

# Westport Light Public Comments

February 2025 – April 2025

Commissioners,

As a full time resident, and adjacent property owner, to Westport Light State Park, I wish to make my support of the development of the Park known to you. While I have no financial interest in the Park development, I am a frequent visitor and worry that currently the Park is being allowed to erode into the sea. Frequent wood removal from the dunes goes on with little oversight from the Park Rangers. I have a direct view of the Southern mile of the Park's beach area and several times a week, trucks roll in, at all hours, and people saw up, and drive away with, the natural erosion barrier of driftwood. There does not seem to be a State plan as to mitigation of vandalism along with natural dune erosion. Having a vendor in the Park that has a financial interest in protecting the park, using non taxpayer funds, is critical. Please place your support in the development of Westport Light State Park going forward. <sup>1</sup>

When will comment be open on the EIS for this project?

I thought I had submitted general comments about this during 2024 but I do not see them in your list of comments on line here

<https://parks.wa.gov/about/strategic-planning-projects-public-input/projects/westport-light-state-park-planning>

My comments in brief -

This area is subject to storm inundation and should not be developed. The armoring that would need to be done to protect the golf course would ruin the natural area. The highest and best use of this ocean front area is an open dune area for the public to use. Golf is not water dependent, especially salt water. A golf course could be located on upland space that is not fragile and is not unique in its value.

I question why Parks is in the business of developing a golf course at all. Golf is not an activity that is open to a wide range of people. It costs money and it appears the entry or membership for this course would be restrictive.

Here is the Parks Mission and Vision. I do not see how this fits in any way with these.

## **Mission**

The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission cares for Washington's most treasured lands, waters, and historic places. State parks connect all Washingtonians to their diverse natural and cultural heritage and provide memorable recreational and educational experiences that enhance their lives.

## **Vision**

Washington's state parks will be cherished destinations with natural, cultural, recreational, artistic, and interpretive experiences that all Washingtonians enjoy, appreciate, and proudly support. <sup>2</sup>

When will the EIS for the Westport Links course be out? How many days to comment? <sup>3</sup>

When is this Complaint litigated? [040224 20240329 Complaint + Exhibits Final.pdf](#) <sup>4</sup>

I am writing in OPPOSITION to the Westport Golf Links project. These are rich developers that DO NOT LIVE HERE. Ryann Day lives on a golf course in Seattle and decided he wanted one near his

vacation home in Westport. Is he willing to move here? Send his kids to school here? No, he is not. But he's willing to develop a State Park that should be conserved as a natural wild space- for his enjoyment, along with other wealthy vacation home owners. He is blowing smoke and mirrors to our community- and trying to sell this golf course project on fixing noxious weeds or creating fire barriers within the park.

People love Westport for its wild spaces and solitude. I live here because it's small, quiet, and still affordable. (It's already unaffordable for some.) There are over 2700 recreational and commercial fishing jobs in our marina- a golf course is not going to solve any problems- it's only going to create more problems. It's the green light for the development and gentrification of this lovely city.

The impact during construction alone is anxiety inducing. Putting in more structures- a concession stand, surf shack, cabins or other lodging (all this from Ryann's presentation in March 2025 at the Chateau Westport) will take AWAY from local surf shops, local restaurants and businesses. The surf break at Westport is already very crowded during many months of the year. This will just add more crowds. Our State Park beach is a limited resource- it deserves to be protected, not developed.

In Washington we are lucky that much of the NW coast is either a park or Native land- it is undeveloped, natural, and beautiful. Just look at SEABROOK, to see how development can ruin what was once a majestic stretch of coastline. Perhaps they should consider building a course there- a town full of vacation homes for the wealthy.

Please keep golf out of our state park. It is not necessary or inclusive. <sup>5</sup>

I want to express my displeasure and opposition to the proposed Westport Golf Course. Harm to wetlands and pesticide laden stormwater runoff from golf course herbicides, insecticides, rodenticides, used to maintain golf courses will cause irreversible harm to the dune ecosystem. Less people will be able to use the park, and any revenue will wane and not offset the cost by enhancing travel to Westport.

I urge the State Parks to deny this project and keep the park open for the public, rather than a handful of elite golfers. <sup>6</sup>

Hi I am here to comment on the proposal for the golf course. I think it would be the best thing that westport has seen. I am a lifelong resident and it needs jobs lots of jobs. The fishermen are being put out of work by regulations and natives that get access to the resource earlier. It needs to happen the area is overgrown compared to the pictures of the area in the 50s. Everyone I know in westport is excited about it but keeps getting delayed by the people who pick fights just to stop progression. There is only worries that there might be environmental effects I think the good outweighs the bad. I hope to hear that the project is a go and has a start date. <sup>7</sup>

Hi,  
Can you please add me to your (or the applicant's) interested parties contact list for the proposed golf links course EIS review and public comment? <sup>8</sup>

Why is the public not aware there is active litigation? <sup>9</sup>

Can AI be used to review the document? <sup>10</sup>

Just writing to express displeasure with what seems to be public state park property being turned over to someone to make a profit from. The land in question does not need people hitting balls

around. Golf is not an option for most people. Golf is an elitist waste of space. People should be coming to Westhaven & Westport Lighthouse Park to visit nature and enjoy the wildness of it all. Not arriving for tee times. Found this email through the Westport City page link. Not sure if this is a proper place for disapproval, but I figure the more people I express this to, the better chance we have of not losing what is currently public land to a private money grab. Would be very disappointing.<sup>11</sup>

Hi there!

Just wanted to shout out my support for the Golf Links proposal at Westport. This kind of investment brings multiple opportunities beyond that of just golf including to boost the local economy (including towns along the way to Westport), managed preservation of the dunes and local education and recreational activities.

While any new project in such a sensitive area requires careful planning and ongoing management, I am sure that the golf management team are well aware of the necessity to keep this area pristine as it is a key part of the draw card for this investment.

Kind Regards<sup>12</sup>

Planning staff,

Is the golf course footprint east of the 2023 SCL? Is there a 2024 SCL survey that has been completed?

<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/mapviewer/index.html?webmap=b5748bb6924f4c3e95f8f494eecbe2dc><sup>13</sup>

Can the proposed golf course encroach upon the SCL?<sup>14</sup>

We are writing today to express our opposition to the proposed development of a golf course at Westport Light State Park for the following reasons:

1. We do not believe that Washington State Parks should sell or transfer land of any sort for development.
2. The location of this subject golf course must undoubtedly be at risk for impact from climate change so development is a ridiculous idea.
3. The development, maintenance, and use of the golf course will undoubtedly have negative environment impacts including pesticide use, trash, golf balls entering the ocean, etc. There are wetlands in the proposed development area that must be left alone. Please leave the park land for less-impactful use such as hiking as well as wildlife viewing and habitat.
4. We currently visit this area as tourists for its charm, wildlife, and serenity. We believe this proposal is a terrible idea and we will stop visiting if it progresses.<sup>15</sup>