



## KITSAP COUNTY PARKS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

**DATE:** Wednesday, September 20, 2023

**TIME:** 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

**LOCATION:** This is a hybrid meeting. It will be held in-person at the Eagle’s Nest Community Center (1195 Fairgrounds Road, Bremerton) and on Zoom.

Zoom link will be posted on the [home page](#) of Kitsap County Parks website on the day of the meeting. The link is the bottom right-hand side under the heading: **Upcoming Parks Advisory Board Meeting**.

Pre-Meeting: Virtual meeting format, information, and instructions

- I. Welcome & Introductions
- II. Adoption of the August 16, 2023 meeting minutes
- III. Public Comment (3-minute limit/person)
- IV. Special Presentations/Reports
  - a. Sponsored Events *Alex Hardy*
  - b. PROS Plan *Chris Overdorf, SCJ Alliance*
- V. Parks Report
  - a. Director’s Report *Alex Wisniewski*
- VI. Sub Committee Reports
- VII. District Representative Reports
  - a. Old Business
  - b. New Business
- VIII. Public Comment (3-minute limit/person)
- IX. Adjournment

Sub Committee	Type	Focus Area	PAB Members	Parks Staff <i>(may vary by topic)</i>
Finance & Budget	Standing (per by laws)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Operating Budget</li> <li>• Funding Opportunities</li> </ul>	Linda Berry-Maraist Grady Martin Jon Pearson	Parks Director
Capital Projects & Parks	Standing (per by laws)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capital Projects Program</li> <li>• M&amp;O Program</li> </ul>	Larry Walker Nancy Whitaker Grady Martin Jon Pearson	Capital Projects Planner M&O Supervisor
Community Outreach & Visitor Services	Ad Hoc	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Events and Rentals Program</li> <li>• Marketing</li> <li>• Volunteer Program</li> <li>• Youth Engagement</li> </ul>	Nancy Whitaker Amy Lawrence Amy Smalley Lisa Hurt	Marketing & Events Supervisor Natural Resources Supervisor
Planning & Property	Ad Hoc	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning Program</li> <li>• Natural Resources Program</li> <li>• Land Acquisition &amp; Divestiture</li> <li>• Park Code</li> </ul>	Linda Berry-Maraist Amy Lawrence Joanne Clark Lisa Hurt	Parks Planner Natural Resources Supervisor

# KITSAP COUNTY PARKS ADVISORY BOARD

August 16, 2023

## DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 PM by the Parks Advisory Board Chair, Joanne Clark. Guidelines of the hybrid Advisory Board Meeting were read.

### WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES | ACTION:** *Grady Martin motioned to adopt July 19, 2023, meeting minutes. Lisa Hurt second motion. Motion carried. Minutes approved.*

### PUBLIC COMMENT

- Kim Greenwood, Poulsbo resident, co-founder of Our Forest Fund and co-chair for PGFHP Stewardship group. Attending stewardship group since 2019. Wants PAB to know that she had a good experience with PGFHP stewardship group and that this group fairly represents a variety of users and a various user interest. This group does not represent the view of one group over another.

### SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS-

- Hawks Pond Connection acquisition project update– Since 2022 the Stewardship group, Hansville Greenway Association and Great Peninsula Conservancy have been working on this acquisition project. The acquisition of this 10 acre, undeveloped parcel adjacent to Hansville Greenway will provide connection between upper and lower Hawk's Pond wetland systems for the purpose of preserving wetlands and natural systems. A request was presented to and approved by the Kitsap County Board of Commissioners to use Conservation Futures funding to close the funding gap to acquire the land.

### DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- The first PROS Plan survey went public on July 17. Parks is working hard to collect data from all sources throughout the county. The next phase is a survey to collect community members vision for the KC Parks future. Stakeholder meeting and focus-group opportunities are being scheduled to collect organization perspective regarding the PROS Plan. This data will feed into the Needs Assessment which ultimately leads to the development of the Goals and Objectives.
- 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Kitsap Fair –Parks staff play a significant role in supporting the Kitsap Fair and Stampede Association with this event by preparing the Fairgrounds and facilities, coordinating supplies and deliveries and general support as needed. Director gave a shout out to Parks M&O and Event staff for all the hard work they have provided for the event.

**SUB COMMITTEE REPORTS** – No reports provided.

### DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

South Kitsap – no report

North Kitsap – no report

Central Kitsap – no report

### OLD BUSINESS

- Nancy Whitaker complimented the set up for Whaling Days.
- Larry Walker reported bear sightings at Banner Forest
- Eagle's Nest deck project is on hold due to an error in the public bidding process. The project will be posted again for public bids.

### NEW BUSINESS

- Nancy shared Newberry Hill Stewardship meeting on 8/17 and work party on Saturday 8/19

**ADJOURNMENT | ACTION:** *Larry Walker moved to adjourn the meeting. Lisa Hurt seconded the motion. Motioned carried. The meeting was adjourned at 6:38PM.*

**PARKS ADVISORY BOARD ATTENDANCE**

<b>PAB MEMBERS</b>	<b>STAFF</b>	<b>PUBLIC –</b>
Joanne Clark, Chair	Alex Wisniewski	Virtual meeting public attendee names not captured
Lisa Hurt, Vice-Chair	Alex Hardy	
Larry Walker	Victoria Lehto	
<b>Jon Pearson</b>	Chuck Cuzzetto	
Nancy Whitaker	Aaron Bartleson	
Grady Martin	Brian Hauschel	
Amy Smally	Dee Tuttle	

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**Parks Department**  
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Alex Wisniewski, Director

# Director's Report

**Date:** 9/20/2023  
**To:** Parks Advisory Board  
**From:** Alex Wisniewski, Parks Director

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## Administration Program

### Staffing

Parks currently has four vacancies in critical roles: Natural Resource Supervisor, Forester, Planning and Capital Supervisor, and Capital Projects Specialist. In late August and early September, Parks interviewed applicants for the Natural Resources Supervisor vacancy and offered the position to the chosen candidate, who accepted and is scheduled to begin on October 23. Interviews for the Capital Projects Specialist are scheduled for September 20; the other two positions will be advertised soon.

## Capital Projects Program

### Point No Point Park Beach Rehabilitation

Due to permitting and approval timeline challenges with the US Coast Guard, WDFW, Army Corps of Engineers, and DCD, Parks is pivoting its approach to the project. Phase 1, repair work to bring the beach elevations back to pre-storm levels, requires less permitting and a quicker timeline so we are already moving in this direction with the goal of doing construction as soon as possible. Phase 2 represents a larger project that would provide increased soil stability, redesigning the beach, and rebuilding the rock revetment wall. This level of project will require permitting from each of the agencies and will be worked on over the winter months, targeting construction in summer 2024.

### Eagle's Nest Perimeter Deck Replacement

The initial bid process for the deck replacement had an error, so a new public bid is needed. Parks is working with the County's procurement office to re-bid the project.

### Island Lake Pier Rehabilitation

The fishing pier at Island Lake has been reconstructed, repairing damage from arson activity. Photos of the repaired pier can be seen in *Attachment C*.

### Building Demolitions

Past park acquisitions have included structures that today are in various states of disrepair; there are five structures that have been identified for demolition throughout the Kitsap County Parks system. In advance of publicly bidding the demolitions, staff sought community interest to remove the cabin at the fairgrounds (at no cost to the County). Twelve parties from the community showed initial interest but it waned once the structural

assessment reports and answers to questions were shared, and no one attended the site visit. Staff has also engaged the County’s legal department, DCD, and NOAA (provided grant funding for the parkland acquisition) to assess the viability of repurposing the building at Nick’s Lagoon, as had been desired by park stewards. Among other challenges with the structural integrity of the building, the primary issue prohibiting a repurpose is that using the building as an environmental education center (what has been proposed) would require a change in use from residential to commercial and the review from NOAA and County legal is that the restrictions on the property deed prevent any type of commercial use. Given these due diligence items for the Fairgrounds cabin and the house at Nick’s Lagoon, Parks will look to include these in the upcoming RFQ for demolition of the four facilities.

**Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park – Ride Park and Parking Lots**

*Stottlemeyer Parking Lot and Trailhead (south end of park)*

- The SDAP permit for the Stottlemeyer parking lot and trailhead was approved by DCD. Parks is currently working with the County’s procurement office to prepare the bid documents for the formal bid process to construct the parking lot. Public Works has graciously offered construction management assistance for this project, it is projected to be completed in 2023.

*Ride Park Parking Lot and Trailhead (north end of park)*

- Parks and Public Works are working together to ensure the designs for the parking lot, entrance road, and Sound To Olympics trail are all in alignment with each other. This work is currently underway.

**Marketing and Events Program**

**RecDesk**

Parks Staff are actively processing event reservations for community buildings, picnic shelters, athletic fields, park events, and fairground events. Data on the number of reservations at each of the Parks Facilities is attached, *please see Attachment A.*

- Outward-facing events calendar: [Kitsap County Parks Event Calendar \(kitsapgov.com\)](http://kitsapgov.com)
- Online reservations and payment portal: [Kitsap County Parks > Home \(recdesk.com\)](http://recdesk.com)

**Kitsap Fair**

The past month included the 100<sup>th</sup> annual Kitsap Fair event, hosted by Kitsap Fair and Stampede Association. Parks staff performed their support role well in helping to prepare the grounds and facilities, responded to requests and needs during the event, and have been focused on cleaning efforts to prepare for Fall events. This was a coordinated effort between the M&O and Events staff.

**BoCC-Sponsored Events**

Resolution 065-2021, regarding the sponsorship of Martin Luther King Jr Day, Veterans Day, United Way Day of Caring, FARM Days, Toys for Tots, and Greater Kitsap Chamber of Commerce Military Appreciation Day at the Kitsap County Fairgrounds and Events Center is set to expire at the end of 2023. Parks Staff are evaluating ways this current practice may be updated. Staff met with the Parks Advisory Board sub-committee to discuss possible alternatives, will bring this before the entire Parks Advisory Board in September, and then anticipates bringing this to the BoCC in October of 2023 for consideration.

<b>Event</b>	<b>Status</b>
<i>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</i>	Completed. The event was held on January 16, 2023



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Alex Wisniewski, Director

<i>Military Appreciation Day</i>	Completed. Event was held on March 11, 2023
<i>FARM Days</i>	Completed. Event was held on May 22-23, 2023
<i>United Way Day of Caring</i>	This event has indicated they will not use the Fairgrounds facilities in 2023 as they have in past years.
<i>Veterans Day Ceremony</i>	Confirmed for November 11, 2023
<i>Toys for Tots</i>	Confirmed for December 4-19, 2023

## Maintenance & Operations Program

### Fairgrounds and Events Center

- The past month included the 100<sup>th</sup> annual Kitsap Fair event, hosted by Kitsap Fair and Stampede Association. Parks staff performed their support role well in helping to prepare the grounds and facilities, responded to requests and needs during the event, and have been focused on cleaning efforts to prepare for Fall events. This was a coordinated effort between the M&O and Events staff.
- The scoreboard at the Lobe 1 baseball field stopped functioning in late 2022, it was replaced last week. See *Attachment C* for a photo of the new scoreboard.

### Wildcat Lake Park

The well system at the park received much needed repairs over the past couple of weeks to bring it into compliance with the State Office of Drinking Water and the Kitsap County Health Department; the work is anticipated to conclude soon.

### Athletic Fields

Parks performs routine maintenance to all athletic fields across the park system twice each year in the spring and fall. For this fall, the work has already begun and is anticipated to conclude by the end of September. This work is coordinated with the Events team as it requires closing the fields to use by local athletic clubs and other users. Parks has fields at the Fairgrounds and Events Center, Anderson Hill Park, South Kitsap Regional Park, Veteran’s Memorial Park, and Bill Bloomquist Rotary Fields.

### Vandalism

The cabins at Calvinwood and the bathroom at South Kitsap Regional Park fell victim to vandalism recently; the cabins were broken into and received some tagging, and the restroom features were heavily damaged and will require replacement – a portalet is in the park until the repairs can be completed.

## Natural Resources Program

### Forest Stewardship Program

#### *Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park*

- Restorative thinning resumed recently and is expected to continue into the fall season. Parks has contracted with Tall Timbers Restoration, LLC to provide

oversight to the operations for the remaining of 2023, which will help staff capacity until the Forester vacancy can be refilled.

**Volunteer Program**

*Work Parties*

- July Activity: 32 work parties (214 YTD)

<b>Location</b>	<b>Work performed by volunteers and staff</b>
Anderson Landing Preserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sign Installation</li> <li>• Hazardous tree removal</li> </ul>
Banner Forest Heritage Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trail work Brushing and Hazards</li> <li>• Illegal dump clean-up</li> </ul>
Buck Lake	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General maintenance of Native plants garden (3 work parties)</li> </ul>
Calvinwood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stewards Open House-All districts</li> <li>• Invasives Removal</li> </ul>
Chico Salmon Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invasive vegetation removal</li> <li>• Prep for Salmon Tours</li> <li>• New Locks/Vandalism</li> </ul>
Coulter Creek Heritage Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invasive vegetation removal</li> </ul>
Erlands Point Preserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Watering young trees ahead of heat wave</li> <li>• Maintain Garry Oak Grove</li> </ul>
Fairgrounds & Events Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disc Golf- fairway maintenance/Mowing</li> </ul>
Guillemot Cove Preserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hazard tree</li> <li>• Hornet nests</li> <li>• Brush trails</li> </ul>
Hansville Greenway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invasive species removal</li> <li>• Hazard tree removal</li> <li>• Trail brushing</li> <li>• Proposed acquisition tours 10ac parcel</li> </ul>
Harper Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interp signs created</li> </ul>
Howe Farm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth Garden work</li> <li>• Hazard Tree removal</li> </ul>
Illahee Forest Preserve Heritage Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Washington Youth Academy work day</li> <li>• Sign prep for installation continues</li> <li>• Homeless camp clean-up</li> <li>• Wheel chair friendly trail scouted and planned for late fall 2023</li> </ul>
Newberry Hill Heritage Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Boardwalk repair- Beaver loop continues</li> <li>• Garry Oak gallery preparation for Fall 23</li> <li>• Invasive vegetation removal</li> <li>• Watering station prepared</li> </ul>
Nick's Lagoon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trail Work</li> </ul>
North Kitsap Heritage Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bridge construction at Norman Crk continues</li> <li>• Invasive vegetation removal</li> <li>• Wheel chair friendly trail option explored</li> </ul>
Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scotch broom removal</li> <li>• Trail camera study-Concludes August 17</li> <li>• Removal of old wire fencing</li> </ul>
Silverdale Dog Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weed Eating</li> </ul>
South Kitsap Regional Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invasives removal</li> </ul>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trail Mapping Finalized</li> <li>• Washington Youth Academy</li> </ul>
Square Lake	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trail brushing</li> <li>• Discover Kitsap Parks- Insects</li> </ul>
Wynn Jones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invasives removal, Trail work</li> <li>• Turnpike repair</li> <li>• Mapping of trail system finalized</li> </ul>
Discover Kitsap Parks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Square Lake- Insect discussion</li> </ul>

<b>Partners worked with this period</b>	<b>Work performed</b>
Mountain Vikes (youth mountain biking club) + D&D mountain Bike Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Installation of a bench and repair station</li> </ul>
Washington Youth Academy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Illahee, SKRP, and Howe Farm</li> </ul>
Mountaineers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trail work at Banner Forest</li> </ul>
Kitsap Live Steamers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Saturday train rides</li> </ul>
DTG Recycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Port-a-potty donation for Salmon Tours</li> </ul>
Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trail Maintenance at ride park</li> </ul>
Olympic College	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chico Salmon Park trail work</li> </ul>
West Sound Disc Golf Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grounds maintenance</li> </ul>
Our Forest Fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invasive vegetation removal Port Gamble</li> </ul>
KPTOS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clean-up Arness after 4<sup>th</sup> of July Fireworks</li> </ul>

## Planning Program

### Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Plan

The PROS plan is in the public engagement and information collection phase currently. On July 7, 2023, the first survey for the PROS plan went public; its purpose is focused on gathering data from community members focused primarily on gathering demographic data of park users, finding out which parks they visit, and what types of activities they enjoy doing. The survey was open for 5 weeks and closed on August 11, 2023 with 2,055 responses. Focus group-style interviews are currently underway as invitations have been sent to stakeholders and meetings are getting scheduled. A second survey is scheduled to go out in October that will be more future-focused and will target data collection pertaining to what the community would like to see from Kitsap County Parks and a third survey will follow that will focus on priorities for capital projects. Engagement with the community is paramount to ensure the PROS plan is formulated with as much public input as possible; Parks is tracking the public outreach activity which can be found in *Attachment B*.

**Reservations**  
**January - September 2023 (273 Days)**

**Athletic Fields**

Facility Name	Reservations
Anderson Hill Athletic Field #1	108
Anderson Hill Athletic Field #2	72
Bill Bloomquist Rotary Field #1	67
Bill Bloomquist Rotary Field #2	68
Gordon Field #1	53
Gordon Field #2	106
Lobe Field #1	246
Lobe Field #4	123
South Kitsap Regional Athletic Field #1	26
South Kitsap Regional Athletic Field #2	34
South Kitsap Regional Athletic Field #3	39
Veterans Memorial Park: Field #1	136
Veterans Memorial Park: Field #2	22
Veterans Memorial Park: Field #3	14
Veterans Memorial Park: Field #4	14
Veterans Memorial Park: Field #5	14
Veterans Memorial Park: Field #6	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>1156</b>

**Community Buildings**

Facility Name	Reservations
Eagles Nest Community Building	168
Island Lake Community Building	174
Long Lake Community Building	79
<b>Total</b>	<b>421</b>

**Picnic Shelters**

Facility Name	Reservations
Buck Lake Picnic Shelter	24
Fairgrounds Log Picnic Shelter	3
Fairgrounds Picnic Shelter	4
Kitsap Kids Playground Picnic Shelter	16
Island Lake Park Picnic Shelter	34
Salsbury Point Picnic Shelter	35
Silverdale Waterfront Gazebo	34
Silverdale Waterfront Picnic Shelter	72
South Kitsap Regional Picnic Shelter	41
Wild Cat Lake Picnic Shelter	23
<b>Total</b>	<b>286</b>

**Fairgrounds and Events Center**

Facility Name	Reservations
Boand Arena	51
Cat Barn	60
Concert Park Field	148
Dog Barn	22
Eagles Nest Field	22
Fairgrounds Disc Golf Course	1
Goat Barn	16
Gordon Field Parking Lot	10
L Barn	9
Lower Bowl	27
North Campgrounds	15
Pavilion	60
Pavilion Conference Room	22
President's Hall	82
President's Hall Field	21
Rabbit Barn	1
Sheep Barn	78
Swine Barn	3
Thunderbird Stadium	17
Van Zee	22
<b>Total</b>	<b>687</b>

**Special Park Events**

Facility Name	Reservations
Buck Lake Park	7
Guillemot Cove Nature Reserve	1
Harper Park	1
Illahee Preserve Heritage Park	4
Island Lake Park	3
Kola Kole Park	1
Long Lake Park	2
Newberry Hill Heritage Park	3
Norwegian Point	1
Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park	25
Salsbury Point Park	1
Silverdale Rotary Gateway Park	4
Silverdale Waterfront Park	22
South Kitsap Regional Park	8
Square Lake Park	2
Wild Cat Lake Park	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>87</b>

**Total Reservations for All Facilities**

<b>Total</b>	<b>2637</b>
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**PROS Public Outreach Tracking**

Topic	Recipient	Delivery Method	Message Date(s)	Notes
Survey 1: Current Use of Parks <i>(Survey open for 5 weeks: 7/7-8/11)</i>	County residents (all; includes Parks subscribers)	GovDelivery	07/08/2023 07/13/2023 07/21/2023 08/03/2023 8/08/2023	
	Volunteers and Stewards contacts	Volgistics database	07/14/2023	Flyers also handed out at work parties
	Events and Facility Rental contacts	RecDesk database	07/14/2023	
	Stakeholders	Email	8/02/2023 9/15/2023	
	Other Parks and Recreation jurisdictions	Email	7/21/2023	
	Parks Advisory Board	Meeting	7/19/2023	
	County residents (all, with broader reach)	Parks Facebook	07/13/2023 07/21/2023 08/01/2023	
	County residents (all, with broader reach)	County Facebook	7/21/2023 8/11/2023	
	County residents (all, with broader reach)	Website	07/08/2023 07/21/2023 (updated)	
	County residents (all, with broader reach)	Flyers/Posters	7/24/2023	Placed in parks, community centers, libraries
Stakeholder Interviews	Athletics Group	Email	Meeting date: 9/21/23 9/22/23	
	Events/Tourism Group	Email	Meeting date: 9/21/23 9/22/23	
	Environmental Group	Email	Meeting date:	



			9/28/23 9/29/23	
	Recreation Group	Email	Meeting date: 9/21/23 9/22/23	
	Stewards/Volunteers Group	Email	Meeting date: 9/28/23 9/29/23	
	Cultural Group	Email	Meeting date: TBD	
	Safety Group	Email	Meeting date: TBD	
	School Districts Group	Email	Meeting date: 9/14/23 9/15/23	Completed
BoCC Interviews	Commissioner Garrido and Rolfes	Email	Meeting on 7/24	
	Commissioner Walters	Email	Meeting on 8/7	
Survey 2: Visioning Parks	County residents (all; includes Parks subscribers)	GovDelivery	TBD (September-October)	
	Volunteers and Stewards contacts	Volgistics database	TBD (September-October)	
	Events and Facility Rental contacts	RecDesk database	TBD (September-October)	
	Stakeholders (see stakeholder list)	Email	TBD (September-October)	
	Other Parks and Recreation jurisdictions	Email	TBD (September-October)	
	Parks Advisory Board	Email	TBD (September-October)	
	County residents (all, with broader reach)	Facebook	TBD (September-October)	
	County residents (all, with broader reach)	Website	TBD (September-October)	
Open Houses	South Kitsap Location: TBD	TBD	Date: TBD (October)	
	Central Kitsap Location: TBD	TBD	Date: TBD (October)	



Kitsap County Parks Department | 614 Division Street MS-1 | Port Orchard, WA 98366

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	North Kitsap Location: TBD	TBD	Date: TBD (October)	
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# Fairgrounds and Events Center

New scoreboard at Lobe 1  
ballfield



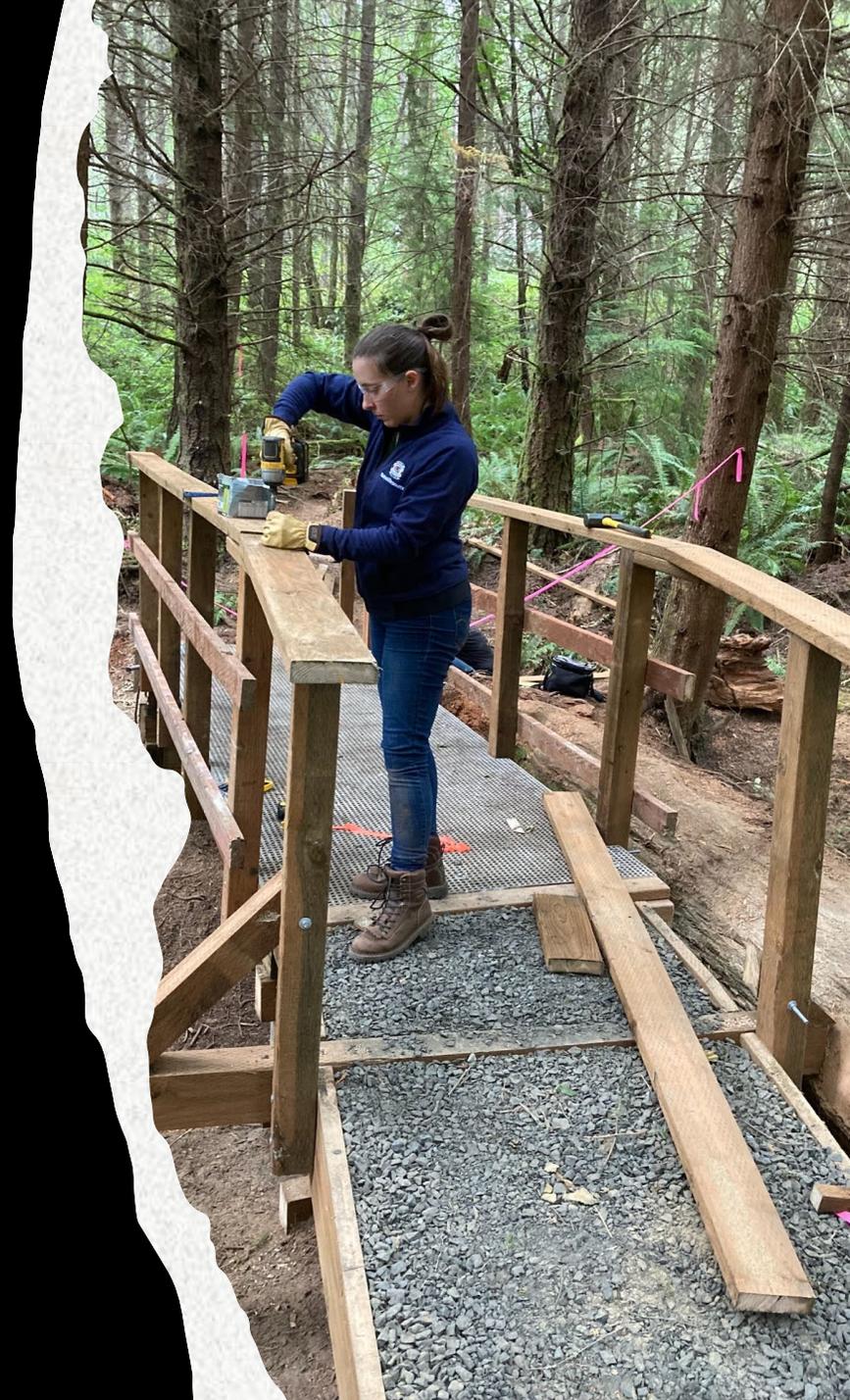
# Island Lake Park

Re-build fishing pier, damaged due to arson activity



# North Kitsap Heritage Park

New bridge over stream for  
re-routed Cross Country  
Trail





# Illahee Forest Preserve Heritage Park

Washington Youth  
Academy doing trail work

This letter is to follow up on the 9/11/23, Monday evening meeting of the Pt Gamble Forest Heritage Park (PGFHP) Stewards Committee that I attended. Although I am on the board of Kitsap Environmental Coalition (KEC), the comments that follow are my own.

During the committee meeting, minimal time was allotted for public comments; I had stated that I wanted to wait to the end of the meeting for my input. A couple of minutes after 8:00 pm, officially the end of their meeting, Kelly called for public comments. Since I had to get up very early the next morning, I noted in the chat function that I would send an email instead. The following points are concerns that I *would* have liked to bring up during the meeting.

- I overheard a recent comment that there has been “another (bike) accident” at PGFHP. Was there an accident? Was EMS called? Are there public records kept on the history of these accidents?
- The new Volunteer Handbook appears to be a means of freezing out the input of residents. If you volunteer and carry out the work deemed important by the Parks staff and show up to committee meetings-- only then will you have any say in what is done in County Parks. How can residents bring real meaningful change to our county parks?
- This point brings me to a most basic concern that I have commented on in the past. I have attached my email to the BoCC from 6/26/23 that includes “Capture of Parks for Private Benefit.” The so-called “public-private” partnerships that have invaded all levels of government are corrupting and compromising our public commons. By way of example, 2 of the 3 chairs for the PGFHP Stewards Committee include a mountain bike business owner and a person who worked many years for Pope Resources and Rayonier, and who continues to act as a liaison between the committee and the park. The committee membership has been dominated by the same group of people for more than 15 years. While they applaud themselves as a good team, they are actually a monopoly made up of reps from mountain biking interests, corporate interests such as Rayonier/Raydient, and those deeply committed to the STO/NSTO going through the middle of our two heritage parks. Residents are viewed as “outsiders” by stewards, while mountain bikers consider themselves to be the owners of PGFHP. But they are *not*.
- When we tried to comment on trail building at PGFHP, we were told that the stewards committee meeting was not the place to discuss trails, and were advised to attend the trails sub-committee meetings. In August and again in September, several of us used the links posted on KC Parks calendar in an attempt to attend trails meetings. Both times we “sat” in the zoom waiting room; turned out there were no meetings, and the public was never notified about this.
- See next page for PGFHP trails comments and questions.

There are so many issues at PGFHP that reflect deeper problems within Kitsap County Parks Department. A revised Mission Statement would broaden the focus of KC Parks to prioritize the residents of Kitsap County, and focus on the restoration and conservation of all its parklands.

*The Kitsap County Parks Department is committed to providing quality-of-life enhancing opportunities through the management of natural areas and specialized facilities, fostering community stewardship, and offering an outstanding service-oriented environment. (Current KC Parks Mission Statement)*

Because of the profound loss of wildlife habitat and species, and climate change impacts-- due primarily to humans-- this mission statement needs updating. The following Mission Statement could easily be applied to KC Parks. KEC proposed this updated version in comments sent for the Comp Plan Update:

**Kitsap County government (KC Parks) exists to protect and promote a safe, healthy, fair, and sustainable relationship among the people, cultures, and natural environment of Kitsap County for current and future generations with attention to climate change and the limits of a healthy ecosystem.**

By shifting our focus away from *use* of parkland toward living “lightly” on the land with reverence and respect, we can become true stewards. We must honor our responsibilities to each other and to life on earth. Idealistic as this may seem, it is imperative; we must change. WE MUST CHANGE.

## Comments and Questions about PGFHP Trails

- Has the sign at the top of Hope Trail been changed from multi-use to bikes only? This has been a subject of discussion in the past as this trail is a machine built mountain bike trail down the hillside that is not safe for walking or riding horses on.
- Beaver Pond Trail continues to be used during mountain biking rallies; trail erosion and gullies, loss of native trail-side vegetation, ripped tree roots, and general trail destruction are a result. Why not route these events via logging road 1100, and avoid Beaver Pond Trail. (Riders would head north from the Model Airplane Field parking lot on the logging road, and make a hard left onto 1100 heading south into the park.)
- Bluff Trail is one of two pedestrian only trails in PGFHP. It is a special trail with mature, towering big leaf maple and cedar trees, native flora and fauna, and forest floor duff not seen on other PGFHP trails. Permitting for ADA accessibility on a section of this trail is being considered by DCD at this time. This may involve machining and widening the trail, and stabilizing the surface with dirt/crushed rock. My concern is that the natural ecology of the area will be compromised. Is this trail that was built in a fragile shoreline area that was meant to be trail free, be considered for ADA accessibility? Please reconsider this.
- Have the paving blocks on Secret Squirrel Trail been removed from the creek areas? If so, what were they replaced with?
- What will the boardwalk look like that has been proposed to go over the stream on Springs Trail? Will there be restoration done in the area by the boardwalk and along the stream?
- What is happening with the drainage/seasonal creek that Wild West Trail cut across?
- Stewards and trail builders have said that after decommissioning of a few trails, they will have reduced the overall number of trails in PGFHP. However, per the 2023-2024 Work Plan, there are more trails being built than are being decommissioned. As an example, Wild West Trail will run from the Ride Park clear down to Stottlemeyer when finished; it will roughly parallel the proposed west side reroute of the STO. Another example is an unnamed trail in pink on the work plan map that roughly parallels logging road 1000, intersecting 1200 on the south end-- it would be entirely new.