



STATE OF WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON STATE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

7150 Cleanwater Drive SW • P.O. Box 42650 • Olympia, Washington 98504-2650 • (360) 902-8500
Internet Address: <http://www.parks.wa.gov> - TDD: (360) 664-3133

May 18, 2006

Item E-4: Lake Sammamish Major Facilities Screening – Requested Action

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: This item asks the Commission to amend the list of major facilities it authorizes staff to incorporate into master development planning in order to align public expectations with the capital investment the Commission intends in the park. This item complies with our Centennial 2013 Plan element, “Your Legacy- Renewed Traditions.”

SIGNIFICANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Adoption of Park Vision

In February 2005, the Commission adopted a narrative vision for Lake Sammamish State Park (Appendix 1). The action also approved a list of major facilities to incorporate into master development planning and declared the park, as envisioned, consistent with its Centennial 2013 Vision. This decision marked the culmination of a yearlong effort by staff and the park’s advisory committee to screen a myriad of development proposals and come to a vision for the park with broad-based public support.

Existing and Anticipated Funding

Following Commission adoption of the park’s vision, members of the park’s advisory committee strongly advocated for funding of a master development plan and completion of environmental analyses as required by SEPA. Project consultants estimated the cost of this work would exceed \$1 million and include preparation of an environmental impact statement. After a committee-led bid for funding from the 2004-05 Legislature proved unsuccessful, the Director allotted \$30,000 from existing sources to keep the project alive. At the same time, the Commission adopted its Centennial 2013 Plan capital budget priorities, flagging \$5 million in the “major park expansions” category for redevelopment of Lake Sammamish State Park.

Current Situation

To better reflect anticipated capital investment, bring into proportion the cost of environmental analyses, and regain momentum, staff has worked with the advisory committee to “right size” the scope of major facilities to include in the remaining planning effort. At its March 1, 2006 meeting, the advisory committee re-evaluated all Commission-authorized facilities using criteria derived directly from the adopted park vision (Appendix 2). From this evaluation, the committee and staff prioritized and pared the list of prospective facilities to the revised list recommended below.

Anticipated Next Steps and Commission Activity

Following Commission action on this item, staff will work with the advisory committee to conduct a public planning process. This work will culminate in preparation of a master development plan proposal by the end of this biennium (June 2007). Depending on the complexity and cost of environmental analyses and review, staff will bring the proposal to the Commission for adoption late in the current biennium or early in the 2007-09 biennium should additional funds be required.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends reducing the list of major facilities from thirteen to ten that the Commission authorizes staff to incorporate in the master development planning for Lake Sammamish to include:

1. Natural Resource Restoration;
2. Interpretive Facilities;
3. Waterfront Activity Center – Rowing and Kayaking Boathouse;
4. Waterfront Activity Center – Café/Concession;
5. Fishing Pier;
6. Sunset Beach Boardwalk/Bathhouse;
7. Regional Trailhead;
8. Rustic Retreat and Group Camping Area;
9. Urban RV Campground with Meeting Hall and Ancillary Support Facilities; and
10. Large-Scale Picnic Area Rentals.

The revised list removes *Boating Center (dry rack motor boat storage)* and *Indoor Multipurpose and Soccer Arena* from further consideration and incorporates *Environmental Learning Center* as an element in facilities park-wide. Staff recommends that *Waterfront Activity Center - Cafe/Concession* be retained for further consideration to not preclude consideration of food service in the park entirely - even though it scored lower than the *Indoor Multipurpose and Soccer Arena*. The revised list also presumes and retains for consideration a facility, or portion of another facility, for support of recreation and conservation partner organizations operating in and around the park. This includes space for groups to meet, store equipment, provide interpretive programming, and administrative space for onsite staff/volunteer activities.

Staff further recommends that the Commission affirm its declaration that the park, as envisioned and with the reduced scope of facilities, remains consistent with its Centennial 2013 Vision.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION:

1. Appendix 1: Adopted Vision for Lake Sammamish State Park
2. Appendix 2: Evaluation Criteria and Scores for Major Facilities Proposals

REQUESTED ACTION OF COMMISSION:

That the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission:

1. Consider views submitted by any person on staff's recommendation;
2. Approve the revised list of facilities staff is authorized to explore during master development planning;
3. Affirm that the revised list does not adversely effect the park's consistency with the Commission's Centennial 2013 Vision; and
4. Extend its gratitude to the Lake Sammamish State Park Advisory Committee for its continued efforts on behalf of Lake Sammamish State Park.

Author: Peter Herzog, Parks Planner
Peter.Herzog@parks.wa.gov Telephone: (360) 902-8652

Reviewer(s)

SEPA Review: Following review, staff has determined the action proposed for the Commission by staff is in compliance with the State Environmental Policy Act.

Fiscal Impact Review: This action would have no impact on current biennium operating or capital budgets. Future impacts are subject to legislative appropriation of capital funds in later biennia.

Larry Fairleigh, Parks Development Service Center Assistant Director

Judy Johnson, Deputy Director _____

Approved for Transmittal to Commission

Rex Derr, Director

APPENDIX 1

Lake Sammamish State Park Vision

In 2004, the Lake Sammamish State Park Advisory Committee (Advisory Committee), a diverse group of elected officials and community leaders from Issaquah, Sammamish, and the King County region worked with Washington State Parks to help plan the future of Lake Sammamish State Park. The thirteen-member panel completed a yearlong process to evaluate potential park facilities and craft a vision for renewal and natural restoration of the aging park facility. The Committee's deliberations incorporated input received during numerous public committee meetings and workshops, hundreds of written public comments, and an online survey of about 1,000 area residents.

In January 2005, the Advisory Committee presented its recommendations to the State Parks and Recreation Commission. Recommendations included a narrative park vision and a list of facilities to incorporate into the next phase of planning. Although the Commission augmented the Advisory Committee's recommendations, the Advisory Committee continues in its support for the adopted vision.

ADOPTED PARK VISION

“Create a park for the 21st century that will be an innovative model for the State's diverse system of recreational, cultural, historical and natural sites. Lake Sammamish State Park will be Washington's signature park for protecting and celebrating urban natural areas, showcasing regionally significant wetlands and wildlife habitat, while enriching the lives of visitors and providing a valued legacy to future generations.”

ADOPTED GOALS

Valued Legacy: Lake Sammamish State Park will draw a large clientele of individuals, families and groups through the creation of a park that models and demonstrates sustainability and natural, area restoration.

Recreation: The park will provide a wide diversity of recreational experiences ranging from quiet and contemplative to highly interactive and organized.

Education: Park development and operation will have passive and organized active learning components focused on the theme of preserving wildlife and the natural state of the land by reducing human impacts, celebrating the park's history, and restoring areas that have been degraded.

Access: The park will welcome and be accessible to people of all means to enjoy, enrich, and celebrate their lives.

Economics: Park development and operation will create a dependable income stream including earned revenue, outside grant funding, and private donations that contribute to the park's vision.

Restoration/Stewardship: Natural areas, restored and enhanced to their optimal state, will interweave with developed areas to create passive and active opportunities for learning and enjoyment. The park will benefit from community partnerships to help protect and enhance its natural areas and wildlife habitat.

Sustainability: Park development and operation will foster an exemplary architectural and landscape legacy, demonstrating leading edge sustainable design and deep respect for the natural environment.

Community: The park will enhance the quality of life for regional visitors and park neighbors, providing high-quality recreation opportunities and natural areas while exceeding local and regional planning goals and regulations.

AUTHORIZED MAJOR FACILITY COMPONENTS

The Commission authorized staff to proceed with master development planning and associated environmental review for Lake Sammamish State Park. Authorized major facilities included for consideration:

1. Urban RV Campground with meeting hall and ancillary support facilities;
2. Sunset Beach Boardwalk/Bathhouse;
3. Waterfront Activity Center – Rowing and Kayaking Boathouse;
4. Waterfront Activity Center – Café/Concession;
5. Rustic Retreat and Group Camping Area;
6. Large-Scale Picnic Area Rentals;
7. Indoor Multipurpose and Soccer Arena;
8. Boating Center (dry rack boat storage, launch, and recovery);
9. Regional Trailhead;
10. Environmental Learning Center;
11. Interpretive Facilities;
12. Fishing Pier; and
13. Natural Resource Restoration.

CONSISTENCY WITH AGENCY'S CENTENNIAL 2013 VISION

The Commission finds the park Potentially Consistent with its Centennial 2013 Vision, believing the park could become Consistent with attainment of the adopted park vision and development of the authorized major facilities. The Commission reserves the option to re-evaluate this finding should further planning, financial evaluation, or environmental review reveal that one or more authorized major facility components are not feasible.

Specific rationales supporting the Commission's finding include:

- The park has potential to become the state's signature park for protection, restoration, and celebration of urban natural areas, water, and wildlife.
- The park forms the most accessible natural area gateway to the Mountains to Sound Greenway and the Tibbets Creek and Issaquah Creek corridors.
- The park will be a regional recreation destination providing opportunities for learning, cultural celebrations, festivals, and highly demanded recreation pursuits to the state's largest metropolitan area.

APPENDIX 2

Lake Sammamish State Park

Evaluation Criteria and Advisory Committee Scores for Major Facility Proposals

Valued Legacy: Facility will draw a large clientele of individuals, families, and groups while modeling and demonstrating sustainability

Recreation: Facility will help provide a wide diversity of recreational experiences ranging from quiet and contemplative to highly interactive and organized.

Education: Development and operation of facility allows for passive and organized active learning components focused on the theme of preserving wildlife and the natural state of the land by reducing human impacts, celebrating the park's history, and restoring areas that have been degraded.

Access: Facility will welcome and be accessible to people of all means to enjoy, enrich, and celebrate their lives.

Economics: Facility development and operation will contribute to a dependable income stream including earned revenue, outside grant funding, and private donations that contribute to the park's vision.

Restoration/Stewardship: Facility supports active or passive educational or interpretive opportunities oriented towards restoration of natural areas. Facility will support community partnerships to help protect and enhance natural areas and wildlife habitat.

Sustainability: Development and operation of facility fosters an exemplary architectural and landscape legacy, demonstrating leading edge sustainable design and deep respect for the natural environment.

Community: Facility will enhance the quality of life for regional visitors and park neighbors, providing high-quality recreation opportunities and natural areas while exceeding local and regional planning goals and regulations.

Adopted Park Vision: "Create a park for the 21st century that will be an innovative model for the State's diverse system of recreational, cultural, historical and natural sites. Lake Sammamish State Park will be Washington's signature park for protecting and celebrating urban natural areas, showcasing regionally significant wetlands and wildlife habitat, while enriching the lives of visitors and providing a valued legacy to future generations."

