

Appendix C: Public Process

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CITY OF SNOHOMISH

Founded 1859, Incorporated 1890

116 UNION AVENUE □ SNOHOMISH, WASHINGTON 98290 □ TEL (360) 568-3115 FAX (360) 568-1375

NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING

SNOHOMISH CITY COUNCIL

in the
George Gilbertson Boardroom
1601 Avenue D

TUESDAY
January 17, 2012
7:00 p.m.

AGENDA

- 7:00 1. **CALL TO ORDER**
- a. Pledge of Allegiance
 - b. Roll Call
- 7:05 2. **APPROVE AGENDA** contents and order
- 7:10 3. **CITIZEN COMMENTS** on items not on the Agenda
- 7:20 4. **NEW EMPLOYEE INTRODUCTIONS**
- 7:25 5. **EXECUTIVE SESSION** – Potential Litigation
6. **ACTION ITEMS**
- 7:40 a. **AUTHORIZE** City Manager to Sign Interlocal Agreement for Water and Wastewater Services (*P. 1*)
- 7:55 b. **AUTHORIZE** Ad Hoc Committee Regarding Lagoon/Pilchuck Audubon Site Plan (*P. 9*)
- 8:10 c. **SELECT** Council Liaisons to Boards and Commissions (*P. 15*)
- 8:25 7. **CONSENT ITEMS**
- a. **AUTHORIZE** payment of claim warrants #48802 through #48892 in the amount of \$760,781.30 issued since the last regular meeting (*P. 15*)

ACTION ITEM 6a

- b. **APPROVE** the minutes of the regular meeting of January 3, 2012 (*P. 27*)
- c. **APPROVE** Planning Manager Reclassification and Upgrade (*P. 41*)

8:30 8. **OTHER BUSINESS/INFORMATION ITEMS**

8:35 9. **COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS/LIAISON REPORTS**

8:45 10. **MANAGER'S COMMENTS**

8:50 11. **MAYOR'S COMMENTS**

8:55 12. **ADJOURN**

NEXT MEETINGS: Tuesday, February 7, 2012, Transportation Benefit District Board meeting at 6 p.m., City Council regular meeting at 7 p.m., in the George Gilbertson Boardroom, Snohomish School District Resource Center, 1601 Avenue D.

The City Council Chambers are ADA accessible. Specialized accommodations will be provided with 5 days advanced notice. Contact the City Clerk's Office at 360-568-3115.

ACTION ITEM 6b

Date: January 17, 2012

To: City Council

From: Ann Stanton, Project Manager

Subject: **Riverfront Park West – Master Planning WTP Lagoon for Multiple Use**

Enthusiasm has been expressed in recent months by Snohomish citizens and members of the Pilchuck Audubon Society to build wildlife viewing overlooks and interpretive signage for the Great Blue Heron rookery near the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant. These proposed projects were inspired by the City's recent improvements to the Snohomish riverfront trail under the State Route 9 bridge across the Snohomish River. The riverfront trail upgrade has made it easier to walk to the beautiful natural areas west of the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant. The former sewage lagoon at the furthest west end of City property is under remediation and currently resembles a wild meadow surrounded by tall trees. Deer and other wildlife frequent the site.

The Pilchuck Audubon Society owns two of the parcels that make up the privately-owned Cemetery Creek wetland located at the creek's confluence with the Snohomish River. The two parcels lie just north of the City's lagoon property. Improvements such as signage, overlooks, and parking on City property have been envisioned to support wider enjoyment of the heron rookery and over one hundred other identified bird species.

REGIONAL TRAIL CONNECTIONS: The lagoon and confluence wetland are uniquely situated at the western terminus of a walking path along the Snohomish riverfront that now extends from Cady Park and continues from the nearly thirty-mile long Centennial Trail now nearing completion.

The Cemetery Creek confluence wetland is probably the highest-quality wetland close to the City's urban growth area and it is identified by the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife Priority Habitats and Species Program as both a "Priority Wildlife Site" and a "Priority Fish Presence." The confluence wetland is considered to be located in a former primary channel of the Snohomish River (now an oxbow) and provides salmon resting and juvenile habitat as well as other water-dependent species. Any recreational facilities must be implemented with careful regard to protecting the natural resources of the wetland.

SNOHOMISH WASTEWATER UTILITY: The lagoon/meadow and adjoining Wastewater Treatment Plant are on property owned by the City of Snohomish Wastewater Utility. The primary purpose of these properties is to support wastewater management activities. This essential primary purpose must be understood and preserved when other uses such as recreation are considered. Two actively-planned wastewater developments proposed for the lagoon site include (1) the Everett wastewater conveyance pipeline that would cross between the lagoon and the confluence wetland, and (2) the proposed modification of the lagoon to treat piped City stormwater through a series of ponds and channels before it is released into the Snohomish River.

ACTION ITEM 6b

MASTER PLAN: A carefully-considered master plan that respects wildlife protection values, City utility needs, recreational interest, and environmental constraints would be the next logical step in pursuing any recreational improvements on the City property, in both near- and long-term time frames. Near-term improvements discussed to date have been of a limited nature, many achievable at low cost. Any near-term improvements, however, would be well-served by a larger vision of how they would support long-term goals and identify multiple compatible uses in a more comprehensive way.

Prior planning efforts support wildlife viewing and trail improvements at this location. The 1998 Riverfront Master Plan and the 2007 Long Range Parks, Recreation and Open Space both identify trail and recreation use of the lagoon area as a long-term goal. The Long Range Park Plan identifies this lagoon area as part of “Riverfront Park-West” meaning the Snohomish Riverfront in public ownership located west of Avenue D. The 1998 plan called for interim development of a trail along First Street west of Avenue D, and this development was achieved in 2011 with the completion of Snohomish’s award-winning CSO project.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Members of the Pilchuck Audubon Society are ready and willing to participate in an advisory committee effort to prepare such a plan in 2012. If the Council supports such a planning effort, it may consider the next step to be authorizing the City Manager to recommend a master plan advisory committee consisting of stakeholder representatives. Limiting membership to one primary representative of each group (plus alternates) would help keep the effort manageable and effective.

Possible Advisory Committee Membership

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| City Council Member | City Engineering Staff Representative |
| Snohomish Parks Board Member | City Wastewater Utility Representative |
| Pilchuck Audubon Society Member | Snohomish Parks Foundation Member |
| City Park Staff Representative | Fish and Wildlife Dept. Representative |

FUNDING: At some point, professional services for survey, wetland delineation, and construction documents would be required to move forward with permits and construction, and would normally be recommended at the project’s outset. At a point where the costs would exceed \$15,000, it would qualify as a capital project and be included in the annual budget as such. Due to current financial constraints, however, initial master planning work could be undertaken to establish public interests and utility constraints without outside consultants, and may include investigation of potential funding sources for future consultant services and any major construction costs. An adopted master plan is often needed to compete successfully for outside funding and is an important first step in acquiring grants. It may also be possible to complete surveying and wetland delineation services as part of utility projects already underway. Costs for printing, mailing, and similar costs to support a committee would be incurred even with a limited effort, and a budget of \$1,000 might be reasonable to authorize for this effort, if possible.

SCHEDULE: It is anticipated that this master planning effort would be completed in 2012.

ACTION ITEM 6b

STRATEGIC PLAN REFERENCE:

Goal 2 C. Develop a Vision and Plan for the City's Parks and Trail System

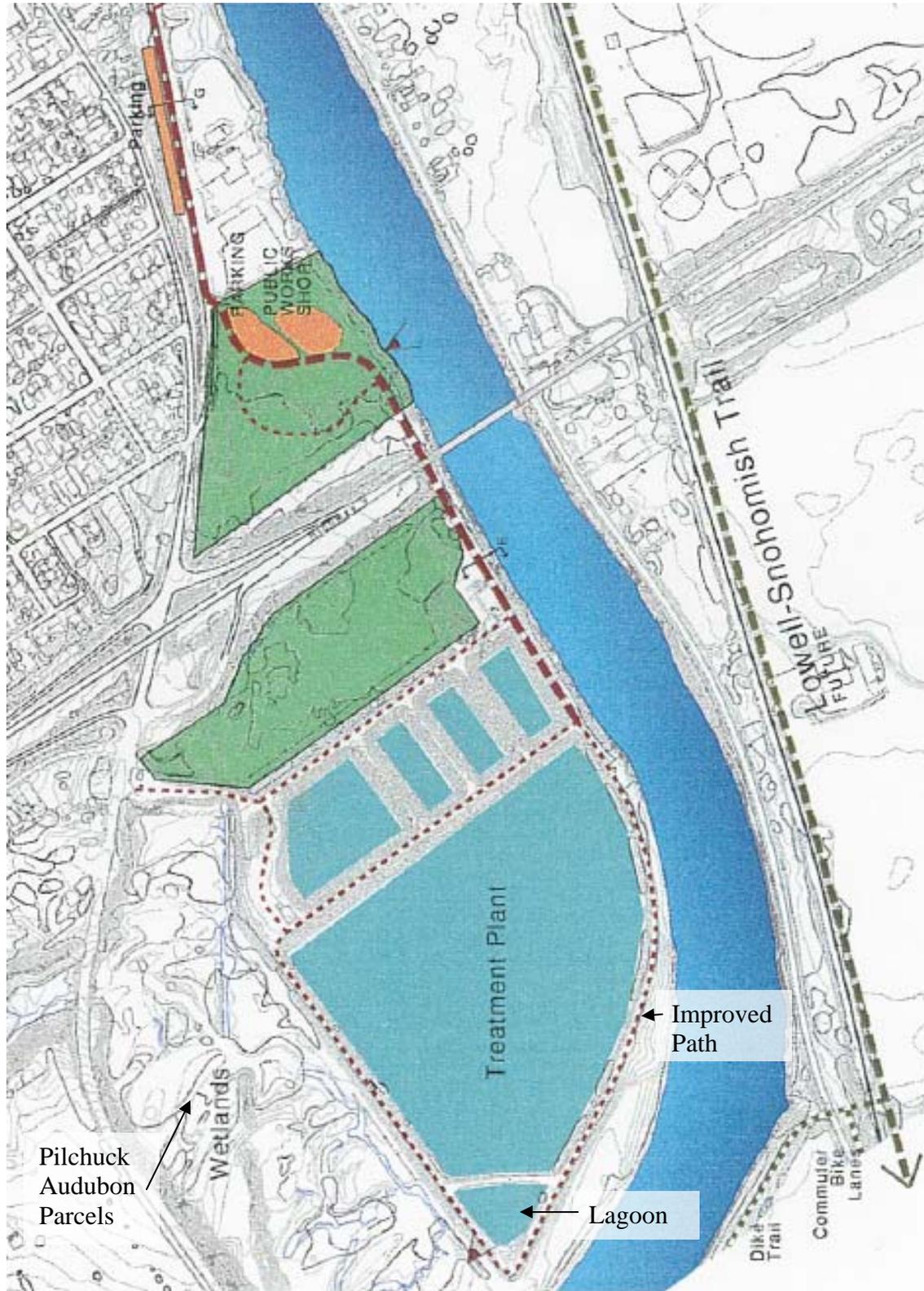
Goal 3 D. Develop a City Trail system with Regional Connections..."

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council DISCUSS the idea of a master plan process for the City lagoon and Audubon Society parcels and DIRECT staff to prepare advisory committee member recommendations and master plan schedule for Council approval at a subsequent Council meeting.

ATTACHMENT: Riverfront Park West – Vicinity Map

ACTION ITEM 6b

Riverfront Park West – Vicinity Map



← North

1998 Riverfront Master Plan – Interim Plan

Not to Scale

**Snohomish City Council Meeting Minutes
January 23, 2012**

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Guzak called the Snohomish City Council special meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., Monday, January 23, 2012, in the Snohomish School District Resource Service Center, George Gilbertson Boardroom, 1601 Avenue D, Snohomish, Washington. (*Regular meeting of Tuesday, January 17, 2012 was rescheduled due to snow.*)

COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT

Derrick Burke
Greg Guedel
Karen Guzak, Mayor
Tom Hamilton
Paul Kaftanski
Dean Randall
Lynn Schilaty

STAFF PRESENT

Larry Bauman, City Manager
Paul McMurray, City Attorney
Danny Weinberg, Support Services Dir.
Tim Heydon, Public Works Director
Owen Dennison, Planning Manager
John Flood, Police Chief
Torchie Corey, City Clerk
Ann Stanton, Project Manager

There were ten citizens in attendance.

2. **APPROVE AGENDA** contents and order
3. **CITIZEN COMMENTS** on items not on the Agenda

Morgan Davis, 206 Avenue I, said on January 6th Snohomish Police arrested a man for alleged horrific crimes against children. He thanked Chief Flood and the Police for their professionalism and the prompt arrest. Apparently the activity had been going on for years without detection by the families or school district. Then on January 18th the Police quickly solved the Vic's Market robbery. These arrests should dispel any doubts about the wisdom of contracting with Sheriff Lovick. Even without the huge cost savings, the access by Snohomish Police to the Sheriff's major crimes unit, SWAT team, and special children victims team was immeasurable. This was the time for all who opposed the Sheriff's Office presence in Snohomish to give 100% support to Chief Flood and the department. Secondly, he recommended that Councilmembers Randall and Kaftanski be appointed to the ad hoc west riverfront master plan advisory committee. Councilmember Randall owned property on west Second Street, had years of experience on the Council, and would be a voice for neighborhood residents who had been patiently waiting for a nearby community park since 1998. Councilmember Kaftanski was Everett's Parks and Recreation Director. His expertise would be invaluable and could bring innovative ideas such as planting fish in stormwater ponds for children to catch and release.

Kathleen Snyder, 2406 81st Place SE, Everett, was on the board of Pilchuck Audubon Society which had over a thousand members, most of whom lived in Snohomish County. In November the board authorized her to form a committee to work with the City on a possible bird refuge by the sewage lagoons. If approved the area would encompass the sewage lagoons, land between the lagoons and the river, and some adjacent property owned by Pilchuck Audubon. There were many ways to improve the property, making it better for animals, native plantings, and nesting possibilities including an owl house. Possibilities to improve it for birders included completing a trail around the property, adding a viewing platform over the marsh area, and at some point

providing handicapped parking to make it more accessible. The Society could help by working with the City to write grants, hold fund-raisers and work parties, design brochures and pamphlets and get the site listed in state Audubon materials. This was good for both wildlife and tourism. She asked the Council to approve the ad hoc committee to work on a possible bird refuge.

Bill Fulton, 6012 Mero Road, Snohomish. owned the Snohomish Inn. He thanked the City for renting rooms at the inn for essential personnel during last week's snow event. Regarding Police, there had been two incidents since the changeover. The first was a speeding incident in the parking lot which was an immeasurable danger. Police caught the 16-year-old speeder and also contacted the parents. There was a night incident and Sgt. Scott did an excellent job of working with hotel employees to establish a procedure. He had been concerned because there were lots of incidents and opportunities for problems at the hotel but was very happy with the transition. He encouraged the Council to push forward with the swimming pool which would be a game-changer, raise the quality of life in town, and help the City become better known. His main issue tonight was to take advantage of the bird sanctuary and improve the City's commerce. Over 140 bird species had been identified in the potential refuge. This would attract people who would come into town and spend money on First Street. It would put the City on the birding map which noted bird sanctuaries and observation points. There was Spencer Island by the Everett sewage plant, Bob Heirman game refuge, and a third area would create a nucleus that would encourage and improve the community. This was a terrific opportunity to not spend much money but yet create something good.

Bruce Ferguson, 1011 Maple Avenue, did not intend to insult any group but thought both the School Board and City Council had made some errors. Bad decisions cost money. Apparently the Board didn't do its homework and received some bad advice about the cost of the pool and the monthly operating budget required to keep the doors open. The Board had to take corrective action which was when they contacted the City Council. The Council has verbally committed to provide financial aid by agreeing to pay the pool's utility bill every month. The Council had to ask itself if the role or obligation of City Hall was to provide financial aid. He didn't think so but it was going to happen and that was a bad mistake. The agreement would create a partnership with between the District and City Hall. A couple things had to happen when a partnership was formed. A partnership shouldn't be formed if the other side was a risk. The pool complex was a financial risk and burden. If going ahead with a partnership, another rule was to protect one's self. This partnership began thirty years ago with Hal Moe Pool but there were revisions in this agreement and the City had to protect itself. One way to protect the City was the letter of intent had to be written to the effect that the Council annually or bi-annually had the right to review the numbers being paid out each month because the amount of the utility bill in five or ten years was unknown. A range or cap was needed, agreeing to go no higher than a specific amount, and then the partner picked up the balance. Thirty years ago this partnership allowed City Hall to become vested in the old pool property so when the property is sold by the School District some of the proceeds should go back to the City. A partnership was successful when both sides benefit and the way this partnership was set up right now, the City was not going to benefit at all. Everyone knew taxes would increase. The District already received \$22 million and yet wanted more. He needed the Council to become better stewards of the City's money and that wasn't happening in this partnership with the School District. The Council's purpose was not to provide financial aid.

would show votes increased within the City. In her campaigning the pool was one of the biggest concerns; citizens wanted to have the pool back. Support crossed all demographics. This was exactly the type of partnership the City should be in. It was unfortunate that some of the costs tonight were elevated as to what it would actually cost the City. She hoped that if the motion didn't pass they would take Councilmember Kaftanski's suggestion to come up with something that would be agreeable to them and pass it on quickly. To lose this would be tragic for the community and the development of the Pilchuck District.

Councilmember Kaftanski confirmed that if the proposed motion failed, a new ILA could be brought back to the Council. He supported the perspective that the Council needed to move quickly. He would like the partnership to move forward. He looked for more certainty in that arena and wanted this to come back for consideration at the February 7th meeting.

VOTE ON THE MOTION: The motion failed (3-4) with Kaftanski, Burke, Randall, and Hamilton voting nay.

MOTION by Kaftanski, second by Hamilton, that the City Council direct staff to bring back a new proposed interlocal agreement to the February 7th meeting and to incorporate the concerns and issues raised by Councilmembers tonight.

Mr. Bauman said the City Attorney had expressed concern that there might not be time to negotiate these changes and have it ready for the February 7th packet. Staff would do their best to accomplish that goal but the City didn't have complete power to do that on its own. Assistance of the School District was also needed.

Councilmember Schilaty said the District was integral to that happening. She hoped the District would know how sincere the City was in its effort to go forward and would be available to meet and get this done before February 7th.

Councilmember Burke elucidated on his perception of the issue. Most residents already had a weakened tax base and this was not high on their priority lists. People were out of work and didn't go on vacation because they couldn't and this was similar as it was recreation. He didn't have a problem with the idea of subsidizing something like this. The City was open to litigation. They didn't know what the cost of water would be. His oldest daughter would be 42 years old when this agreement expired. That was a long time out with a lot of unknowns. The ILA didn't have a maximum dollar value per year nor an 'act of God' clause and terrible events could occur. Citizen access wasn't specific. For a lot of folks this wasn't a priority.

Councilmember Randall would vote for the motion and would look at what comes back but he still wasn't sure he would vote for an agreement.

VOTE ON THE MOTION: The motion passed unanimously (7-0).

b. **AUTHORIZE** Ad Hoc Committee Regarding Lagoon/Pilchuck Audubon Site Plan

This wildlife refuge and viewing area concept did not yet meet the funding level of a capital

project but had the potential to become one. The Pilchuck Audubon Society owned about four acres of this 20+ acre wetland. There were property owners on one end whose privacy and private property rights would need to be protected in any possible development. The bulk of the property was owned by a Lake Stevens resident who had been contacted.

The recent completion of the Combined Sewer Overflow project spearheaded the concept, with the new walking trail along the river bank and underneath SR 9 to the old sewage lagoon. It would be a real opportunity to have a nice destination at the end of the trail. This would be a public-private partnership. The important needs of the wastewater utility would be respected as far as security and future uses as the pipeline to Everett could end up going through the area. The meadow may be needed for stormwater treatment in the near future. Those were important City uses that would need to be protected. A committee could talk about the conflicting needs, concerns, and issues.

Mayor Guzak asked about the area west of SR 9 and sewer treatment plant.

Mr. Heydon said a lot of it was state Department of Transportation right-of-way. Some was City land but staff had no future plans to use it for wastewater needs. Using it for stormwater would be complicated because it was already a wetland. He pictured the area as a wetland-type stormwater treatment system that could be very compatible with uses being discussed now. The design could be made to fit in cooperation with the Audubon Society.

Mayor Guzak knew stormwater design projects were very compatible with wildlife, and also very beautiful. The issue tonight was whether to set up a committee to review the issues.

Councilmember Kaftanski found this to potentially be a very exciting project. It combined a lot of recreational open space elements, particularly the possibility of extending the trail system in combination with restoration of wetland function and natural habitat. There were a lot of win-wins with potential funding sources. He didn't recall if master planning work for this area was included in the 2012 work program for staff. If not, what would not get done?

Mr. Heydon said it was not included in the budget but wasn't something staff could move quickly. The planning process would be slow and deliberate.

Councilmember Schilaty was concerned about people crossing Second Street at the First Street intersection near the trailhead. It was a beautiful pathway to walk and this would be another element, but it was very dangerous.

MOTION by Randall, second by Hamilton, that the City Council direct staff to prepare advisory committee member recommendations and a master plan schedule for Council approval at a subsequent meeting. The motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Mayor Guzak thanked members of the Audubon Society for their support and collaboration.

Published: Monday, February 6, 2012

Wildlife-viewing areas planned along Snohomish River

Alejandro Dominguez, Herald Writer

SNOHOMISH -- A group has come forward to help the city create a wildlife viewing area.

The Sno-King chapter of the **Boeing Bluebills --150 retired Boeing employees and their families** -- contacted Snohomish last week to let the city know they're ready to help.

The city and the Pilchuck Audubon Society want to make four acres of wetlands **an attraction for wildlife enthusiasts**. The plan is in its early stages, but it could consist of installing signs, building a mile-long trail and increasing public access. The area is near the wastewater treatment plant, just west of Highway 9.

The Bluebills could soon be pitching in by removing blackberries along the Snohomish River, or installing and building benches, project manager Ann Stanton said.

"Volunteering would help reduce the costs and make it a more successful project," Stanton said. "We rely on volunteers for a lot of work in our parks. It's an important service that we really appreciate."

The Bluebills decided to answer call for help after reading a story about the proposal in The Herald last week. Not knowing exactly how they will helping has only made them more eager, member Rose Johnson said.

"That encourages the guys. They like challenges," she said. " We are certainly interested in helping."

Members could help design trails and do hands-on work, she said.

This is not new territory for them. Past projects have included work on McCollum Pioneer Park in Everett and with the Narbeck Wetlands Sanctuary, which is 50 acres of preserved wetlands near Paine Field.

Alejandro Dominguez: 425-339-3422; adominguez@heraldnet.com.

the dryer, crusher, and storage tanks going for biodiesel needs.

5. **PUBLIC HEARING** – Medical Marijuana Moratorium

Tonight's public hearing was on a proposed six-month extension to the current moratorium on the permitting of medical marijuana collective gardens. The moratorium commenced on July 5, 2011 with approval of Ordinance 2218 and the first extension came on January 3, 2012 with approval of Ordinance 2232. Proposed Ordinance 2238 would extend the moratorium another six months until January 2013.

There were still unresolved ambiguities in state law and its protections. State allowances were still inconsistent with federal law. The classification of cannabis as a Schedule 1 drug made its distribution, sale and use a violation of federal law. Due to inaction at both the state and federal levels to clarify and resolve inconsistencies over the last six months, the justification for the prior extension remained applicable today.

The issue was slowly being addressed by a few jurisdictions although moratoria appeared to be the preferred path. Actions by others provided the City with an increasing number of potential examples to look to, when the City determines it's prudent to move forward with regulatory amendments. Proposed Ordinance 2238 provided the findings to extend the moratorium and identified collective gardens and dispensaries as prohibited uses.

Councilmember Kaftanski asked if the letter from the Governor had been completely ignored at the federal level or was some work underway.

Mr. Dennison could find no response at all to the letter in his research.

Mr. Weed was not aware of any response either. A few years ago when a similar request was made, it literally took years, not months, to get a response.

Citizens' comments:

Morgan Davis, 206 Avenue I, said this issue came up over a year ago and this was the third extension. This Council was dithering and couldn't make up its mind. Apparently nothing went wrong when Mukilteo passed it over a year ago. He wasn't for or against it. He just wanted a decision to be made. The issue wasn't going away. If the Council banned it, Mr. Weed would make a lot of money on the court case. They couldn't keep postponing it.

Citizens' comments – closed

Councilmember Burke didn't think the Council was dithering. It was very important to wait. Buying time was not bad at all.

MOTION by Burke, second by Randall, that the City Council adopt Ordinance 2238 extending the current moratorium on medical marijuana facilities for an additional six months. The motion passed unanimously (7-0).

6. **ACTION ITEMS**

a. **AUTHORIZE** Advisory Committee for Wildlife Refuge Master Plan

One of the best kept secrets in town was the mile of riverfront property in public ownership. Tonight's issue was whether the Council would like to direct the proposed committee to

proceed with a master plan for recreational uses that were compatible with the wastewater utility and other utility needs on the property. A proposed committee membership was developed representing the interests of the whole City. The facility had the potential to be regional. There was also a likely Edmonds Community College internship program so students could earn college credit while working with the City on plant restoration. This year's effort wouldn't cost a lot of money and it was the first step in applying for and receiving grants.

Councilmember Kaftanski asked if a SEPA checklist would be prepared for the master plan.

Ms. Stanton hadn't anticipated that but the checklist could be added. This was to analyze existing conditions with available resources. If the information needed for a SEPA checklist wasn't available, the committee might have difficulty.

Councilmember Kaftanski's other question was if the master plan would come to Council for formal adoption. He would like to understand at a high magnitude level what some of the development and operational costs would be for the vision to be adopted. It wouldn't indicate who would pay for it but it would provide a framework of what the vision was likely to cost.

Ms. Stanton said the core of the project was to take a beautiful location and spruce it up a little bit with a few viewing platforms, benches, and some interpretive signs. There would be some maintenance costs such as removal of blackberries and replacing wooden benches. If the intersection of First and Second Streets was addressed, that could be a very expensive solution. There might be an interim plan before the final master plan that addressed everything.

Mayor Guzak asked Councilmember Randall if he wanted to serve on the committee.

Councilmember Randall said he didn't actually live in this part of town although he has owned two rental properties there since 1985 and 1990 so he got to the area quite often. He would be willing to be an alternate.

MOTION by Kaftanski, second by Schilaty, that the City Council authorize preparation of a master plan for recreational uses connected with the City lagoon and the audobon society properties, and appoint a citizens advisory committee to assist the City in developing recommendations for recreational and wildlife habitat-related site improvements. The motion passed unanimously (7-0).

b. Northeast Sewer Moratorium – **ADOPT** Ordinance 2239

The proposed moratorium was limited to an area that would only affect the northeast portion of the City generally east of SR 9 and north of Blackmans Lake. The General Fund has faced some revenue issues with one main reason being the lack of construction sales tax. Without the new development construction sales tax hadn't come in to support the General Fund as it had previously. On the other hand the Council has enacted a number of revenue increases for wastewater rates over the past 4-5 years of the economic recession so two things were going on. General Fund revenue was going down while the wastewater revenue had actually gone up the past 4-5 years.

In 2007 the City built trunkline segments 1 and 4, installing sewer to the northern boundary of the City limits at that time. Segments 1 and 4 were major capital projects for a city the size of Snohomish. Snohomish Station was built and has provided a major portion of the City's retail sales tax annually. Segments 2 and 3 had not been constructed.

Puget Sound Partnership - LIO

Formed in 2007 to restore the health of Puget Sound, the Puget Sound Partnership has a new local face.

The City of Snohomish is participating in the new “Local Integrating Organization” or LIO. This group of volunteers was selected to represent stakeholders in the Snohomish and Stillaguamish River watersheds. Their goal is to build consensus around local actions to restore our watershed and, as a result, Puget Sound.

The LIO has been tasked with prioritizing the whole shopping cart of strategies that could be pursued to improve our watersheds. Ann Stanton, project manager for the City of Snohomish, is the City’s representative on the LIO Implementation Committee.

Another early task of the LIO will be to recommend funding through the Puget Sound National Estuary Program (NEP) Watershed Protection and Restoration grant program for projects that support updates to local growth management and land use regulations, policies and plans (critical areas ordinances, shoreline management programs, stormwater regulations, etc.). Details may be found in the grant documents available at http://www.ecy.wa.gov/puget_sound/grants_fed_watershed.html.

The City also participates in the Snohomish Basin Salmon Recovery Funding Board. Information about the Board can be found at http://www1.co.snohomish.wa.us/Departments/Public_Works/Divisions/SWM/S/SRFB.htm

More information about the Snohomish-Stillaguamish LIO is available at http://www1.co.snohomish.wa.us/Departments/Public_Works/Divisions/SWM/S/lio.htm or by contacting Ann Stanton at 360 568-3115 or Stanton@ci.snohomish.wa.us.

Wildlife Refuge Steering Committee Tours Arlington Stormwater Ponds

The Snohomish Wildlife Refuge steering committee visited Arlington’s one-year-old Stormwater Treatment Ponds this week.

The series of four ponds on nine acres represents a possible model for part of our city’s out-of-service sewer lagoon. Arlington improves water quality in four steps: (1) initial settlement pond to remove suspended particles and solid debris; (2) cattail marsh to capture dissolved toxins; (3) forested wetland to cool stormwater; and (4) riffle area to aerate the water prior to releasing it into the Stillaguamish River located right next door.



Initial Settlement Pond

Testing at beginning and end of the pond series tracks pH, turbidity, temperature, and other attributes of the water. Concrete weirs separate each pond and help moderate fluctuations in flow due to rainfall events.



Pedestrian bridge and weir between settlement pond and cattail marsh

All in all, the new Arlington ponds improve downstream water quality in the Stillaguamish River, through Puget Sound, and beyond, contributing to the national effort to restore a healthy Puget Sound ecosystem for all its residents.



Riffle Aeration Pond



Refuge Steering Committee at Arlington Stormwater Ponds (l-r Bob Krull, Bill Fulton, Kathleen Snyder, Arlington Stormwater Manager Bill Blake, Ann Stanton, Jamie Bailes)

❖ ❖ **Calendar 2012** ❖ ❖

Veterans Day Observed

Monday, November 12th

City Hall Closed



Public Safety Commission

Tuesday, November 13 - 5 p.m.

Fire District 4 Training Annex

1525 Avenue D

Design Review Board

Wednesday, November 14 - 7 p.m.

City Hall Conference Room

116 Union Avenue



CITY OF SNOHOMISH

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PRESS RELEASE – Parks Board Meeting: Wildlife Refuge Master Plan in Snohomish –
January 23, 2013.

MEDIA CONTACT

Ann Stanton

360 282-3195

stanton@ci.snohomish.wa.us

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 15, 2013

SNOHOMISH – The Snohomish Parks Board invites you to attend its regular January meeting to review the work to date for developing the proposed Snohomish Wildlife Refuge in the City of Snohomish. Your suggestions will help guide the master use plan, which is scheduled to be completed this year.

The City is partnering with the Pilchuck Audubon Society to improve wildlife viewing opportunities within the city. The area currently under consideration is the city-owned property located along the north bank of the Snohomish River on both sides of Highway 9. A binder of the information developed to-date on the wildlife refuge can be reviewed at the Snohomish Library.

The public meeting is scheduled for **7 to 8:30 p.m., January 23rd** at the Snohomish Boys & Girls Club located at **402 Second Street in the City of Snohomish**. The facility is accessible.

If you cannot attend the meeting but would like to provide suggestions for the plan, you may do so by writing to the City of Snohomish, Attn: Ann Stanton, 116 Union Avenue, Snohomish WA 98290, or by email to Stanton@ci.snohomish.wa.us.

Please call Ann Stanton, project manager, at 360 292-3195, with any questions about the Snohomish Wildlife Refuge project.

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Published: Tuesday, January 22, 2013, 12:01 a.m.

Front Porch: Wildlife refuge plan

Wildlife refuge plan

Local news

A plan to create a wildlife refuge along the bank of the Snohomish River is the subject of a meeting scheduled for Wednesday.

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The meeting of the Snohomish Parks Board is scheduled for 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Snohomish Boys & Girls Club, 402 Second St.

The city, working with the Pilchuck Audubon Society, is considering setting aside a city-owned parcel



CITY OF SNOHOMISH

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January 23, 2013

Park and Recreation Board Minutes – Snohomish Wildlife Refuge Community Meeting

Roll Call: Park Board Present

John First
Lea Anne Burke
Chris Harper
Steve Ooton
Lya Badgley

Staff Present:

Ann Stanton
Mike Johnson

Citizens:

Paul Kaftanski
Thom Peters
Ralph Dahlquist
Morgan Davis
Bob Heirmann
Cynthia Young
Kathleen Snyder
Bill Fulton
Don Kusler
Ed Poquette
Debbie Carlson-Gould
And 4 other members of the public

Snohomish Wildlife Refuge Presentation – Ann Stanton

- A brief history of the site was given.
- Few park amenities currently exist on the former lagoon area of the Wastewater Treatment Plant but it is now open to public following the City's CSO project completion in 2011.
- There is over a mile of walkable dike path along the bank of the Snohomish River on this City-owned property.
- City Council appointed a steering committee last year to evaluate and recommend a master plan for the properties, which include the former lagoon, City Shop site and Pilchuck Audubon acreage in the Cemetery Creek wetland.
- This presentation is an invitation for public comment and Parks Board review prior to presenting a progress report to City Council in February.

- Four of the seven members of the Council-appointed steering committee are present tonight, including Bill Fulton, Kathleen Snyder, Lea Anne Burke, and Ann Stanton.
- The Steering Committee has spent considerable time developing guiding principles for the site before considering specific designs.
- 140 bird species have been identified in the Cemetery Creek marsh and City properties which is remarkable considering that there are only about 330 bird species commonly observed in the entire state in a typical year.
- Snohomish School District is interested in the refuge for educational activities.
- The lagoon site is owned by the Wastewater Utility and therefore, utility needs must be accommodated on the site. Identified needs currently consist of (1) a new pump station and sewer pipeline to Everett, and (2) possible treatment of stormwater runoff from our streets. These uses can be accommodated and still provide public access to the natural areas of the site.
- The former lagoon has an undetermined depth of biosolids layered with river flood deposits that does not support off-leash dog use or direct public activity on the lagoon/meadow itself (sports fields, for example). Removing the biosolids is likely to be very expensive.
- Anticipated near-term amenities include benches, signs (interpretive and regulatory), a birder's guide, viewing platforms, nest boxes, bat boxes.
- Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife habitat biologists recommend managing site vegetation for riparian habitat.
- Possibility exists to breach the lagoon dike in one or more places and replace dike sections with bridges in the long term. This would permit restoration of critical side channel habitat for salmon and other river inhabitants
- Manage publicly-owned natural areas south of Second for views into greenbelt as entry into the City, support bird diversity
- Connecting the site to Field's Riffle with pedestrian bridge across the Snohomish River has been suggested by some, opposed by others.
- Riverview Road needs a bridge at Cemetery Creek; when the river floods, the road also floods, limiting access to the wastewater treatment site and homes in the area.
- Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife is evaluating the feasibility of the shop site for a boat launch.

Park Board Comments:

- Lya – It would be nice to develop a loop path.
- Lea Anne – (In response to a question regarding the future design of the refuge) the Wildlife Refuge is not yet at the design stage. There are a lot of design aspects yet to be decided.
- John – mentioned that the report in the agenda packet answers some of the questions asked regarding needs and other issues.
- Steve – Terrific area, lots of opportunities and we need to give serious thought to the details.
- Lea Anne – Hazards exist and a plan needs to be created to mitigate the hazards.
- Lea Anne – Can a boat launch and park co-exist without creating wildlife issues? Is this site primarily for animals or people?
- Ann – There is a delicate balance between the natural and human activities that needs to be recognized within the park design.
- Lea Anne – Would like to see a shared use approach for human and natural aspects (animals).

- John – Public uses of the site would likely be nature observation, exercise (walking) and other passive recreation.
- Ann – The steering committee was appointed to recommend the balance between wildlife needs and human activities.
- City should survey citizens to assess public opinion of use of the site.
 1. Dogs
 2. Open fence at Treatment Plan entrance – now or later
 3. Refuge name
- Lea Anne – indigenous native names should be considered from the native Lushootseed language.

Citizen Comments:

- Birds are there, people are there; leave it the way it is.
- Sportsmen’s Club is concerned about the mouth of Cemetery Creek – beaver dams block creeks.
- Passive human interaction with nature is best use of site; not for dog walking.
- Continue to make available for human use.
- Paul Kaftanski (City Council and Park Foundation) – suggests that there is an opportunity for quality of life and economic development with this site.
- Lea Anne – Areas of lowland riparian habitat are great opportunities for the community.

Recommendation to Council:

The Park Board concurs with the work of the Wildlife Refuge Steering Committee to date and supports completion of the Wildlife Refuge Master Plan.

Snohomish

Snohomish Tribune Briefs - Online 1/23/13

Comment on wildlife viewing plan

The Snohomish Parks Board invites the community to attend its Jan. 23 meeting to review the work for developing the proposed Snohomish Wildlife Refuge in the city.

Your suggestions will help guide the master plan, which is scheduled to be completed this year.

The city is working with the Pilchuck Audubon Society to improve wildlife viewing opportunities within the city. The area currently under consideration is the city-owned property located along the north bank of the Snohomish River on both sides of Highway 9. A binder of the information developed to-date on the wildlife refuge can be reviewed at the Snohomish Library.

The public meeting is scheduled for 7 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 23 at the Snohomish Boys & Girls Club located at 402 Second St.

If you cannot attend the meeting but would like to provide suggestions for the plan, write to the city of Snohomish, Attn: Ann Stanton, 116 Union Avenue, Snohomish WA 98290, or by e-mail to Stanton@ci.snohomish.wa.us.

1/25/2013 Phone Comment

Focus on preservation of habitat. Allow passive experience by people. The benefit of this site is that it will promote environmental consciousness and ethic by emotional connection.

Trail and benches, yes, but not tables.

Business value to Snohomish: an extension for visitors, something you don't see every day.

Dogs need to be on leash, and owners pick up after. If prohibit dogs, they will come anyway.



Audubon

www.audubon.org LCL-PC

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Freedom

FOREVER

Please do the Wildlife
 Refuge on the Snohomish
 River on Hwy 9! Both
 sides - We have
 long enjoyed that
 area on our travels
 and know it well.
 Thank you,
 Mary Jo + Jack
 94th West
 Edmonds, Wa 98020

City of Snohomish
 Attn: Ann Stanton
 116 Union Ave.
 Snohomish, Wa
 98290

Our national symbol, the Bald Eagle ■ Protected by the Endangered Species Act, the majestic Bald Eagle has made a spectacular comeback from the brink of extinction. To find out how you can help save America's wildlife by becoming a member, call Audubon at 1 (800) 274-4201.



RECEIVED
JAN 28 2013
CITY TREASURER

Snohomish Refuge Master Plan
Public Involvement

Comment Sheet
January 23, 2013

Thank you for participating in planning for the Snohomish Wildlife Refuge Master Plan.

Please note your suggestions for the Wildlife Refuge in the space below and sketch out your ideas on the back side of this sheet. Please return this sheet to the sign-in table as you leave. If you wish to take more time, you may return this sheet to Snohomish City Hall, Attn: Ann Stanton, 116 Union Avenue, Snohomish, WA 98290, no later than January 30, 2013.

No paved asphalt trails please, hard on joints/feet.
Keep conifer planting to a minimum for cover
as in winter blocks sun to humans, deciduous
plantings are sufficient for fish to
cool water in summer, minimal intervention
don't forget things require maintenance

To help ensure that everyone in the community has a chance to be heard and to respond to programs that may affect their community, we ask that you voluntarily provide us information about your race, ethnicity and/or gender. You are not required to disclose this information. The City will handle the information gathered as confidentially as possible. *Thank you for your participation!*

Please respond to the following questions:

Project Name: wildlife refuge Date: 1/23/13

Name (optional) (Please print) CY Gender: Male Female

General Ethnic Identification Categories (Check as many as apply)

African American Asian/Pacific Islander Hispanic
 American Indian/Alaskan Native Caucasian Other

Race and/or Color: _____ National Origin: _____

From left: Jim Gilbertson, Keith Gilbertson Jr., artist Louise McDowell and Jay Gilbertson cheer during the bust of Keith Gilbertson Sr. on Friday, Jan. 18 at Snohomish High School. The Gilbertsons attended a dedication during halftime of the girl's basketball game in honor of their father who coached sports at Snohomish High School for 61 years. He passed away in 2011. McDowell created the bust that hangs in the main area of the gym. The school's gym is named the Keith Gilbertson Sports and Fitness Center in honor of Gilbertson's legacy, two college scholarships have been established in his name. The Snohomish Education Foundation is looking for contributions to maintain the scholarships, which are open to Snohomish student athletes. The Foundation has raised more than \$53,000 so far for the scholarships. The goal is to raise \$200,000. For more information, visit www.coachgilb.org to donate or to read about Gilbertson's story.

City gathering comments on wildlife refuge plan

BY MADELYN FAIRBANKS

SNOHOMISH — The parks board heard from about 15 residents on a draft wildlife refuge plan that will be finalized this year and incorporated within the city's parks master plan.

The city wants to make wildlife refuge areas for the public to view animals in their natural environment more accessible. Just inside city limits at the west end of town at the northwest side of the Snohomish River Bridge is one such viewing site under consideration. The site has a

nearly one mile path along the river. Public access to the path, completed in 2011, offers opportunities to watch birds and other animals living in the nearby marsh. The marsh is owned by the Pilchuck Audubon Society.

The marsh is largely undeveloped and would stay that way in the wildlife refuge plan, which is being developed by the city and Pilchuck Audubon Society.

The hour-long time set aside for public comment at the parks board meeting last week focused largely on whether to allow dogs in this area,

an issue that has strong opinions on both sides.

Thom Peters is the nephew of the original owner of the marsh property, Dirk Graafstra, and remembers playing with his cousins in the area as a young boy. He is opposed to allowing dogs there.

City project manager Ann Stanton said the collective input could mean dogs would be prohibited from the area in the final plan.

"It's the same problem as in other parks: some dog users don't pick up after their pet," Stanton said. Addi-

tionally, she said, some owners let their pets off their leash, "allowing them to get into nearby waste left over from the treatment plant.

Part of the marsh site, now a meadow, has high levels of waste dating from 1958 to 1998 and is "not appropriate in its current state" for public use, according to city documents.

The hazardous area is bordered only by side slopes to restrict access. Additional physical restrictions and visible signage about the waste may be

spokeswoman Debbie Willis said. The department budget in 2008 was \$6.2 million and this year it is \$5.2 million.

Quenzer said a sales tax increase is more appropriate than a property tax increase because about 75 percent of the calls police respond to come from non-homeowners.

The additional revenue would pay for the rehiring of officers lost over the years, new equipment and badly needed new patrol cars, Willis said.

The Police Department is funded by the city's general fund and has experienced several reductions over the past few years.

"We're already operating at 'bare bones and with minimal staffing," Quenzer said.

The chief said the department started 2013 with the resignation of one of its officers, and two more officers have given him notice that they may be leaving.

The department is down six of-

See POLICE, page 3

Bodies are missing Snohomish couple

SNOHOMISH — Two adult bodies found inside a vehicle pulled from the Snohomish River Wednesday, Jan. 23 have been identified as the missing Snohomish couple, police confirmed last week.

The couple, Jason J. Dolman, 31, and Riza P. Ysulat, 36, had been missing since Jan. 8. They were recovered from the river near the 6600 block of Riverview Road. They drowned, and their deaths have been ruled an accident.

Adult, family fun can be found in Snohomish this weekend

On the Rocks is Feb. 1-2

The second annual Snohomish On the Rocks Distillery Festival is Feb. 1-2 at the Snohomish Events Center, 1011 Second St. Friday, Feb. 1 tasting is 6-9 p.m. and Saturday, Feb. 2 tastings are 1-4 p.m. and 6-9 p.m. Tickets are \$25 and includes five tasting tickets and food samples. Guests can buy additional signature cocktails at the Signature

Bar, additional tasting tickets in addition to beer, wine and soda.

During the festival, a public market will be open 1-9 p.m. both days.

The festival is expected to attract 1,000 people.

Of the 19 distilleries participating in the festival, two are from the city of Snohomish: Skip Rock and Dark Moon. There are four total from Snohomish County. One will be

coming from Oregon to participate and another will be coming from Eastern Washington.

The festival will feature food and a live performance by Snohomish group, Plan B Acoustic Duo.

More bands may be added to the roster.

Proceeds from the festival will benefit GROW Washington, a nonprofit organization that helps sup-

port new business growth.

GroundFrog Day is Feb. 2

The eighth annual GroundFrog Day is Saturday, Feb. 2 at the downtown gazebo area at First Street and Avenue A. The fun begins at 11 a.m. and includes several family activities and the famous Snohomish Slew frognoctication.

Come see what the weather has in store for the Pacific Northwest.

See WILDLIFE, page 3

Wildlife

Continued from page 1

included in the final plan.

City documents indicate that removing the old waste is possible but would likely be very expensive.

Residents at the meeting also voiced support for making the area more user-friendly and convenient by adding items such as more signs, benches and trails.

"It's really an unimproved area," Stanton said. "It's more like a state forest, and people have a little bit of a different expectation when they're at a city park."

Recommendations from residents will be considered by the parks board in developing the final refuge plan, which it will present to the City Council for adoption this summer. Stanton said limited improvements could happen quite quickly after that.

"The city budget will be small, and the budget (for the wildlife refuge) would be equally small," Stanton said. Some improvements might be donated through volunteer

work or Eagle Scout projects, Stanton said.

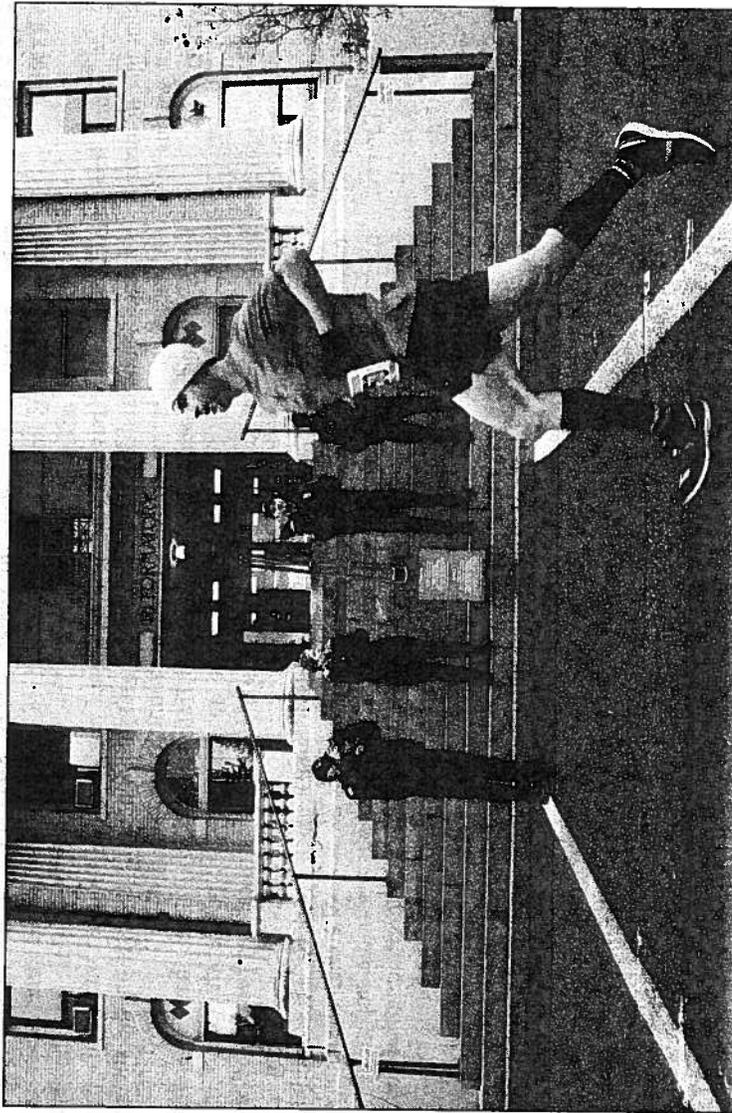
Another chance for the public to weigh in on the refuge plan is currently scheduled for April 24. Comments from the public also can be submitted anytime to Ann Stanton via e-mail at stanton@ci.snohomish.wa.us.

Peters said he couldn't be happier with the city's goal to designate the marsh area as a wildlife refuge. He said he'd like to see it be "kept along the lines of passive recreation."

He said growing up he remembers an abundance of wildlife in the area: raccoons, ducks, weasels, rabbits, great blue heron and much more.

"When I was 11, I was frog-hunting with my cousin near a little cove in the river," Peters said. "I looked down and there was a sturgeon, I could have reached right down and touched it. It looked like a prehistoric monster. It was bigger than an 11-year-old, that's for sure."

Second annual Jayme Biendl run



Doug Ramsay photo, dougramsayphoto.photoshelter.com

The lead runner passes by the Monroe prison while corrections officer Tom Wright (left), Debbie Bowling and corrections officers Michael Bowling and Lisa Milstead cheer runners on during the second annual Jayme Biendl 5K run/walk Sunday, Jan. 27. Nearly 400 participants from as far away as Spokane and Walla Walla participated in this year's event. Around \$13,800 was raised from the event to benefit the Behind the Badge Foundation. Biendl was killed by an inmate in 2012.

Police

Continued from page 1

officers since 2008, when the department had 37. The department currently employs 31 officers.

Working with fewer officers, Quenzer said, reduces

should it be approved for the ballot. The City Council must vote to place the measure on the ballot.

"The chief and the department need to be commended

testament to the capable men and women we have in the department and the job they do. I think that the chief and

I, our desires for public safety meet the needs of our com-

Donate blood Feb. 5-6

Everett Community College Student Activities Health/Wellness Program and the Puget Sound Blood Center are hosting a blood drive at EvCC Feb. 5 and 6.

The blood drive is from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in EvCC's Henry M. Jackson Center Wilderness Auditorium.

To make an appointment to donate, sign up at Student Activities in Parks Hall, room 209, or call Student Activities at 425-388-9561. Walk-in donors also are welcome.

1/23/13 Herald

Snohomish wetland could become a major attraction for bird watchers

Advocate for wetland envisions attraction for bird watchers

<< Prev Next >>



Dan Bates / The Herald

A great blue heron stands high in a tree near the border of the Snohomish Wastewater Treatment facility where a new trail will accommodate bird watchers.



Dan Bates / The Herald

From the main trail, Bill Fulton (left) and Snohomish Project Manager Ann Stanton follow a side trail down to the Snohomish River bank which could provide a glimpse at other wildlife, such as otters or spawning salmon.



BERT GOGAN / THE HERALD

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Bird-watching in Snohomish

Alejandro Dominguez, Herald Writer

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SNOHOMISH -- Bill Fulton described the morning as "magical."

He was walking the trail by the wastewater treatment plant, just west of Highway 9.

Fulton could see the wetlands from the trail, which was the reason he was here.

Fulton, 65, made several stops to take pictures of mallards, the Snohomish River and even a heron perched on a branch at the top of a tree.

A Snohomish resident, business owner and nature enthusiast, Fulton enjoys walking the mile-long trail every time he can, as he did last Friday. He hopes his efforts to make the trail better known will attract others to enjoy the wildlife.

And with more visitors, the city could also benefit from tourism to the area that is about a mile from downtown.

The idea to popularize the trail came after Fulton visited a bird sanctuary in Oregon last October. He thought the 24 acres of wetlands in Snohomish could become an attraction for bird watchers.

"This is perfect," Fulton said.

He contacted the city and also the **Pilchuck Audubon Society** that owns four acres of wetlands next to the treatment plant.

Fulton, a former city councilman, met with them on Oct. 24, to discuss working together to promote and improve the wildlife viewing area.

"That was the only meeting I have attended in 20 years of public service where everybody was on the same page," Fulton said.

Everybody is eager with the idea, which still is in its early stage. It is unknown how much it would cost to make the improvements needed.

Benches, signs, an additional trail and surveys may be needed. There's also discussion on how to increase public access, since people need to walk along the Snohomish River to get to the trail.

To answer all of these questions, the Snohomish City Council approved forming an advisory committee that will work on a master plan. This committee would be comprised of about seven members representing city staff, the Audubon Society and the community.

All work is likely to be on the city-owned area. That's why the city needs to authorize any potential change.

"There are a lot of things to consider," said Ann Stanton, the city's project manager.

Some of the unknowns are what it will cost, and whether owners of the other 20 acres of wetlands want to be involved.

At this time, the city has not allocated any funds. It is unclear what purchases are needed or who will pay for them. Funding sources would come through grants or donations, Stanton said.

"We are proposing to do this at the minimal expense, but it will take staff time," Stanton said.

Other nature trails popular with bird-watchers include Jetty Island, Spencer Island and the Index cliff, Pilchuck Audubon board member Kathleen Snyder said.

The aim is to make the Snohomish trail similar to the **Narbeck Wetland Sanctuary**, located in west Everett, but on a smaller scale, Snyder said.

The area is no secret either. The Pilchuck Audubon has organized trips to the area in the past and has listed about 130 different bird species in the area. The Snohomish Chamber of Commerce has put it as a tourist destination for the past 12 years, but it has never highlighted it, manager Pam Osborne said.

Alejandro Dominguez:425-339-3422; adominguez@heraldnet.com.

Herald

14 NO DOGS

2 YES DOGS

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Published: Monday, February 4, 2013, 12:01 a.m.

Snohomish debates ban on dogs at wildlife sanctuary

By **Bill Sheets**, Herald Writer



Snohomish News



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SNOHOMISH -- Most people seem to agree that setting aside a 55-acre former sewage lagoon as a public wildlife viewing area is a good idea.

The disagreement comes over whether dogs should be allowed on the property, owned by the city of Snohomish.

The area is located immediately to the west of the current sewage treatment plant, along the Snohomish River west of Highway 9.

A 4-acre wetland section owned by the **Pilchuck Audubon Society** north of the lagoon also would be set aside as a bird sanctuary and viewing area and connected to the city property.

Many people already walk along the dike that surrounds the sewage lagoon. The only access is by foot from city property east of the highway.

Many of those people walk their dogs there, said Morgan Davis, 71, who lives in Snohomish. City residents should have full use of the city property, he said.

"We should have the right to walk out there with a dog on a leash," he said.

The idea for the project came from Bill Fulton, 66, a Snohomish resident, business owner and Pilchuck Audubon Society member. He's also chairman of a city-appointed panel studying the issue.

More than 140 bird species have been identified at the lagoon and wetland, including great blue herons, red-tailed hawks, swallows, ducks and teal.

"I don't think dogs are appropriate in a bird refuge," he said. "And I have three dogs. There are other venues for dogs."

Ann Stanton, project manager for the city of Snohomish, said there are seven parks and trails in the city that allow dogs on leashes. There are no off-leash dog areas in the city.

Pilchuck member Kathleen Snyder, who also serves on the city panel, said she has never seen a wildlife refuge that allows dogs.

"They are too disruptive to the wildlife and dog waste also is a problem," she said.

Many dog walkers at the lagoon are not packing out dog waste, Stanton said.

Davis said that can be remedied with signs and plastic glove dispensers.

He said dogs stay on top of the dike and don't venture into the lagoon.

"They've already been allowed two years on that trail," he said. "Dogs can't fly, they can't catch the birds even if they tried. Cats catch more birds than dogs. Humans can disrupt wildlife, too."

Dogs also make it safer for women to walk alone, Davis said.

Stanton said 14 people attended a recent parks board meeting on the subject and were about evenly split on whether to allow dogs.

The City Council appointed the steering committee last year. The group includes Fulton, Snyder and Stanton; resident Dean Randall; Bob Krull of the Boeing Bluebills, a group that has volunteered to help improve the property; parks board member Leanne Burke, and Ruth Milner of the state Department of Fish and Wildlife.

No final decision has been made. The City Council will have the ultimate say. The committee is scheduled to make a report to the council Feb. 19 and a decision could come in late spring or early summer, Stanton said.

The committee hasn't yet determined its recommendation to the council but the group is leaning away from allowing dogs, Stanton said.

"If you have a place that's a remarkable bird refuge it doesn't make sense to harm that when there are alternatives," she said.

"A lot of us have dogs; we'd like to be able to walk there with our pet. It's not an easy decision."

Bill Sheets: 425-339-3439; sheets@heraldnet.com.

Story tags » • Snohomish • Wildlife Habitat • Animals • Walking • Bird-watching

Comments



You must register an account and sign in before posting comments.

"dog waste also is a problem,"

This is funny. Complaints about "doggy-doo" at a site that was filled with the sludge from human feces.

February 5, 2013 6:35 am |  or  | Request Removal

Mike Levin

Build a Hi Rise Condo Senior Housing...

Name the Condo Complex "Old Turds with Birds".....

Enjoy your day!

February 5, 2013 5:23 am |  or  | Request Removal

jcs

As a dog owner...

I say keep the dogs OUT.

February 4, 2013 8:49 pm |  or  | Request Removal

Thomas Sawyer

NO

If everybody followed the rules....

this probably wouldn't be an issue.

NO

But since a small percentage of dog owners refuse to scoop the poop, and a larger percentage refuse to follow the on-leash rule , I'd prefer to see dogs limited to the dog parks.

I use the local trails often , and encounter off-leash dogs and piles of poop right in the walkway quite frequently. I had one big dog attack me last year on the Lowell Riverfront trail , it charged and ended up getting in front of my bike tire , causing me to crash. The owner was an idiot, apparently testing out some kind of "shock collar" setup in lieu of the REQUIRED leash . Didn't work.

It sucks that a few irresponsible dog owners have to spoil it for the majority of owners who keep their dogs leashed and keep the poop cleaned up, but that's the way the cookie crumbles...and presumably why we have built a network of parks specifically designed for dogs.

February 4, 2013 4:06 pm | 3 👍 or 🗑️ | Request Removal

Chris Kennedy

Stinky Poo

I really like to walk the trails at Brightwater, but I do not enjoy the constant smell of dog doo. I used to have a dog, but did not feel the need to take him everywhere. I see dogs in the mall, at the hardware store, and even little purse dogs in the grocery store. Enough is enough.

February 4, 2013 10:43 am | 5 👍 or 🗑️ | Request Removal

Sirius Lee

No subject

"Dogs also make it safer for women to walk alone, Davis said."

Given the location of this particular park, that's actually a very good point. It's very secluded.

YES

The publicly accessible area is also just an open field of fill dirt on top of the old lagoon. The actual habitat area owned by the Audobon Society is fenced off.

"If this has truly been sanctioned as a bird sanctuary, leave the sanctuary to the birds. "

I don't know what you mean by "truly sanctioned." The city sanctioned it because it's undeveloped land at the edge of town, along the river, so if you think inside city limits is an appropriate place for a wildlife sanctuary, I guess this fits the bill.

In terms of effectiveness at preserving bird habitat, though, it's nothing compared to Spencer Island between Snohomish and Everett, or the Heirman Wildlife Preserve south of Snohomish. Both are just a

few miles away, much less disrupted by city activities, and on the order of 100 times the size.

My vote goes for using space IN the city for multi-use parks, and thus more incentive for people to keep the bulk of their activities IN the city, thereby reducing the traffic and impacts on areas OUT of the city.

YES
Snohomish doesn't exactly have a wealth of open park spaces, nor the money to buy land for them elsewhere (which puzzles me given how high the sales and property tax rates are). One of the few undeveloped areas in the city along the river, and close to downtown seems like an ideal location for a traditional park.

February 4, 2013 10:31 am | 1 👍 or 1 🗑️ | Request Removal

iamlucky13

LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION

NO
"When in you get down to it people should be banned as well, because their are a lot of people that are slobes without the pets."

That's why the most expensive neighborhoods are generally the most civilized.

February 4, 2013 8:47 am | 1 👍 or 2 🗑️ | Request Removal

bill wald

Good compromise

NO
Ban dogs in the wildlife sanctuary but make a genuine effort to open an off-leash dog park in the near future.

Maybe use of the fallow farmland nearby.

February 4, 2013 8:43 am | 1 👍 or 🗑️ | Request Removal

W B

dogs poop...period

NO
sadly, there are more people who clean up their dog's messes than people who don't, but it is the one's who don't who will always stand out.

February 4, 2013 8:18 am | 1 👍 or 🗑️ | Request Removal

tootietuttle

Ban People

NO
When in you get down to it people should be banned as well, because their are a lot of people that are slobes without the pets. People leave a bigger mess than a dog, and scare the wildlife more than any

pets! Who is going to control all the stray cats that kill the wildlife? Just make a viewing area with no hiking trails and everyone just stay out and let the wildlife flourish undisturbed.

February 4, 2013 8:11 am | 3 👍 or 1 🗑️ | Request Removal

David K

No subject

Hey, every one is a SERVICE ANIMAL as any owner in the store or park or anywhere will loudly and sometimes profanely proclaim for the benefit of all in hearing distance. Should rename Centennial Trail dog poop alley.

LOL

February 4, 2013 8:04 am | 2 👍 or 1 🗑️ | Request Removal

John H

Dog bags won't help

I frequent many off-leash dog parks and even the best of them requires volunteers to pick up after owners who do not pick up after their dogs. If there are no volunteers at the off-leash parks to do this, then dog waste just stays there. It's not a healthy situation and is very irritating both to dog owners and non-dog owners. Best leave bird sanctuary to the birds unless you have a group of volunteers who will keep the area clean...

February 4, 2013 7:58 am | 1 👍 or 1 🗑️ | Request Removal

Jo

Sadly

Sadly I have to agree. As a responsible dog owner, I too get upset when I see dogs poop not being picked up. I also get upset when some dog owners just don't understand ON LEAD ONLY. Those people have ruined it for the rest of us.

February 4, 2013 6:28 am | 8 👍 or 1 🗑️ | Request Removal

watchk9

As a dog owner

I disgusted by the amount of slob owners out there that do not pick up their dogs waste and can unequivocally say that they should be banned just for public health reasons!

Marysville Man

February 4, 2013 6:15 am | 9 👍 or 1 🗑️ | Request Removal

Marysville Man

Agree it's not a place for dogs

In this case, it's the few ruining for the rest, because I can tell you for a fact that there will be people who let their dog off its leash, and there will be people who won't clean up after it either. And I say this as a dog owner (I keep my dog on her leash and have those awesome little baggies, but I have seen people who don't). I seriously doubt many dogs would turn down the opportunity to chase after birds either. If it's to be a bird sanctuary, then Fido needs to stay home.

February 4, 2013 5:48 am | 4 👍 or 0 🗑️ | Request Removal

Ender Wiggin

Yes to dog ban, but be fair.

Ban cats at the trail too since some folks thing they are causing a problem.

Also, if a dog owner does not bring gloves, or bags.....The dog slob does not want to clean up thier dogs stinking waste. Supplying gloves to the slobs will not change anything.

February 4, 2013 5:00 am | 2 👍 or 1 🗑️ | Request Removal

Bull Dozer

I vote yes,

If this has truly been sanctioned as a bird sanctuary, leave the sanctuary to the birds.

From my observations of some dog owners keeping their dog on a leash and picking up after their dog especially in this "I" mentality society is like pulling teeth.

I coach outdoor soccer and their isn't much worse than to have a young soccer player slide for a tackle and come to the bench with a gift from an irresponsible dog owners dog.

Dogs should be banned from all play fields and school yards also, just for this reason. Kids should have a place to play without the worry of dodging land mines and birds should have the freedom to fly and live without being harrassed by dogs.

Ann Stanton

From: Jim
Sent: Monday, February 04, 2013 7:33 PM
To: Ann Stanton
Subject: Comment period on the new wildlife park

Dear Ms. Stanton:

This letter is in response to your email address being given in the January 30, 2013 issue of The Snohomish Tribune, page 3, as a site in which to send citizen comments concerning allowing dog-walks in the proposed new Wildlife Park at the Snohomish City Sewer Lagoon.

I have lived near this proposed Park since 1988 and I have taken my dogs there on our regular walks fairly frequently since then. I know the area well because of that. In the late 80's and into the 90's the proposed Wildlife Park was a huge, open sewer lagoon. Now it is filled in with beautiful, lush greenery. I love walking my dog there.

I do not let my dog off of his leash when we are there. If there were several garbage cans to use as refuse bag depositories within the proposed park I would use them, and I believe other responsible dog owners would use them as well. Presently I am aware of only 1 garbage can in which to deposit dog waste, and it is out near 1st St. More garbage cans need to be placed at intervals, not only along the gravel road/path that passes under the Highway 9 bridge but the dike within the proposed Wildlife Park as well.

Having read the article in today's on-line Everett Herald and the many responses written by readers, I sense a negative impression being painted of responsible citizens who want to be able to walk their dogs in this beautiful area by those who feel that all dog owners are irresponsible. This proposed Park should be a leashes-only park and should have adequate garbage receptacles so that dog owners can pick up after their dogs. Given these parameters, I believe that wildlife and those who wish to see and to enjoy them will be able to co-exist together.

Sincerely,

Jim :

Snohomish, WA 98290

Ann Stanton

From: Jim
Sent: Tuesday, February 05, 2013 12:28 PM
To: Ann Stanton
Subject: Response to your questions

Dear Ms. Stanton:

Thank you for your timely reply to my letter yesterday concerning the new Wildlife area trail. Quickly, I will try to answer your questions.

1. *How do I walk to and from the Lagoon?* I live on Ludwig Rd., 1/2 mile north of 2nd St./Riverview Rd. I walk south on Ludwig Rd. and east on 2nd St. when we dog walk to the Sewer Lagoon area. The only sidewalks involved is the new one on the north of 2nd between Ludwig and Ave. J. There are no sidewalks on Ludwig Rd. They would be expensive to install, but they are sorely needed.
2. I am very familiar with what happens to the terrain in question during floods and therefore I understand the problem with placing garbage cans along the dike during floods. I did not think of that when I wrote yesterday's letter to you. Your alternatives are what we presently have: (a) placing cans out of the flood plan, and (b) pet owners carrying "full" bags back out to deposit them in the garbage cans. This plan will work well when responsible dog owners do (a) and (b). I will do it and I'm hopeful that others will as well.
3. *Seasons/Days/Times.* Over the years I have several routes that I enjoy walking with my dog, of which the Sewer Lagoon route is but one.

One loop is the "Stadium Loop" in which we walk south on Ludwig, north on Ave. J., east past the football stadium, north on Ave. D. and Bonneville Ave. west on 72nd/16th, and south on Ludwig back home. Another loop is the "GAR Loop": north on Ludwig, west on 72nd, south on 85th, walk through the GAR Cemetery, east on Riverview Rd., and north on Ludwig Rd. back home. Sometimes we head into town toward the library and then back home.

Sometimes, when the mood strikes and the grass is not all wet, we do the "Sewer Lagoon Route". The season, time of day, etc. do not matter: it's just whenever we feel that a walk along the dike would be nice. I pray that we will still have the Sewer Lagoon Route as an option in the future.

KOMO NEWS 4
Snohomish Wildlife Refuge and Dogs

NO
Yes
4?

SNOHOMISH, Wash. -- A park controversy in the town of Snohomish has pitted bird lovers against dog owners.

A plan to set aside land for a wildlife refuge is ruffling some feathers. The dispute is over whether dogs and birds can coexist on the public land without ruining the outdoor experience for some people.

Pet owner P.J. Parsons thinks she should be able to walk her border collie at any public park in the city.

"Why wouldn't you let them go somewhere beautiful? Why wouldn't you want to share wonderful nature with your dog?" she said.

Her view puts her at odds with bird lovers, who believe the city should prohibit canines in the refuge.

"This is really a launch pad for people to enjoy the hobby of birding," said Bill Fulton of the Pilchuck Audubon Society.

Fulton belongs on the committee that will help create rules for the nearly 60-acre wildlife habitat. The land is slated to become the town's next public park, which will include prime bird habitat.

"We're trying to establish a refuge where birds can raise their families, and it's not consistent to have birds and dogs together," he said.

The city's project manager also sits on the committee, and describes the former sewage lagoon as an outdoor treasure that deserves a special kind of protection.

"If you really want to preserve the reason you're coming here -- just to really enjoy the wildlife, the natural condition, then you don't bring your dog," said Ann Staton of the Snohomish Public Works Department.

The answer did not satisfy Parsons, who said, "I would ask why, what their reasoning is."

The committee says pet waste left behind by inconsiderate owners is one reason it is looking to ban dogs.

But Parsons argues most pet owners are responsible. She believes the refuge is big enough for both birds and dogs.

"Well, the birds share the back yard with the dog, and everybody seems happy," she said.

The committee will present its suggested rules for the refuge to the Snohomish City Council later this month.

COMMENTS

Sort: Newest | Oldest

Freespeech 1104 pts

No
Irresponsible Dog owners just like irresponsible anything... rune it for the people who do the same thing responsibly ... I love dogs but hate owners who do not pickup after their pets... I myself have to put stuff down to keep dogs away from places I don't want them defecating in...of course I would not run into the problem if the dog owners picked up after their bets functions...since I started putting pepper and other things down in all their favorite spots the dogs at least learned where not to go as I have not seen one

KOMO NEWS 4
Snohomish Wildlife Refuge and Dogs

venture near their favorite spots when I watch-out for them but again... if the owners did their jobs I would not have to go putting down anything to deter the dogs away...

1 hour ago share flag

The WA Mama 3191 pts

I am an avid dog lover (as my pic suggests!) In this case though, I have no problem with keeping the dogs out of the refuge so the birds and birdwatchers can have some peace. Some dogs (and owners) are well behaved, but there are quite a few that are not. There are plenty of other parks and places to go that are dog friendly. If someone wants to take their dog somewhere they can go there instead. I've seen plenty of comments about keeping the dogs on a leash and fining the owners that don't. In theory that sounds great, but it happens all the time and the chances of the owner getting fined are pretty much slim to none. Dogs are natural predators -- it's their instinct. I know my dog, though pretty much well behaved has gone after birds, squirrels, possums, etc. in our back yard.

NO

3 hours ago share flag

Northend 611 pts

"We're trying to establish a refuge where birds can raise their families, and it's not consistent to have birds and dogs together," he said." LOL Really? i have 5 dogs 2 are wolf dogs and one catches birds and yet I have a yard filled with all types and colors of birds. I have a large feeder out front for them. Nothing in the back. A public park is not a dog park. There won't be dogs running around. At the most you'll see a dog here and there. Get over it. These birds are also prey for larger birds of prey. Should we banish the eagles and hawks too?

YES

6 hours ago share flag

Mike 89 pts

Northend Have you ever sat in the Spring And watched as the Eagles attack baby ducks and the mother duck is trying to hide her babies. As she is losing them one a time it is very sad. There are wet lands All over the county

3 hours ago share flag

justsayin 465 pts

The bird people need to learn to share. They have taken the acts of a few to penalize the majority. People in Seattle need to learn they are not entitled to everything natural and beautiful.

YES

6 hours ago share flag

komosux 52 pts

KOMO NEWS 4
Snohomish Wildlife Refuge and Dogs

People like Parsons are the kind that can't separate a pet from natural wildlife nor even a child versus a pet. Psst, dogs don't belong on the bed cause they poop and nobody wipes their butt.

8 hours agoshare flag

Northend 611 pts

komosux Kids are petri dishes! Dogs clean themselves. Kids don't. Kids have MORE germs than dogs do.

6 hours agoshare flag

komosux 52 pts

Kids are petri dishes cause it takes a long time (18 yrs) for them to grow up. However I've never seen a dog cleaning themselves - cats? Yes. I can only imagine you and your dog eating the same food out of each of other's mouth. Ugh!

2 hours agoshare flag

jennieb 284 pts

I love to walk in the many parks. Irresponsible dog owners dampen the experience nearly every time. Most parks have FREE feces bags, yet so many folks will not use them. signs posted that dogs must be on a leash. some places have signs noting fines for non-compliance- really? like that will ever happen. I am sure that readers here are responsible with their pets. it is a shame that a few bad apples spoil the barrel but there it is. I would like to see more parks prohibiting pets and the parks that allow them having fenced off-leash areas.

11 hours agoshare flag

LongBeachBum 854 pts

Because of encroaching population, business, and development the birds areas have shrunk down a lot. Many people do not use common sense when taking their animals out by letting them run free to chase animals and birds. The birds need their place as well and birds and dogs do not mix well as a rule. Many people do use good common sense, but those that don't have poisoned it for the rest.

17 hours agoshare flag

Roper 31 pts

Ban dogs, ban guns, ban this, ban that, soon we'll all be living in sterile little bubbles with our cell phones and lattes, won't that be wonderful? Don't people have enough of their own business that they have to mind everybody elses business? Isn't there enough polarization already, we have to bitch and moan about this too?

KOMO NEWS 4
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17 hours ago share flag

CT 27 pts

NO

"I would ask why, what their reasoning is." Well, the answer's pretty straightforward. Dogs are generally bad for wildlife - even on a leash, they'll disturb nesting birds. And we all know people let dogs off-leash all the time.

"The birds share the backyard with the dog." Not the same birds. Lady, go for a walk with some birders without your dog, and ask a lot of questions.

19 hours ago share flag

Mike 89 pts

CT Not all year 3-4 months most people don't let their dogs chase birds, some do. I don't think it is nice to take the dog for a swim without some bird watcher getting in my face, you need multi-use areas not just bird watcher areas.

YES

PART

18 hours ago share flag

Chandler 693 pts

Mike CT then take your dog to a multi-use area. This is being considered as a "wildlife" refuge. According to the Feds, dogs and wildlife don't go together

NO

http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Nisqually/visit/rules_and_regulations.html

NO

there are plenty of dog parks, and not enough places for birds

14 hours ago share flag

justsayin 465 pts

YES

@Chandler @Mike @CT Seriously, the birds are everywhere. They are not going to nest there because it is a private park, this isn't for the birds you just want it selfishly for yourself.

6 hours ago share flag

justsayin 465 pts

YES

@CT My dog walks near a pond with ducks everyday. He does not bother them at all. He is too busy sniffing all the other scents.

6 hours ago share flag

Mike 89 pts

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Dog owners tell were you can take your dog and let them swim with out getting a ticket for being off leash

19 hours ago share flag

Northend 611 pts

Mike Marymoor or Edmonds dog parks both have water for dogs.

6 hours ago share flag

Jolly 391 pts

YES
Well, they aren't planning on making it an open-run area, right? So as long as they don't make the park an off-leash area, anyone with a dog not restrained will be subject to a fine. Presumably on-leash dogs probably won't have that much license to disturb the birds beyond what an average human would be capable of. Plus, now the dog owners know that there will be birdwatchers out there ready to immediately report them if they break leash laws/scoop rules. Hopefully that will be enough.

19 hours ago share flag

al_wa 1658 pts

NO
You could build a pretty good case that people don't belong in a refuge either. If all of the dog owners that used the area were responsible owners, controlled their barking, had their pets on a leash, picked up the crap, this may not have become an issue.

19 hours ago share flag

Mike 89 pts

YES
There are bird watch areas all over Snohomish and Skagit counties they need to be multi use areas, there is a lot area designated to bird watcher (spotted owl). Look at what happen to Norms Resort At Cottage 50 yrs. ago a couple million people would use the parks in one summer.. Now who knows not a couple million to many little groups get there way and the majority suffers.I do know Bird watchers have a large voice that works in the Washington Department Game.

20 hours ago share flag

PNW55 20 pts

NO
I have a golden retriever who is always kept on a leash in public and we are constantly being hassled by irresponsible dog owners who allow their dogs to run off leash where it is against the law. I gave up fly fishing and birding because of her, she doesn't belong in a wildlife refuge. Wetlands are fragile, when birds are nesting and an off leash dog disturbs the nest the parent(s) may not return to incubate the eggs or feed the young. The dog owner in this story sounds so entitled and unaware, something that afflicts many today.

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20 hours agoshare flag

justsayin 465 pts

@PNW55 You're lying, I have a golden retriever as well, he has never disturbed the birds, barked or anything like that. He runs around and sniffs everything and rolls in the mud.

6 hours agoshare flag

PNW55 20 pts

justsayin PNW55 Lying about what exactly? Or maybe you don't know about the medical bills I had from a dislocated knee after an off-leash pit bull mix tried to attack my golden when she was on a leash and it knocked me down from behind and dislocated my knee. Good to know that you are the kind of dog owner that makes people hate dogs.

3 hours agoshare flag

Northend 611 pts

PNW55 People shouldn't be in refuge areas either. Humans do far worse damage than any animal ever could.

6 hours agoshare flag

APenny4MyThoughts 758 pts

Either way they have to enforce it as the inconsiderate will not follow the rules. Beyond that anyone can claim their dog is a service animal and the rules is trumped by law and their is no requirement to prove the animal is actually a service animal.

20 hours agoshare flag

DT 2186 pts

And really PJ Parsons.. you think that you should be able to bring your dog there, even though it's clear why dogs sould not be allowed. Can't you give it up for the people who love birds and QUIET enjoyment of nature??? I own herding dogs, too. And they are not low-key at all.

21 hours agoshare flag

DT 2186 pts

Dogs do NOT belong in a refuge. Period. I own two dogs, and love them so much.. but I also love birds, and birding. Dogs frighten them away, even if leashed. And let's be honest. This State is the worst when it comes to people letting their dogs off leash. You allow dogs there? Then show up in 3 weeks to find dogs swimming in the water, chasing the birds, pooping everywhere, and turning it into a dog park. You

KOMO NEWS 4

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don't have to bring your dog everywhere. This is ludicrous. Let the birders and people who enjoy nature do it without turning it into an off-leash park.

Seriously.. what exactly is the problem here? Why do people refuse to leash their dogs everywhere?? You are the ones causing the problems for yourselves. Ban the dogs. End of story.

21 hours ago share flag

Mike 89 pts

DT May be we should register them

18 hours ago share flag

chandler 693 pts

NO
DT Ban them in stores too. Everybody brings their dogs into stores with them because they feel bad about leaving them in the car (or at home) and wheel their multiple dogs around in shopping carts and pretend their bigger dogs are service animals. I can't count the number of times I've seen badly trained dogs lunging at kids in the checkout lines and p'ing on the floors.

14 hours ago share flag

justsayin 465 pts

YES?
@DT Really, and what about all the other animals that scare them. Do you think racoons are going stay away? Do you think any other predator is going to look up and say, "Oh it's a wildlife refuge, I better not disturb the bird!"

Ann Stanton

From: Kristin Kelly [Kristin@futurewise.org]
Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2013 9:26 AM
To: Ann Stanton
Subject: Snohomish Wildlife Refuge comment letter

Importance: High

Dear Ann,

I would like this letter to be part of the record regarding the Snohomish Wildlife Refuge dog issue. Please respond to let me know you received this email.

I am a resident of the City of Snohomish. I love living in Snohomish because of all that this small town offers. There is really something for everyone to enjoy recreationally: the Centennial Trail, local small parks, Blackman's Lake, the trail along the River, Pilchuck Park with tennis courts... And soon a new swimming center, plus lots and lots of neighborhoods with sidewalks, plus the beautiful wildlife reserve where folks can view birds and other wildlife.

That is why I am opposed to allowing dogs at the Snohomish Wildlife Refuge. There are plenty of places in the city and around the city for people who want to walk or run their dogs. The refuge is just that...a refuge for the wildlife to be able to live and find food without fear of being chased or harassed by people's pets.

In addition, people who bird watch, also spend money. After a few hours bird watching at the refuge, without any pet to worry about, might be inclined to stop in town and eat lunch or shop. Folks who go to the reserve to walk their dogs most likely will not be stopping in at town afterwards.

I am hopeful the City will make the right decision to keep this refuge free from dogs so that people can enjoy the wildlife in a serene setting and so that wildlife will be protected.

Most sincerely,

Kristin Kelly
[REDACTED] Maple Avenue
Snohomish, WA 98290
(425) 923-[REDACTED]
kristin@futurewise.org

Ann Stanton

From: Douglas Cooper [dvcjcoop@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, February 15, 2013 8:40 AM
To: Ann Stanton
Cc: Kathleen Snyder
Subject: Pets in the proposed treatment plant wildlife area

Ms. Stanton,

My wife and I are city residents who are concerned about pets being allowed in the proposed wildlife area near the treatment plant. We feel that domestic pets and nature areas do not mix. We are frequent users of Ferguson Park, Hill Park (Dogs not allowed; Snohomish City Park Code 13.04.060), and the Centennial Trail. Even though, by law, animals must be leashed and cleaned up after, they frequently are not. We would like to be able to enjoy a nature area where pets are clearly excluded.

Sincerely,

Douglas and Candace Cooper
1602 Lake View Pl.
Snohomish, WA 98290

**Snohomish City Council Meeting Minutes
February 19, 2013**

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Guzak called the Snohomish City Council meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 19, 2013, in the Snohomish School District Resource Service Center, George Gilbertson Boardroom, 1601 Avenue D, Snohomish, Washington.

COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT

Derrick Burke
Greg Guedel
Karen Guzak, Mayor
Tom Hamilton
Paul Kaftanski
Dean Randall
Lynn Schilaty

STAFF PRESENT

Larry Bauman, City Manager
Thom Graafstra, City Attorney
Danny Weinberg, Support Services Dir.
Steve Schuller, Public Works Director
Owen Dennison, Planning Manager
John Flood, Police Chief
Torchie Corey, City Clerk
Ann Stanton, Project Manager

There were twelve citizens in attendance.

2. **APPROVE AGENDA** contents and order

The Executive Session was expected to last ten minutes with action to follow.

3. **CITIZEN COMMENTS** on items not on the Agenda (*and/or to request time to speak on any Action or Discussion items on this agenda*)

Morgan Davis, 206 Avenue I, confirmed an opportunity to speak later on tonight's discussion item. He brought a document from the county assessor's office that showed Snohomish had the second highest percent of a property tax increase from 2012 to 2013. While the average home value fell 5.1% down to \$202,000, the tax due raised 1.7% for a \$50 tax increase for 2013. The state's property tax system was unfair. When *Housing Hope* purchased a \$1 million property, \$10,000 was lost in taxes because it was a non-profit. Only Snohomish and Mill Creek taxes went up; all the other cities in the county went down. Secondly, as Councilmember Kaftanski was Everett's Parks and Recreation Director, how did Everett's off-leash dog parks operate and were dogs allowed on the Langus Park nature trails around the Everett wastewater treatment plant? Dogs were allowed on the nature trails. Everett's experience could shed some light on whether the City should continue to allow dogs on the mile-long loop trail on top of the dike surrounding the abandoned sewer lagoon. The City banned dogs in the Hill and Pilchuck Parks. All Everett parks and trails allowed dogs except the Silver Lake swimming park, plus there were three off-leash dog parks. What about allowing leashed dogs at the west riverfront trail and explore the option of an off-leash area at the southwest corner of the abandoned lagoon? It would be an amenity for dog lovers and have no impact on the Audubon's four-acre wetland.

Councilmember Kaftanski would comment during the wildlife refuge agenda item.

Bill Fulton, 323 Second Street, said the new aquatic center was coming along. He could arrange a tour of this amazing community facility. The tanks were poured but not finished. Some walls were up. Construction was expected to be completed in October, with the actual opening in January. A national search was underway for an aquatic administrator, with a decision anticipated in March. Tax dollars were being well spent. The swimming pool was

going to be as terrific as hoped.

5. **DISCUSSION ITEM** – Wildlife Refuge Update

This progress report was an opportunity to get Council input on the direction the steering committee has taken so far. A lot of time had been spent to consider guiding principles, the purpose of the refuge, and what they were trying to accomplish. There had been good input from several outside sources. Committee members in the audience were introduced.

Benefits of the wildlife refuge were not only environmental and economic, but also included the health of community members as an addition to the City's amenities. Utility needs were also being protected. To date it was stormwater treatment ponds and the wastewater pipeline to Everett which could be accommodated and still permit the wildlife refuge and more public uses.

Probably the single most important guiding principle discussed was that the refuge would be administered through adaptive management. They wanted to manage the area for its most critical habitat which was riparian. Invasive species may need to be removed and some plantings done. They needed to watch how it went, take another look over time, and adapt management strategies if what was being done wasn't working.

The most controversial issue was whether or not to allow dogs in the refuge. From the birds' perspective, dogs and people both could be predators. The most recent vision for the lagoon was to treat stormwater and restore the side channels of the 1930's. Stream channels were cut in by flood water but remained year-round, where salmon fry grew up in the slow-moving water. By restoring some of those historic side channels the lagoon could do a lot to help salmon recovery in the area. \$219 million was spent in Puget Sound for salmon recovery. There was lots of interest and support at the federal level.

Nothing could really be done until the biosolids issue was addressed. Rather than looking at the biosolids as a liability which would cost hundreds of thousands of dollars to remove down to native material, the committee thought of it as an asset. It could be mounded in the northeast and southeast corners of the lagoon to recreate the marsh and side channel habitats. In some areas there was plenty of fill to build hills and widen the dike paths so there would be long linear meadows to provide the meadow habitat but would also allow additional riparian plantings.

Regarding a name, they hadn't found a Native American name which was their first thought. One possibility was Riverview Wildlife Refuge for the road on the north side or Snohomish Wildlife Refuge although that seemed overused. The committee hadn't focused on a name and they expected to come back with suggestions later. They'd done a lot of talking about outside circulation, walking access, and where to park but there was nothing to show tonight.

Mayor Guzak was pleased to make use of a resource that had been undiscovered until recently when Mr. Fulton and others had the grand vision. It was a huge asset.

Councilmember Randall agreed the bird sanctuary idea was great and there were other wildlife for people to view in the area also. There was a lot of potential and a lot of good starting ideas.

Councilmember Kaftanski verified the other 20 acres referenced in the report were owned by someone in Granite Falls. This plan was for the public property. The initial vision was for a trail on the northern end adjacent to the Pilchuck Audubon Society property for bird viewing.

Ms. Stanton and Mike Johnson took photos last Friday from various heights above the dike path elevation. The valley floor, river bed, and Cascades were visible 15 feet above the dike path to improve the viewing experience. Paths could be constructed to make the hills ADA accessible so there wouldn't be stairs to a viewing blind. They wanted to get a little higher to see over the fence into the marsh ponds. That could be done with fill.

Councilmember Kaftanski brought up the more controversial issue of whether or not to allow dogs in the area. What type of comments had been received to date?

Ms. Stanton said the media showed early interest. Both the newspaper and KOMO News had comment sites. One site was 7-1 in favor of no dogs and the other was 4-1 for no dogs. In other e-mails the overwhelming response was to not allow dogs in the refuge; there were other parks and sections of the Riverfront Trail for dogs. She hadn't seen a deer since the much more public access began eighteen months ago. It was winter and the grass was brown but deer used to be seen in the meadow area.

Councilmember Kaftanski said allowing dogs in parks was controversial across the country. Even off-leash areas had a maintenance issue. Many dog owners were responsible but many were not which imposed a cost on the taxpayer. In Everett leashed dogs were allowed in all but one park and a lot of money was spent educating people to keep their animals on leash. The Parks and Recreation Plan would be updated this year and he strongly suggested that the issue be studied. As an example the Pilchuck District would be a higher density area with less open space for residents. One of the best health activities people had was walking and they needed places to walk with their dogs. Everett, Snohomish, and Seattle were different types of cities. This site was in a more rural area and it may not be appropriate to have dogs particularly next to a wildlife refuge area. Everett had no adjacencies like that. There was a lot of community support when park land and open space were developed. Those were public investments that people wanted more of, not less. The Council wanted to be responsive to what the citizens were telling them. This was just a draft and more comments would come in on this and other issues associated with the master plan. At this particular point they were being told to strongly consider not allowing dogs and he wanted to take that to heart in moving toward master plan development.

Councilmember Hamilton asked if there was a reason people didn't want dogs in the park. Ms. Stanton said the most frequently cited comment was that too many dog owners were not responsible and ruined it for everyone else. The steering committee strongly felt there were other places dogs could go. The site was big as a place to walk but it wasn't big for a refuge and it would be good to protect it. It's totally a Council decision though. These were only recommendations.

Councilmember Hamilton's understanding was that as this became marsh land, it would help to filter stormwater. It was wonderful to be able to take an asset like this that was being used for some of the utilities and help create a really nice park for the community.

Ms. Stanton said there was a beautiful match with the Combined Sewer Overflow project that provided the pipes to divert the stormwater street run-off from the wastewater treatment plant where it was going now and take it just a little further to drop it into the lagoon.

Councilmember Randall was a dog owner and had long thought that the City needed to seriously look at developing an off-leash dog park in the City limits. He'd visited dog parks in other parts of the country. There were areas now where they could walk dogs on-leash, the largest being the Centennial Trail. Developing an off-leash dog park would be really important and an asset for

the City. He was very concerned about allowing dogs in this proposed area near the lagoon. He had originally thought dogs could be allowed to walk along the perimeter on the dike area but the dike basically wrapped around and came back into the meadow area and to the Audubon land where there was no way to enforce. Where would people stop with their dogs? When the park plan work began, they needed to look for an off-leash dog park and get one established in town.

Mayor Guzak said this was a refuge for wildlife and they wanted more birds and wildlife. Dogs were an incompatible predator in this site so she was very supportive of this being 'no dog' but certainly a people area.

Councilmember Burke said this type of habitat had long since disappeared in the state. It was a gem. Lowland habitat like this wasn't seen on the entire west coast. He was strongly in favor of off-leash dog parks but it absolutely didn't need to be in this location and he didn't want it there. He was happy to see this unfold the way it was envisioned.

Morgan Davis, 206 Avenue I, said there were plenty of deer on that City property that even came up Avenues J and I, and Second Street to eat apples. He didn't usually agree with Councilmember Kaftanski but Councilmember Kaftanski said this was a passive park for all the City's residents, not the Audubon bird-watchers. Their four acres and the adjacent 20 acres were fine for a bird sanctuary. Not even humans should be allowed there. But the dike around the lagoon should be for everybody. It was similar to the nature trails at Langus Park which has the Everett wastewater treatment plant. The triangle would be a perfect place for an off-leash dog park. The bird sanctuary and the passive park loop for people to walk all the way around the lagoon were two things. Was there any scientific proof that allowing dogs around the sewer lagoon the last two years had reduced the bird population? As far as a few obnoxious dog owners not picking up after their dogs, what about children? What if a kid shot a sparrow with a BB gun? Would children be banned from the area? Volunteers from the court system could be used to pick up at no cost to the City. The City's 55-acre abandoned lagoon property should be a passive park for everyone to enjoy, not some pristine sanctuary which would be the 4 acres west of it, because it was paid for by the City's rate payers. It was next to SR 9, the wastewater treatment plant and was zoned Industrial. This was not a sanctuary; it was a passive park. Couldn't everyone just get along, dog lovers and bird watchers? In the 1998 bond issue the West Riverfront Trail was supposed to be phase III and the voters approved it, so stick with the name West Riverfront Park, not refuge or sanctuary.

Mayor Guzak appreciated the update. It engendered some different points of view but the Council supported the excellent work.

Snohomish Friday Newsletter 3/8/13

Name that Refuge

The City of Snohomish Wildlife Refuge Master Plan Steering Committee invites you to suggest a name for the city's proposed wildlife park located west of Highway 9 along the Snohomish River. Although "Snohomish Wildlife Refuge" is technically accurate, it is not terribly unique, given that we already have a tribe, county, city, river and more with that name. While it would do, there is some thought that a more memorable moniker might exist.

There is no prize to be won beyond the honor and prestige of authoring a unique and inviting name for a marvelous natural area. The Wildlife Refuge Master Plan Steering Committee is scheduled to recommend a name to the City Council in April or May for Council approval in June.

The deadline for your refuge name suggestion is March 28th. Send your refuge name ideas to Stanton@ci.snohomish.wa.us or mail to City of Snohomish, ATTN: Ann Stanton, 116 Union Avenue, Snohomish, WA 98290.

Herald

Published: Thursday, March 21, 2013, 12:01 a.m.

Wildlife sanctuary still needs a name

By **Alejandro Dominguez**, Herald Writer

Snohomish News

Local news

SNOHOMISH -- What would you call the city's new wildlife sanctuary along the Snohomish River?

Kingfisher Sanctuary or the Warbling Vireo Birdwatch Field? What about the **No-Dogs Allowed wildlife park**? The city wants to hear from anyone who has an idea for the area, which is rich in birds and other wildlife.

"We are not trying to name it after a person. We are trying to name it to something related to the wildlife or geography of the area," project manager Ann Stanton said.

The city plans to save a 24-acre **former sewage lagoon** and privately owned wetlands located immediately to the west of the current sewage treatment plant, along the Snohomish River west of Highway 9.

More than 140 bird species have been identified, including great blue herons, red-tailed hawks, swallows, ducks and teal.

Currently, staff is developing recommendations on amenities and long terms uses of the part of land that is publicly owned, Stanton said.

Suggestions should be sent to Stanton at City Hall, 116 Union Ave. or by email at stanton@ci.snohomish.wa.us by March 29.

The Wildlife Refuge Master Plan Steering Committee will make a recommendation to the City Council in May. The park's master plan will be voted on in June.

Alejandro Dominguez: 425-339-3422; adominguez@heraldnet.com.

Proposed Wildlife Refuge Names

Avian Heaven Bird Sanctuary
Beaten Path
Bird Walk
Birders Paradise
Birdland
Cemetery Creek Wildlife Sanctuary
Chinook Park
Eagle Bend
Fairwinds Bird Haven
Fly Zone
Flyhomish
Flyway
Free Range Wildlife Sanctuary
Free Spirit Wildlife Sanctuary
Great Blue Heron Park
Green Field
Hawk Landing
Hawk's Bend
Hawk's Bend
Hawk's River
Heritage Park
Heron Watch Bird Sanctuary
Huckleberry Park at the Lagoon - City of Snohomish
John Miles Wildlife Sanctuary
Kokostick Park
Lagoon Park
Marshland Bird Sanctuary
Marshland Refuge
Natural Hollow Wildlife Center
Nature Park
Nature Sings Wildlife Sanctuary
Natures Field Wildlife Sanctuary
Pacific Flyway
Paradise Perch Bird Haven
Pilchuck Audubon Society Bird Sanctuary
Pioneer Ornithology Outdoors Park
Pioneer Outdoor Outreach Park
Pioneer Park
R Bird Preserve
River Bird Refuge
River Bottom Wildlife Sanctuary
River Meadows Wildlife Refuge, Snohomish

River Valley Wildlife Haven
Riverbend Refuge
Rivers Edge Wildlife Retreat
Riverside Nature Reserve (RNR)
Riverside Sanctuary
Riverside Wetlands
Riverside Wildlife Habitat
Rivertown Refuge
Rivertown Reserve
Rivertown Sanctuary
Riverview Wildlife Refuge
Sno Bird
Snohaven
Snohomish River Wildlife Refuge
Snohomish River Wildlife Sanctuary
Snohomish River Wildlife Sanctuary
Sno. West Riverfront Trail & Wildlife Community Park
Snohomish Wildlife Community Park
Snohomish Wildlife Reserve
Snohomish Wildlife Sanctuary
The Lagoon Bird Sanctuary Park
Trails End Park
West Riverfront Park
West Riverside Park
West Snohomish Community Park
Wild Bird Pond
Wild Things Wildlife Sanctuary
Wind Beneath the Wings Bird Haven
Wing and Song Viewing Habitat
Winged Embrace Sanctuary

Related/Alternate Terms

Air
Explore
Fly
Marsh
Place
Pond
Preserve
Refuge
Reserve
Sanctuary
Soar
Wetland



CITY OF SNOHOMISH

Founded 1859, Incorporated 1890

116 UNION AVENUE □ SNOHOMISH, WASHINGTON 98290 □ TEL (360) 568-3115 FAX (360) 568-1375

MEDIA RELEASE – Parks Board Meeting: Wildlife Refuge Master Plan in Snohomish – May 22, 2013.

MEDIA CONTACT

Ann Stanton

360 282-3195

stanton@ci.snohomish.wa.us

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 16, 2013

SNOHOMISH – The Snohomish Parks Board invites you to attend its regular May meeting to review the proposed master plan for the Snohomish Riverview Sanctuary in the City of Snohomish.

This plan is the result of work by a City Council-appointed Steering Committee which has met regularly since last July to develop its recommendations for city-owned property located along the north bank of the Snohomish River on both sides of Highway 9. To date, the area addressed by the plan has been referred to as the proposed wildlife refuge. Over seventy suggestions were provided in response to the City's request in April, and the name Snohomish Riverview Sanctuary was selected by the Steering Committee for City Council approval later this summer.

The proposed master plan report can be viewed at

<http://www.ci.snohomish.wa.us/PDFs/Parks/MayRefugeMasterPlanforParksBoard.pdf>.

Copies of the proposed master plan are available for review at Snohomish City Hall and the Snohomish Library at 411 Maple Avenue.

The public meeting is scheduled for **7 to 8:30 p.m., May 22nd** at the Snohomish Boys & Girls Club located at **402 Second Street in the City of Snohomish**. The facility is accessible. If you cannot attend the meeting but would like to comment on the plan, you may do so by writing to the City of Snohomish, Attn: Ann Stanton, 116 Union Avenue, Snohomish WA 98290, or by email to Stanton@ci.snohomish.wa.us.

Please contact Ann Stanton, project manager, at 360 292-3195, with any questions about the Snohomish Riverview Sanctuary project.

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City Manager's Friday Newsletter

Upcoming City Council Agenda Items

June 4:

- Public hearing for adoption of the City's updated Strategic Plan
- Action to refer to the Planning Commission the concept of higher residential densities in the Historic Business land use designation

The agenda list above is partial and tentative. For further information, click here for the City website:

http://www.ci.snohomish.wa.us/Agendas.htm#CITY_COUNCIL_AGENDAS

You're Invited

The Snohomish Parks and Recreation Board invites you to attend its regular May meeting to review the proposed master plan for the wildlife refuge in the City of Snohomish.

This plan is the result of work by a City Council-appointed Steering Committee which has met regularly since last July to develop its recommendations for City-owned property located along the north bank of the Snohomish River on both sides of Highway 9. To date, the area addressed by the plan has been referred to as the proposed wildlife refuge. Over seventy suggestions were provided in response to the City's request in April, and the name Snohomish Riverview Sanctuary was selected by the Steering Committee to be submitted to the City Council for approval later this summer.

The Parks Board agenda is available on the City's web page. The master plan report can be viewed at <http://www.ci.snohomish.wa.us/PDFs/Parks/MayRefugeMasterPlanforParksBoard.pdf>. Copies of the proposed master plan are available for review at Snohomish City Hall and the Snohomish Library at 311 Maple Avenue.

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Please contact Ann Stanton, project manager, at 360-282-3195, with any questions about the wildlife refuge project.

Water Main and Fire Hydrant Flushing and Valve Exercising Project Scheduled to Begin in June

The City of Snohomish will be implementing its Water Main and Fire Hydrant Flushing and Valve Exercising Operation and Maintenance Program beginning in June and continuing throughout the summer. Watch for signs in your local neighborhood area.

Fire hydrant flushing will clean out water distribution mains, remove accumulated sediment, and make sure our fire hydrants are operating properly. Water main valve exercising will help clean out deposits around valve seats and make sure valves operate smoothly and properly.

We will be flushing fire hydrants and exercising valves throughout the City beginning in June and continuing through late summer. A technician may contact you to move property that could be damaged by flowing water. During these operations, you may experience a slight loss in water pressure, air bubbles (cloudy appearance), and/or temporary discoloration. Flushing your private system through your faucets can help clear up these conditions. Even though your water may manifest one or more of these symptoms, it is still safe to drink. This is only a temporary condition.

We thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

What is water main flushing? Water main flushing is the process of cleaning or "scouring" the interior of water distribution mains (pipes) by sending a rapid flow of water through the mains. Distribution mains convey water to homes, businesses, and hydrants in

May 17, 2013

www.ci.snohomish.wa.us

HeraldNet

<http://www.heraldnet.com/article/20130520/NEWS01/705209943/1059/COMMO618#Bird-sanctuary-in-works-at-Snohomish-wetland%0A>

Published: Monday, May 20, 2013, 12:01 a.m.

Bird sanctuary in works at Snohomish wetland

A former sewage lagoon site and wetlands is planned as a 40-acre refuge for more than 140 species of birds.

By **Alejandro Dominguez**, Herald Writer

Snohomish News

Local news

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SNOHOMISH -- People are invited to learn the latest details about a proposed wildlife sanctuary at Wednesday's Parks Board meeting, scheduled for 7 p.m. at the Snohomish Boys & Girls Club, 402 Second St.

The board is expected to make a recommendation to the City Council on the sanctuary steering committee's plan or ask for changes. The public can also make recommendations, project manager Ann Stanton said.

The wildlife viewing area also has a proposed name: Snohomish Riverview Sanctuary.

The sanctuary would be about 40 acres, including a former sewage lagoon and privately owned wetlands located next to the current sewage treatment plant, along the Snohomish River west of Highway 9.

More than 140 bird species have been seen nesting there or using the wetlands for habitat, including great blue herons, red-tailed hawks, swallows and ducks.

The master plan also proposes adding sidewalk and viewpoint areas on the south side of Riverview Road, Stanton said.

The park would also ban dogs because of the likelihood of harming viewing opportunities and habitat quality, Stanton said.

"The majority of the public comments are against dogs (in the park)" Stanton said.

The Snohomish City Council is scheduled to vote on the plan at a July meeting.

The council is also set to accept a \$30,000 donation from a local Audubon Society member in early June. The donation is intended to purchase more land for the sanctuary.

People who want to know more about the park and are unable to attend the meeting can contact Stanton at 360-282-3195 or by email at stanton@ci.snohomish.wa.us.

Alejandro Dominguez: 425-339-3422; adominguez@heraldnet.com.

By MADELYN FAIRBANKS
Published May 29, 2013

Snohomish creating wildlife sanctuary

SNOHOMISH - The Snohomish Riverview Sanctuary was selected as the proposed name for the city's first wildlife protection area located in the west end of town along the north bank of the Snohomish River on the west side of Highway 9.

The project's steering committee selected the name out of more than 70 suggestions from residents, city project manager Ann Stanton said.

Since last July, the City Council-appointed steering committee has been working on a master plan to create the about 40-acre wildlife refuge, which includes city property and land owned by the Pilchuck Audubon Society.

The project will offer a "high-quality birding experience" for visitors to view the more than 140 bird species that have been observed there.

Parks board member Lya Badgley is happy the collaboration between the city and Pilchuck Audubon Society worked out well.

"It's a serene place, almost like a secret garden," Badgley said.

The master plan went before the parks board May 22 for approval. The plan will be presented to the City Council at its June 18 meeting. The council is scheduled to adopt the master plan at its July 16 meeting.

The master plan is available to read at City Hall and Snohomish Library. Stanton said she's received some positive feedback on the plan since its release.

In 2011, the city completed a paved walking path along First Street just east of Highway 9 that created almost a mile of public access along the Snohomish River's levee. The path provides bird-viewing opportunities into the Pilchuck Audubon Society's property within the Cemetery Creek marsh. Other projects to enhance the conservation, recreation and educational opportunities in the refuge will come later.

The parks board is in preliminary discussions to ask the city for some funding next year.

The board wants the council to include \$15,000 in the 2014 budget for signs and amenities such as benches and railings.

The plan's main objective, though, is to maintain the area's habitat while giving the public the opportunity to view wildlife in its natural state.

During a January meeting to discuss the plan, the issue of allowing dogs in the refuge stirred up strong opinions on both sides. Stanton said she received a lot of comments from residents about dogs, with about a four-to-one ratio in favor of keeping dogs out of the refuge entirely.

Allowing any kind of pet in the refuge would be highly disruptive to the wildlife's natural habitat and pets shouldn't be allowed in the refuge,

according to the plan.

Stanton said the city is interested in building one or two off-leash dog parks elsewhere in the city in the near future.