

February 28th, 2015



City of Bothell™

Dear Legislators,

This letter is in support of the State of Washington capital budget request to purchase for public use the Wayne Golf Course, both the front and back 9, here on referenced as the "Wayne Lands." This unique opportunity to purchase 100 acres of land is essential to the public in many ways, and purchasing the property is time sensitive in nature.

The Wayne Lands flank both sides of the Sammamish River within Bothell, providing a huge opportunity for creation of public access to state shorelines, restoration of salmon habitat, and creation of a regionally significant recreational hub inside the urban growth boundary. In addition, the location is adjacent to the revitalizing downtown of Bothell, and having the Wayne Land a component of the vision of this community is powerful and will create permanent recreational businesses, jobs, and attract visitors to Bothell.

From a Puget Sound and salmon recovery standpoint, the Wayne Lands offer an opportunity to reduce existing impacts to the Sammamish River, which is a critical waterway for Chinook and other salmonid populations within WRIA 8. The Puget Sound Partnership Action Agenda prioritizes land acquisition where the threat of development is eminent, and the development will cause additional degradation of critical habitat. The Wayne Land fits this near term action and the City of Bothell, the WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council, and King County need State funding to achieve this near term action.

Last, the Shoreline Management Act calls for public access to shorelines, something that has dwindled over the decades. As mentioned previously, this land flanks the Sammamish River for a significant length, and the Sammamish River is a shoreline of Washington State. Having this land for public access in perpetuity will allow for a regionally significant access point to shorelines, for recreation and connectivity to the natural environment.

We greatly appreciate the momentum and support already expressed by the legislator and hope this letter builds on the need to acquire the Wayne Lands. If you have any questions, please contact me at 206-999-8835 or andy.rheaume@ci.bothell.wa.us.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Andy Rheaume".

Andy Rheaume
Bothell City Council Member

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