



SNO-KING WATERSHED COUNCIL



March 19, 2015

The Honorable Andy Hill
Washington State Senate
303 John A. Cherberg Building
PO Box 40445
Olympia, WA 98504

The Honorable Hans Dunshee
Washington State House of Representatives
314 John L. O'Brien Building
PO Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

The Honorable Derek Stanford
Washington State House of Representatives
304 John L. O'Brien Building
PO Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

Subject: Support for Capital Budget Request to Acquire Wayne Public Golf Course

Dear Senator Hill, Representative Dunshee, and Representative Stanford,

The Sno-King Watershed Council represents people working to protect and preserve streams, urban waters, and natural areas. We ask you to support the purchase of the Wayne Golf Course, which is located along the Sammamish River in Bothell, for the purposes of passive recreation, restoring habitat for fish and wildlife, and education and outreach regarding the health of Puget Sound.

Twenty years ago, the community purchased development rights on the front nine of the golf course, in recognition of its importance as open space. Now, the golf course faces two possible futures. It can become yet another housing development, or it can contribute to salmon recovery, recreation, and outdoor education.

Acquisition and preservation of open space in the Cedar-Sammamish-Lake Washington watershed is one of the highest priority goals in local salmon recovery efforts. This is a unique opportunity to preserve such a significant parcel of open space in the urban area.

The golf course is directly adjacent to Blyth Park and the Burke-Gilman/Sammamish River Trail system. Conserving this property as open space will also maintain vital recreation opportunities in the heart of this rapidly urbanizing area.

Restoration work on the site would provide excellent opportunities to educate the public about how our actions and lifestyle choices affect the species in this region, and engage them in improving the quality of life for the people, plants, and animals which live here.

You can imagine more potential benefits. The golf course lines approximately 5% of the length of the river. Converting the course to public land would allow restoration activities like braiding the river with additional channels and replacing some of the lost marshes to be carried out. The public could engage in reforesting the banks. Trails through the restoration area could be used to educate the public about the importance of the new habitat to fish and wildlife survival, and the ecological services the wetlands provide, such as water purification, and flood and erosion control.

A fully funded restoration project could bring millions of dollars into the local economy, just as the award winning restoration work for North Creek on the UW Bothell campus did. Many jobs would be created for restoration workers, and long-term jobs for environmental educators would be created as well.

Thank you for considering this request, and we hope you will support this magnificent effort to add the Sammamish to the Nisqually and Snohomish, as restored rivers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Eric Adman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Eric Adman
President, Sno-King Watershed Council
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