

Westport Light State Park Public Comments

June 6 – July 11, 2025

Dear Washington State Parks,

I am writing to express my support for the golf course project at Westport Light State Park as long as extensive habitat restoration, vegetation removal, trail building, and other public recreational amenities at the park are included in the project.

My family has lived and fished in Westport since the 1950s, and we own a house on Ocean Ave near the project location. I do not golf, but I use the park regularly and would very much like to see the invasive, overcrowded plants in the park cleaned up and more trails and recreational infrastructure added to this large area of state public lands that is mostly un-utilized.

As a natural resources professional, I can say with full confidence this park is in no way a healthy dunes and wetlands ecosystem as some commenters are claiming. It is choked with invasive scotch broom and overgrown shore pine, and deserves real habitat restoration work.

I run through the park regularly and there are currently only two halfway decent dirt trails plus the paved beach trail. This is a very sad lack of amenities for such an excellent location, where there is room for miles of trail and walking paths through restored dune, wetland, and shore pine habitats as well as ocean and town views. Sadly with recent state budget cuts expected to continue for years, State Parks is in no place to restore or develop this area to its full potential on your own.

I strongly support allowing the golf course to proceed as long as the project also cleans up the park environment, adds recreational amenities for the public, and supports the Westport economy.

Thank you for accepting my comments. ¹

I am very concerned about the environmental impacts of the proposed golf project. I am especially concerned about exacerbating the soil erosion in the area with what is planned. This is a truly unnecessary project with many issues that concern this long time Harbor woman. ²

I oppose the golf course. ³

Golf is incompatible with this precious shoreline park. ⁴

Pleas ⁵

Hello,

I'm writing in support of the proposed Westport Golf Links development. Having a sustainable, world class option for links golf on the Washington coast would be amazing, and I and many others would make this an annual trip if this project is completed. While its always important to weigh the environmental impact of any development, in this case I feel that the benefits outweigh the negative impacts, and this seems like a real opportunity to rehabilitate a large area that has been completely choked out by non-native invasive plant species, and open up the entire State Park to increased usership.

Especially given our current budgetary climate, it seems extremely unlikely there will be a similar opportunity to rehabilitate the Westport Lights State Park area in the next decade that does not include the development of a golf course. This is also an opportunity to leverage the revenue the golf course will generate to invest in public use facilities like bathrooms, snack shacks, trails etc that non-golf users of the State Park (surfers, walkers, beach visitors, birders, people fishing etc) will be able to leverage to improve the experience of everyone using this public space.

I fully support this project and look forward to the benefit to the general public this project will bring similar to what we've seen with mixed use golf projects like Chambers Bay, The Commons at Sand Valley, and many other projects currently in progress that follow this model of incorporating a golf course into a larger public space development.

Thank you ⁶

I just heard about the proposal to sell the Westport light State Park to a proposed golf park builder.

I am shocked the state would even consider this, considering the environmental and financial impact to the area.

Please do your research and you will see them many many reasons we should keep this state park and the many reasons we should not have a golf course here, it's too critical of an area. ⁷

Dear friends,

I am writing to voice my concern about the proposed golf course in Westport. I am a current resident of Westport and moved here for the natural beauty and the surf opportunities. I am also an avid golfer.

I believe that a golf course would be detrimental for wildlife, flora, the coast line, and marine life. A golf course would also eliminate access by the public and educational/recreational opportunities for Washingtonians in favor of private recreation for wealthy people. Once a golf course goes in, there will not be walking along paths or

picnics on greens as imagined by the developers; even a dirt berm around a path can't correct errant golf balls and golfers who are entitled to exclusive use because of fees.

I'm also concerned that the proposed development removes access to the beach for 'ordinary' citizens and favors paying golfers.

I am very concerned that this project, if allowed to proceed, would eventually become financially unviable and the taxpayers will have to pick up the cost to mitigate environmental impact and coastal erosion. Perhaps you have not experienced winter and spring in Westport (or even summer). I can't see golfers paying to play in 35+mph gales and torrential rain when they could drive an hour inland to several beautiful courses with better and more predictable weather. In addition, though the developers claim the course will create job opportunities, there are already so many employees required during the summer season that the fisheries bring in foreign workers; there is also not enough affordable housing for low wage employees or indeed for anyone.

Westport Lighthouse and Westhaven State park are treasures. The beaches are well used and accessible to all in all weather, not to mention the dollars that the surf industry brings to the local economy. Please don't allow this beautiful landscape to become a private site available only to people who have money.

There are many, many golf courses with an easy drive of Westport. We don't need another one.

Please keep the parks for all Washingtonians and preserve this amazing part of the coast.

Thank you, ⁸

I strongly oppose the proposed golf course project at Westport Light State Park, and urge you to not move forward with this project. I regularly drive several hours to visit this state park because of its natural beauty and its opportunities for birdwatching, wildlife viewing, and nature-based recreation. These visits also bring in economic benefits to the city of Westport, where I visit restaurants, stores, and hotels. If this park is turned into a golf course, I will likely no longer be visiting the park nor the city of Westport, because of the ecological damage that it will cause and the loss of this natural landscape, rare ecosystems, and beautiful views. Turning over a public park open for all residents and visitors, into a commercial enterprise for a limited group of people, especially one with such significant land-use footprint and environmental harm, is entirely inappropriate and it does not serve the public interest. We are in a nature crisis, and we can create a more sustainable and economically-sound future for the region by investing in nature, and nature-based tourism. A better path forward for the park is through protection and restoration, and attracting more people to this park and to Westport to experience the increasingly rare natural beauty that our state has to offer, and which Washington State Parks has an obligation to protect and improve for the future. ⁹

Greetings Tom,
Please accept the attached comment letter from Quinault regarding the Westport Golf Links Project DEIS.

Thank you, ¹⁰

I missed the comment period, but wanted to express my concern about potentially losing the state park lands in Westport.

I moved to Westport almost 4 years ago. Some of biggest reasons I chose Westport over Ocean Shores is the size of the town and the fact that we are not as touristy as Ocean Shores. It's very much a small town atmosphere.

I would really hate to lose all the natural areas around here. I am also concerned about where all the animals will go, and all the potential toxins that might be used which will ultimately end up in the ocean.

I am strongly opposed to selling the state park acreage to someone willing to completely change the landscape of this community.

Thanks, ¹¹

It would be an unfortunate and unforced tragedy for this project to forward. The loss of shared and public spaces for a golf course is clueless and unforgivable.

I was just recently in the Westport Light State Park for the very first time and found this shared and open space including the trail system to a magnificent experience. They are not making anymore locations such a Westport Light State Park. Once this is taken, it will never be replaced.

I live in King County and the mantra here is density at all cost and the removal of shared and open spaces are a feature and not a bug.

Please learn the failure governance lessons from King County and stop the project. ¹²

I attended the June 9th Westport City Council meeting re: the golf course proposal in Westport. I am writing in support of M. Anderson's message and comments in opposition to the project. I further support the slide presentation provided by The Drift and other concerned citizens. Please view the recording of the meeting with special attention to the slide presentation and comments. The golf project is flawed and will harm the State Park and Westport.

Thank you. ¹³

Dear Park Commissioners:

I attended the June 9th City Council meeting and am writing in support of Anderson's message and comments. re: the proposed Westport Golf Project. Please also view the

provided presentation. I believe it contains cogent reasons for rejecting this flawed project that will harm the State Park and Westport.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely Yours,

[Original Message tag redacted]

Greetings park commissioners:

I attended and spoke at the June 9 City of Westport council meeting. There were many individual speakers and a presentation by Westport and regional advocates beginning at 1:47. I would ask that commissioners find the time to review the presentation, if not all the individual speakers prior to the presentation.

The topic was Westport Light State Park and the DEIS for the golf links proposal.

Since parks weren't present, I think it would benefit commissioners to watch the recording. [AV Capture All](#)

I would also strongly urge you to take a moment to review what Floridians have accomplished in just one year to protect their state parks. Gov. DeSantis was proposing development in 9 state parks, including numerous golf courses and large hotels. Floridians and organizations like Surfrider were able to thwart this effort and passed The State Park Preservation Act. [Victory in Florida: Permanent Protections Keep State Parks Wild](#)

People do not want their parks developed. Not in Florida and most certainly not in Washington. ¹⁴

Please don't make Washington like FL in giving away our state park land for development that can only be enjoyed by a few! ¹⁵

NO to building a golf course at Westport Light State Park!!! This is critical habitat for shorebirds and must remain undeveloped to protect these vital birds! ¹⁶

I am trying to find the right place to voice my concern and opposition to the proposed Westport Light House Golf links in Westport, WA. The proposed plans is Scottish Links like the one in Brandon Oregon. This location not only uses the whole perimeter of the 560 acres, they only want to use 230 acres but it's along the path that many visit each day, wheelchairs, strollers, walkers all ages all types of users. The links would take away this view, plus there are many environmental issues at hand erosion of our coastline (serious concern) disturbing fragile ecosystem that keeps Westport from flooding those are the wetlands holding back the ocean from flooding, plus all the displacement of species. The use of pesticide that will run into the ocean contaminating the sea life and the recreation of the surfers. So much of this project is wrong. The links people believe it will bring commerce, economic growth to Westport. The jobs promised (it would only be service jobs) for low wages, no place to live housing is a huge problem here. So many issues. Please talk with Friends of Grays Harbor, The Surf Riders Association, Audubon Society, The Westport Aquarium owner , The Drift, read all the letters submitted to Westport City Council. They have held a few meeting and citizens of Westport

have written letters, gave power point presentations bringing up valid evidence of why this project should be denied.

Please let me know whom else to write and I ask the Commissioners to vote No on this project.

Thank you

Resident of Westport for over 15+ years ¹⁷

Opposed to Westport Lighthouse Golf Links.

So much of this project is wrong deny the idea of erosion? Deny that it's a wetland? Deny that removing the vegetation won't disturb ecosystem? deny that the pesticides used won't seep into aquifers and run off into the ocean potential harm to marine life and other on land species? Deny that adding kiosks won't be an eye sore ? Deny that they only want 230 acres , but they use the whole perimeter. Exclusively for golfers only? I am for adding new trails from the light house but leave the existing trail as is cause it's used by all walkers, seniors with walkers, strollers, wheelchairs everyone gets to feel and see the ocean view, see wildlife!! Having the golf course having the whole perimeter, putting up kiosks, nets for golf range , expensive for locals, taxes on the rise for the community. Instead think of other alternatives like build trails throughout the park self guided trails, build a building that will house that has view of the ocean listening concerts, lectures watching eagles, pelican, seagulls occasional whale . Keep this place unique and understand many visitors enjoy this path. Library uses the trail for a story time enjoyed by all!! No to the golf links plenty of other golf courses in the area that need the commerce.. Highlands in Cosmopolis, Ocean Shores, Elma use those places for those golf enthusiasts. ¹⁸

Please don't let the golf course be built here! We frequent the park all the time. We are long holders of discover passes. There are way too many golf courses around. This is a special paved trail where I've taken many photos. I'm a senior citizen and I have arthritis and I find the trails accessible to me. It would break our hearts to lose this view of the ocean. ¹⁹

Rebuttal to Westport Golf Links CEO Response
to June 9 City Council Presentation by local residents

The June 9 presentation by local and regional residents was responded to by the CEO of Westport Golf Links. I include the first and last paragraphs of this response here:

First.Paragraph;

Formal.Response.from.Westport.Golf.Links.(WGL).Re;June.9thWestport.City.Council.Presentation

The.June.9th.presentation.at.the.Westport.City.Council.meeting.was.deeply.disappointing.in.both.tone.and.content;Rather.than.offering.a.balanced.discussion?it.relied.heavily.on.emotional.appeals?speculative.scenarios?and.factual.distortions.that.do.a.disservice.to.the.community;We.wholeheartedly.encourage.thoughtful.debate.and.concern– these.are.critical.to.a.healthy.public.process;However?we.are.disappointed.that.this.presentation.leaned.into.distortion.and.untruths.rather.than.facts.and.solutions;Residents.of.Westport.deserve.better– more.honest.dialogue?more.respect.for.the.public's.intelligence?and.a.greater.commitment.to.truth;When.well_intentioned.citizens.

are misled by misinformation? it delays progress? undermines collaboration? and sows unnecessary division over a proposal that is grounded in extensive science? stewardship? and community benefit?

Last Paragraph;

Conclusion;

The June 9 presentation offered a mixture of outdated references? emotional speculation? and factual distortion. Westport Golf Links represents a modern model of public-private partnership that enhances conservation? access? and economic vitality in harmony with the Washington coast.

I am surprised by the CEO of Westport Golf Links' (WGL) characterization of the June 9 public presentation at the Westport City Council meeting. To dismiss this long-awaited opportunity for citizen engagement as "emotional," "speculative," and "misleading" is both inaccurate and disrespectful to the many community members who participated thoughtfully and in good faith.

For the past few years, proponents of the golf course have enjoyed repeated access to City leadership and State Parks officials, offering glossy presentations and optimistic projections with limited critical scrutiny. The June 9 meeting was the first formal opportunity for residents and concerned citizens to present a collective, research-informed perspective on why the Westport Golf Links proposal may not serve the best interests of the park, the coastline, or the community.

The CEO letter states: »;.;.we are disappointed that this presentation leaned into distortion and untruths rather than facts and solutions. Residents of Westport deserve better— more honest dialogue? more respect for the public's intelligence? and a greater commitment to truth.

This sentence is condescending in tone and accusatory in content—it suggests that the presenters were dishonest or manipulative, and implies that the public was misled or not smart enough to see through it.

The presentation was not a distortion. It raised specific concerns—including ecological impacts on rare dune systems, questions about water usage, the privatization of public lands, flood concerns and other aspects. Forecasting based on science is how we responsibly consider future outcomes. After all that's what the AECOM Coastal Study 2022 is all about—forecasting with scientific models.

Interestingly, WGL wasn't satisfied with the AECOM report so they hired Herrera to produce a Westport Discipline Report 2023 which gave them a different erosion forecast. Scientific forecasting and modeling is standard practice, it is all we have to study possible futures. Which one is correct? We won't know until it happens.

Residents offered valid policy questions, rooted in science, precedent, and a commitment to responsible stewardship of public resources.

To claim that citizen voices “delay progress” and “sow division” suggests that community—or rather specific voices—is viewed as an obstacle. Westport residents deserve a decision-making process that values public oversight, ecological integrity, and long-term consequences—not one that rushes toward commercial development with one narrative and one vision.

The June 9 presentation was relevant and appropriate public participation. To claim otherwise is a deliberate attempt by WGL to discredit legitimate concern and control the narrative around this project. If WGL truly respected the public’s intelligence, it would welcome scrutiny, not try to silence it with condescension.

I urge the City of Westport and Washington State Parks to consider what this dismissive response reveals about WGL’s approach—and to ask whether this is the kind of partner who should be entrusted with the future of a treasured public park.

Thank you,²⁰