



Executive Summary

Issue Description: Resolution to close Kitsap County Parks during winter

Meeting Date: December 10, 2007

Attendees: Chip Faver, Dori Leckner, Michael Tucker

Action Requested At This Meeting: Authorize staff to move forward with resolution to close four lake front parks during winter.

Background:

The Parks department requests approval to close four lake front parks in Kitsap County (Island Lake, Long Lake, Horse Shoe Lake and Wildcat Lake) in an effort to curb vandalism. Over the past six years, vandalism costs have risen steadily. The Parks department has been looking at alternatives to reducing vandalism. The Parks department in conjunction with the Sheriff's office established a vandalism committee. As a function of this action the County conducted a limited scope test to assess the impact and effectiveness of closing and locking parks to curb vandal activity. Horseshoe Lake Park was chosen as the test sight and closed overnight from July-October 2007. The caretaker from the adjacent Miracle Ranch was issued a key and locked the gates each night. During this test period, there was no vandalism/damage inside the perimeter of the park. The Parks Advisory Board approved a motion at their Nov 14 meeting to support the Parks Department in closing all but one of the remaining parks from October 1 through March 31. This period of the year sees a significant reduction (approx 90%+) in visitation by casual day-use patrons and a subsequent increase in vandal attacks. Access would be provided to residents who have booked the community centers at these sites and significantly reduce the threat of vandalism.

Alternatives:	Pros:	Cons:
Close parks	Minimize vandalism and deeply reduce operational costs.	Potential (limited) complaints from residents about closures
Do not close parks	Residents retain access to parks.	Increase in vandalism and operational costs.
Close parks night only	Curb vandalism and reduce operational costs	Day time vandal attacks and operational costs.
Test full time closure of various parks during winter	Residents retain access to parks. Additional assessment to determine impact of winter closure	Increase in vandalism and operational costs in those parks not closed.

Attachments:

Vandalism Chart