No Trace principles providing toilets should help reduce the formation of social trails and decrease the amount of pollution and trash associated with improperly disposed of toilet paper and human waste, especially near campgrounds and trailheads. Overall, we believe this will provide recreational benefit to all outdoor enthusiasts, including runners, hikers, mountain bikers, and horseback riders and encourage your support. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Schafermeyer".

Tim Schafermeyer

Vice President

tim.schafermeyer@gbrc.net

From: Mike McGlenn
To: [Foster, Rick \(DNR\)](#)
Subject: Blanchard State Forest Sustainable Toilets Project: WWRP #20-1256
Date: Thursday, June 11, 2020 10:31:55 AM

To: RCO Review Committee,

The Back Country Horsemen of Whatcom County (BCHW) has a long history of volunteering with trail work projects in various parts of Washington State. One of those places has been, for over 35 years, Blanchard State Forest. Blanchard is a lowland all year riding, hiking, biking, hang gliding non-motorized recreation site frequented by folks from Canada to Olympia. Additionally I have been a member of the original Blanchard Mountain Strategies Group that was formed by then Commissioner Doug Sutherland in 2006 and the Blanchard Mountain Advisory Committee that was formed shortly after the Strategies Agreement was signed in 2008 and continues in that role today. I have been riding my horse, working on the Blanchard Trails, packing in materials and gear for over 35 years. In 2019 the BCHW, Whatcom, recorded 2014 hours of volunteer trail work with a dollar value of \$131,304.71 dollars.

The increase in recreational use of the Blanchard State Forest is easily seen by those of us with a long history of this place. The parking lots now are increasingly full. Meeting folks on the trail enjoying this special place is now the norm where it was once the exception. With this increase in use comes debris along the trail and behind the trees. The only pit toilets are at the lower trailhead and at the Overlook parking area. All the rest of the mountain as well as the camping areas at Lily and Lizard Lakes have no facilities for human waste disposal.

The need for the toilets that this grant is requesting is very great. The BCHW as a group and those of us individuals that regularly use the trails at Blanchard fully support the request of DNR for this grant to fund the installation of the toilets that are so badly needed. BCHW is committed to continue to support the maintenance of the trails and the trailheads at Blanchard as we have done in the past. Please move this grant request forward and approve it.

Thank you for your consideration,

Mike

11 Jun 2020

Mike McGlenn

Past Chairman, BCHA

BCHW Trailhead Chair

1992 Harmony Road

Bellingham, WA 98226

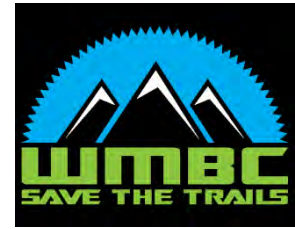
360 739 2619

mikekmcglenn@gmail.com

"Ain't Nothin' Better Than Ridin' A Fine Horse In New Country" Augustus McCrae.

Live Life Like Someone Left The Gate Open!

August 3rd, 2020
501 Meador Ave., Suite 106
Bellingham, WA 98225



Washington Recreation and Conservation
Office
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

RE: Washington State Department of Natural Resources, Project #20-1256D; Blanchard State Forest Sustainable Toilet

Dear Members of the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board:

On behalf of Whatcom Mountain Bike Coalition, I am pleased to offer our strong support for the Washington State Department of Natural Resource's grant proposal for Project #20-1256D,

The WMBC has a 34-year history of recreating and building trails in Whatcom and Skagit Counties. In 2019, the WMBC had more than 8,000 volunteer hours and we are the stewards of the 65 mile trail network on Galbraith Mountain. Last year, our youth programs had more than 450 local kids participating in our after-school bike clubs and our bike rodeos had more than 5,000 kids ride bikes at their elementary schools.

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant for campground and trailhead restroom development in the Blanchard State Forest, located in western Skagit County. Development will include permitting, purchase and installation of two sustainable toilets at the existing Lily and Lizard lake backcountry campgrounds and one toilet facility at the existing Blanchard Upper Trailhead parking area. As both a member of the Blanchard Advisory committee and a person that frequently bikes and hikes on Blanchard, these will be fantastic improvements to the trail network.

The primary recreation opportunity provided by the project will be improved recreational user experience and reduce environmental impacts associated with the increase in public use to the Blanchard State Forest. This project will help effectively manage human sanitation in an environmentally sustainable manner. The Blanchard State Forest provides non-motorized recreation on 15 miles of trail and primitive camping opportunities for recreation users from all over Western Washington.

The WMBC and our members will greatly benefit from this project and it is another great step towards sustainable recreation on DNR managed lands.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Eric J. Brown'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Eric Brown
Executive Director, WMBC
Phone: (206) 399-8347
Email: eric@wmbcmtb.org

To whom this may concern about the issue of the Leyendecker Park boat ramp as the river has changed course due to high water and river shifting away from boat ramp. The present boat ramp is a disaster and needs to be moved to the Sol Duc river location at the west end of the park.

My name is Jim Mansfield. I've been a licensed guide in this area for 40 years and use the park area boat ramp about 150 days a year taking clients from all over the world.

This area is crucial for access by many different types of people using it and would be tragic if lost.

I urge you to PLEASE move the boat ramp to the west end of park at the mouth of the Sol Duc river so we can continue our use of the park and its facilities.

I commend the game department and its staff and crew that keep Leyendecker Park beautiful and accessible to the public.

Thank you

Jim Mansfield
360 640 257



State of Washington
Department of Fish and Wildlife

PO Box 1100- 111 Sherman Street • La Conner, Washington 98257 • (360) 466-4345 FAX (360) 466-0515

20-1291 D, Boulder Lake Trail and Campsite Renovations

August 3, 2020

Washington Recreation and Conservation Office
WWRP Program
Olympia, Washington

Dear WWRP Grant Selection Committee,

On behalf of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, I am writing to express my strong support for grant application **#20-1291 D, Boulder Lake Trail and Campsite Renovations** proposed for the Morning Star Natural Resources Conservation Area (NRCA). I have been a member of DNR's advisory committee for recreation in Morning Star since the committee's inception, representing the interests of fish and wildlife. As such, I've seen first-hand how carefully the DNR stewards the resources within the NRCA and how challenged they are to safeguard the fragile ecosystem that the NRCA represents.

Balancing the public's desire to experience the natural world while protecting delicate ecosystems is becoming difficult for all natural resource managers. As indicated in the application, the Morning Star NRCA has always been a popular destination and is under increasing pressure as more and more members of the public seek places to hike and camp. As such, the need to provide safe trails and suitable campsites and toilet facilities is crucial for the well-being of visitors and to prevent the damage caused to the NRCA when these are not provided and the public takes it upon themselves to create their own hiking and camping facilities.

Natural Resource Conservation Areas are designated when specific places on the landscape represent the best of what is left of special habitats. The funds awarded to this application will ensure that those values are protected so that current and future generations may visit the NRCA and have a safe and quality experience at Morning Star.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Ruth Milner".

Ruth Milner
District 13 Wildlife Biologist
Washington Department of Fish and wildlife

August 5, 2020

Recreation and Conservation Office
P.O. Box 40917
Olympia, Washington 98504-0917

Re: 20-1291 D, Boulder Lake Trail and Campsite Renovations

Dear Evaluation Committee Members,

As residents of the Skykomish Valley and avid outdoorspeople, we are writing this letter of support for the Department of Natural Resource's Boulder Lake RCO grant request.

Our organization, Sky Valley Future, supports investing in trail infrastructure in the Skykomish River Valley to create long-term economic stability based on our growing tourism economy.

We know that trails help support a healthy economy. According to the RCO's recent study, the direct economic value of the Lake Serene trail is estimated at \$834,000 annually.¹ We need more similar trails in the Skykomish Valley. Snohomish County continues to grow, yet its trail-based recreation lags behind neighboring counties: Snohomish County currently sees only \$106M/year from trail-based recreation, compared to King County at over \$490M, and Skagit county at \$214M. Chelan County sees nearly \$300M, with many people driving through the Skykomish Valley to get there. Improving non-motorized access by reopening existing trails through this grant would create benefits for trail users as well as the economy of the local community.

Please accept our support for the Boulder Lake Trail grant.

Sincerely,

Michael Nash
Sky Valley Future
Gold Bar, WA

¹ <https://rco.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/HikingBikingExecSummary.pdf>



Washington State Chapter

180 Nickerson St, Ste 202
Seattle, WA 98109
Phone: (206) 378-0114
Fax: (206) 378-0034

July 30, 2020

Recreation and Conservation Office

P.O. Box 40917

Olympia, Washington 98504-0917

RE: 20-1291 D, Boulder Lake Trail and Campsite Renovations

Dear evaluation committee members:

As Chair of the State Forest Committee of the Sierra Club's Washington State Chapter I would like to submit the following letter of support for the Department of Natural Resource's Boulder Lake RCO grant request.

The Sierra Club mission is to protect and restore the quality of the natural environment. The club has approximately 35,000 members in the State of Washington and we encourage our membership to explore, enjoy and protect the planet.

For years, the Sierra Club has worked to protect and expand the Morning Star NRCA -both for its ecological significance as well as its recreational potential. Over this time, we have been concerned that due to budget priorities, the DNR has not been able to maintain the existing Morning Star NRCA trail system and adequately protect Morning Star NRCA in some areas from significant resource damage. Our concern peaked with the closing of the popular trail to Boulder Lake on two counts: (1) the damage to the trail from natural events and (2) damage to the sensitive areas from visitor use. One of the consequences of this trail closure was to create a spillover effect possibly leading to resource damage in other locations from overuse to those trails

These concerns were brought to the attention of the Club and resulted in our support for a previous RCO grant to start a Morning Star NRCA Advisory group to evaluate recreation opportunities and potential future trail strategies in the Morning Star NRCA. I was also selected to be a member of the board.

Rather than looking for new trail opportunities, the board studied ways to restore and repair neglected and overcrowded existing trails as well as recently closed Boulder Lake Trail. The advisory board also spent the best part of a year trying to prioritize which trails in Morning Star NRCA should be prioritized for grant funding. The sad truth was that all the trails in Morning Star NRCA have suffered from a lack of funding. Therefore, selecting two trails to submit grant proposals was difficult. However, the decision centered on reopening existing trails, as well as eliminating resource damage in sensitive areas. The Boulder Lake Trail proposal was selected as one of the two proposals for potential grants (the other proposal was the Gothic Basin Trail which the Club also supports). There are several reasons why we support this particular grant.

1. The need to Increase Non-Motorized Recreation in Skykomish Valley

Even before the uptick in hikers due to Covid-19, the trails near the middle portion of the Skykomish Valley were significantly over crowded. For example, Wallace Falls State Park sees over 225,000 visits per year and on many days, the parking lot, which holds only 100 spaces, is filled by mid-morning. This results in visitors parking along the road that causes traffic problems, and conflicts with local residents. Those who visit the park have long complained that the overcrowding on the trails causes resource damage to the park and degrades the outdoor experience of the user. The outcome is that many potential hikers choose to recreate elsewhere. Similar problems exist a few miles up the road at Lake Serene. Trail. These overuse issues have gotten significantly worst over the last 10 years. Meanwhile the population of Snohomish County and eastern King County will continue to grow.

2. Re opening the Boulder Lake Trail will provide 2 recreational experiences.

The first is a beautiful low elevation walk on a road to trail conversion with outstanding views and cool forests leading to as much as a 10-mile round trip hike. The second is a 16-mile round trip to the secluded lake that has possibilities for a further day-long hikes or an overnight backpack.

3. Utilizing grant money to rebuild the trail would also benefit local communities.

Over the last few years the towns along the Highway 2 corridor have been embracing the economic benefits of outdoor recreation. Not only will this trail and campground meet those needs but also rebuilding the trail will increase recreational potential along Highway 2 without leading to the traffic congestion issues along the highway segment east of Sultan.

4. Rebuilding the trail will disperse recreation away from other over used trails like Wallace Falls State Park

5. Funding this grant will also lesson the backlog of neglected trails in Morning Star which can enable the advisory board to focus on other trails in Morning Star NRCA so they can receive the attention they need

Beside recreation, the Club is also interested in supporting this grant because the goals expressed in the grant match the Club's interest in habitat protection and the appropriate use of the resource.

Please accept our support for the Boulder Lake Trail grant.

Sincerely
Mike Town
State Forest Chair
Washington State Chapter Sierra Club
mtown01@msn.com



August 5, 202

To: Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office

RE: 20-1291 D, Boulder Lake Trail and Campsite Renovations, and

20-1292 D, Gothic Basin Trail and Camping Area Development

To Whom It May Concern:

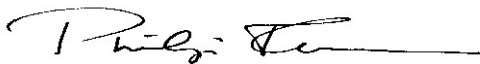
The North Cascades Conservation Council (N3C) lends its support for two Department of Natural Resources (DNR) grant applications within the Morning Star Natural Resources Conservation Area (NRCA). The mission of N3C is to protect and preserve the North Cascades' scenic, scientific, recreational, educational, and wilderness values. We believe these projects aligns with that mission and we urge your support.

N3C is pleased that these grants will address negative impacts to public resources that have resulted from significant public use. The investments in recreation infrastructure are much needed as significant visitation to the Morning Star NRCA has overwhelmed available resources. A renovated trail, improved campsites, and a new toilet will improve the user experience and protect water quality at Boulder Lake. Similarly, improvements in the Gothic Basin will improve public safety, minimize ongoing impacts to natural resources, and benefit backcountry visitors. These objectives make DNR's grant application worthy of your consideration.

The Morning Star NRCA provides opportunities for the public to experience nature in relatively undisturbed settings and to make personal connections to the natural world. The projects are particularly important given their close proximity to major transportation corridors. Getting outdoors is more popular than ever and this is an opportunity to meet that public demand.

We urge your support for DNR's grant applications.

Sincerely,



Philip Fenner

President, North Cascades Conservation Council

www.northcascades.org

August 5, 2020

Recreation and Conservation Office
PO Box 40917
Olympia WA 98504-0917

Re: 20-1291 D Boulder Lake Trail and Campsite Renovations

To Whom It May Concern:

Upon review of the project factsheet report for Boulder Lake Trail describing the intended improvements to be executed by the Department of Natural Resources with the fulfillment of grant request 20-1291 D, the members of Wild Sky Community Trails Association unanimously clapped their hands.

We are a relatively new not-for-profit corporation local to the Sky Valley with a mission to advocate for building and maintaining forested non-motorized trails in our area, which has increasing numbers of recreational users putting pressure on the capacity of Wallace Falls State Park. The trails we are working on are low elevation spanning Gold Bar to Index. The Spada Lake and Morning Star NRCA area can be a consummate sub alpine recreation experience for the Sky Valley. A renovated Boulder Lake Trail would not only encourage users driving Hwy 2 to expand their horizons, it would help alleviate the stress on overpopulated trails east of Sultan.

We applaud also for the intention stated in the factsheet that a backcountry model of management is to be employed emphasizing cost effectiveness and environmental sensitivity and serving conservation goals as well as good stewardship. In our own main project, the Wild Sky Community Trail, connecting Wallace Falls State Park to Heybrook Ridge County Park, we've tried to include old, disused and long unmaintained grades as much as possible to minimize impact from building new trails. So we're happy to see another trail come back to life after years of being inaccessible due to storm damage. It is with enthusiasm that we support the Boulder Lake Trail grant.

Sincerely

Brian Nelson
President
Wild Sky Community Trails Association
PO Box 460
Gold Bar WA 98251

BN:PJ



A Washington State Chapter of the National Audubon Society
 P.O. Box 2524, Olympia, WA 98507
 (360) 352-7299 www.blackhills-audubon.org

Black Hills Audubon Society is a volunteer, non-profit organization of more than 1,300 members in Thurston, Mason, and Lewis Counties whose goals are to promote environmental education and protect our ecosystems for future generations.

May 25, 2020

Grants Committee
 Washington Wildlife & Recreation Program
 Recreation and Conservation Office
 PO Box 40917
 Olympia WA 98504-0917

This is a letter in support of a **WWRP grant** to Washington Department of Natural Resources' Capitol Forest for **Boardwalk Replacement at the McLane Nature Trail**. The Reference Number is 20-1504 Dev, McLane Creek Board Walk Replacement Phase 2.

Black Hills Audubon is a chapter of the National Audubon Society and represents approximately 1300 members in Thurston, Mason, and Lewis Counties. Our mission is to provide education and recreation concerning birds and other wildlife and to preserve our ecosystems for future generations. The McLane Creek Nature Trail and the preserve in which it lies is one of the gems of wildlife habitat preservation and educational opportunity in the Black Hills area.

In addition to organized, educational walks on the Trail – which we conduct several times each year – many of our members go there with family, friends, or school groups for both wildlife-oriented recreation and educational purposes. The McLane ecosystem – comprising a mixed hardwood and coniferous forest, beaver pond, and associated wetlands, as well as the salmon-bearing McLane Creek – is of great value in preserving wildlife and important in the lives of us human visitors, including friends and members of Black Hills Audubon.

One of the best bird-viewing trails in Thurston County, the McLane Creek Trail is very close to the wetland but associated shrubs and trees provide excellent cover for birders to walk there with only minimal disturbance to birdlife. It's one of the best teaching settings in the region because of the trails' access to the diverse habitats in the McLane trail complex.

Observing the growth of the Wood Duck and Mallard families and the turtles and newts on the pond, especially from the path for the proposed boardwalk replacement, will give school groups an opportunity to see relatable wildlife close-up, without harming the sensitive aquatic areas, and in safety. Black Hills Audubon strongly supports the grant for the McLane Creek Boardwalk Replacement. McLane is a special place; we need to invest in its preservation and the opportunities for education and enjoyment that it provides.

Sincerely,

Sam Merrill, Chair Conservation Committee

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sam Merrill". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small flourish above the 'i' in Merrill.

Elizabeth Rodrick, Vice President

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Elizabeth Rodrick". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large 'E' and a long, sweeping underline.