

## North Kitsap Heritage Park

### Draft Stewardship Plan Appendix-- Public Comments

*Thank you for participating in this voluntary public comment process. All comments will become part of the official record of the Public Hearing. Comments were accepted from July 26, 2019 through September 26, 2019.*

#### Response Categories:

#### Support for Environmental Protection / Habitat

##### **What District Are You From?**

North Kitsap

##### **Please leave your comment below**

Response from Friends of Miller Bay Friends of Miller Bay (FOMB) is a thirty-year-old, 100 + member organization whose mission is to improve the quality of life in the Miller Bay watershed. We believe that quality of life includes refers to the native flora and fauna, as well as the human inhabitants of the area. This year FOMB raised more than \$150,000 in less than 3 months to preserve undeveloped Miller Bay waterfront and adjoining forest land. Our membership and the people living in North Kitsap care deeply about the ecological well-being of our area.

Most of the North Kitsap Heritage Park (NKHP) is in the Miller Bay watershed so, due to negative environmental consequences, FOMB opposes AASHTO compliant trails through NKHP. While a Sound to Olympics regional trail is an admirable goal, the critical ecological functions of NKHP is not the place for a major paved regional trail. The NKHP Steward's Master Plan recognizes the unique and precious habitat used by people and wildlife. We applaud the hard work and many hours that the NKHP stewards have put into this master plan, including their surveying the wetlands and streams and maintaining the park's trails, signage, and maps.

The North Kitsap Heritage Park Master Plan is in complete compliance with Friends of Miller Bay goals and we strongly recommend that it be approved in its current form. We also urge that more work be done to find a suitable route for the STO.

##### **Name:**

Friends of Miller Bay

##### **What District Are You From?**

North Kitsap

##### **Please leave your comment below**

I ask that you please preserve the North Kitsap Heritage Park (NKHP) and do not allow development on this land. This land is an important ecosystem and it offers a location for public access, connecting children and adults with the natural world.

I am not in support of the planned paved road AKA 'Sound to Olympics Trail' to be added to the Heritage Park (NKHP). I believe that Heritage Park is meant to maintain natural walking trails and that adding asphalt would be a detriment to the ecosystem in this park. We must preserve areas that are truly natural and maintain water quality for the animals who rely on NKHP.

**Name:** Nicole Labrie

##### **What District Are You From?**

Central Kitsap

##### **Please leave your comment below**

Great plan! I love that it keeps the park as natural as possible. Keep electric bikes and dogs off-leash out of the park, please.

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#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below

I have read the NKHP Stewardship plan and think it is well written and provides excellent guidelines for the future of this park. It's important that this area be protected for current and future residents of Kitsap County. The park should not be used for purposes other than conservation and recreation.

**Name:** Steve Weagant

#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below:

The plan for the North Kitsap Heritage Park looks pretty good. The mass amount of dog poop is what has deterred me from using the trails more often and prevented me from bringing my kids at all. Are dogs supposed to be on leash? I didn't see anything about that in the plan and I can't remember if there is a sign at the trail head. My hope is that more funding will be found for physical removal of invasive species and that herbicide and pesticide will not be used. I understand the dilemma about funding and persistence but I just can't justify poisoning our earth. I also hope that the tribes are given the respect that they deserve in the management of the park.

**Name:** Eir Cheeka

#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below:

The draft Stewardship Plan for the North Kitsap Heritage park should be adopted as written. This is an excellent plan and its drafters should be commended for all their efforts. The plan protects our wonderful habitat while providing citizen access and should be made permanent.

**Name:** Carol Haskins

#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below:

I applaud the work that the stewards have accomplished with the NKHP Stewardship Plan, and urge you to adopt it. This document stresses conservation and the Park's "biological heritage." Kitsap County's biological heritage has been compromised in part by the timber industry, growth and development, the navy, and by apathetic citizens. Now we have an opportunity to mitigate and save this park. This land use plan could create a template for other county parks. Will there be public hearings on this on the NKHP Stewardship Plan?

**Name:** Carol Price

#### What District Are You From?

Central Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below

I am seriously opposed to paved roads in any area of the NKHP! First, asphalt brings with it certain chemicals and various toxic substances that can harm wildlife, especially thin-skinned amphibians which are crucial to the park's function as a giant carbon sink. These creatures are already decreasing in

## North Kitsap Heritage Park

### Draft Stewardship Plan Appendix-- Public Comments

numbers thanks to human activity. Second, existing dirt trails are sufficient given the type of use that this park offers residents. Trails need to remain permeable and non-toxic.

Re. the Whitehorse issue, the proposed water system could result in non-potable water in ponds, thereby harming creatures that depend on these habitats. Also, the "rule" that ponds less than a quarter mile in area are not important, because they don't constitute fish habitat, is false. Any body of water in the forest is likely to be a breeding area for frogs and salamanders, the latter, again, being important to the sequestration of carbon. In addition, all amphibians eventually contribute calcium to other creatures, through their bones left on the forest floor. Essential calcium is in short supply in our natural world. Please don't adulterate this amazing park!

Placing pavement in the NKHP would seem to go against any concept of why this park was created in the beginning: as a place where all types of wildlife can thrive, and where humans may venture without doing damage. No Pavement!

**Name:** No name entered.

#### **What District Are You From?**

North Kitsap

#### **Please leave your comment below:**

NK Heritage park is a great asset to our community. I use its wooded trails for walking at least weekly. I support the goal of keeping this area as a forest and natural area with habitat for animals, plants and clean water in our area. Stewardship of natural areas to sustain native plants and animals is especially important in maintaining the habitat and culture of the area as more and more land in North Kitsap is cleared of its treed land for development. Thank you to the stewards for working on this project.

**Name:** Amy Van Fossen

#### **What District Are You From?**

North Kitsap

#### **Please leave your comment below:**

I have read the draft stewardship plan for NKHP and think that it is a great blueprint for the future of this park. The protection of critical wetland areas is an important aspect of the plan. I am also opposed to the building of a paved trail through this park.

**Name:** Stephen Weagant

#### **What District Are You From?**

North Kitsap

#### **Please leave your comment below:**

Dear Commissioners: The North Kitsap Heritage Park Stewardship Plan is EXCELLENT and should be adopted COMPLETELY in its current draft. The Stewardship group has created an OUTSTANDING plan that provides critical area protection, citizen access and enjoyment of an extensive trail system, and a wealth of historical and cultural information, the landscape we all treasure, the reason we live here, is rapidly being altered by human development. This plan helps maintain important forest buffers against our increasing sprawl. Not emphasized enough, the plan protects important groundwater recharge area and elimination of significant timber harvest allows the maturing forest to suck up carbon dioxide. These are really critically important environmental benefits to all taxpayers, County residents and visitors.

Please recognize the hard work your citizen stewardship committee put into this plan with County staff guidance and Tribal input and adopt this plan in its current form. Thank you, Paul and Linda Dorn

**Name:** Paul Dorn, Linda Dorn

## North Kitsap Heritage Park

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#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below:

I am a longtime homeowner in the beautiful North Kitsap area. I utilize the area's parks and natural areas for recreation, exercise, and "mental health days" - my version of spiritual renewal. I would like to see the NKHPSP adopted in its current form. I believe it provides the proper level of protection and management for this area. Due to the developmental pressures in Kitsap County, no one will ever be sorry that we protected our remaining natural areas. Indeed, in the future, people may well be asking why we didn't protect more. Please adopt this plan as it is now written. Thank you,

**Name:** Janine Moss

#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below:

I am a frequent visitor to North Kitsap Heritage Park, spending about 4 to 6 hours per week on the trails. Habitat variety along the network of trails keeps me coming back season after season. The park is a healing balm of nature, for all my senses and physical well-being. It is a delight to listen to bird songs, woodpeckers, and especially chorus frogs in the spring. You are in for a real treat as you approach the pond near the intersection of Spine Line and Cross Country, where their chorus can be heard long before you catch sight of their home.

I hope Kitsap County Parks will continue to refrain from paving trails in areas of sensitive habitat for aquatic life. Please consider the fragile natal ponds so necessary for maintaining the diversity of our rich heritage. We are fortunate to have scientific expertise within our Stewardship Committee; expertise that can inform our decisions regarding habitat protection. Please protect the fragile diversity of North Kitsap Heritage Park. Thank you.

**Name:** Randena Walsh

#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below:

Please include in clear and unambiguous writing that the park is not open to competitive events, including marathons and mountain bike races. Thank you. And a sincere "Well done" to the folks who have put together the plan.

**Name:** Richard Slettvet

#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below

I would not like to see paved trails through the North Kitsap Heritage Park. Do (or don't do) whatever is necessary to save the amphibians.

**Name:** none entered

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#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below

I have met with a NKHP representative and read the Stewardship Plan for Heritage Park. I strongly support the plan. I would like to also encourage any plan for roads/paths be of natural materials. I especially would like my comments relayed to North End Commissioner Rob Gelder to encourage his support. Thank you. Judy Kolln, Resident of Miller Bay Estates, adjacent to the park lands.

**Name:** Judith Kolln

#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

**Please leave your comment below:** I agree with the proposed Stewardship Plan. We go to this park several times a week and it is a treasure. Please no pavement in this park - protect the wetland.

**Name:** Malone Steverson

#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below:

Please leave North Kitsap Heritage Park as natural as possible and do not locate an outrageously expensive paved trail through it. Our heritage is forest land restored to much of its natural beauty. There are flatter less expensive alternatives for locating the STO Trail.

**Name:** Martha Pendergast

#### What District Are You From?

Central Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below:

The NKHP plan looks very thorough. Nice job. I agree that NKHP should remain undeveloped and should continue the effort to maintain and/or increase the natural diversity.

**Name:** Bill Wasso

#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below"

I have read the draft stewardship plan for NKHP and think that it is a great blueprint for the future of this park. The protection of critical wetland areas is an important aspect of the plan. I am also opposed to the building of a paved trail through this park.

**Name:** Stephen Weagant

#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below

I am writing to comment about the Stewards Plan for NK Heritage Park. I completely agree with their stand and their plan, in that the Plan is to preserve its natural state (as much as possible while utilizing existing trails) and protect inhabitants of the park. I am against and asphalt trail/road as it will be extremely destructive and expensive to maintain.

**Name:** Robin Blymyer

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#### What District Are You From?

No name entered

#### Please leave your comment below

Please site some data on the PAH emitting from placed asphalt. Asphalt is placed routinely in environmentally sensitive areas and after placement is considered an inert substance.

**Name:** Michael Pinell

#### What District Are You From?

South Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below

My wife and I love to walk all the parks in Kitsap County. Our concern is that you need to have some trails for walkers/runners only...no bicycles or horses. The horse "leavings" are not nice to walk in, and our experience with bicyclists (mountain bikes) is that they go too fast downhill and can't stop before hitting someone on foot.

Thank you for letting us input our concerns.

#### Name

Bryan Anderson

#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below:

I have been enjoying this park for hiking with my dog and kids, mountain biking and enjoying the wildlife year round for about 10 years. I treasure this park and endorse the ideas of the stewardship plan to maintain and restore it for the native flora and fauna. The frog song in spring, the owls, bears, squirrels, and many birds are such a delight to see and hear. Much of the forest land is giving way to development in North Kitsap and I strongly support all efforts to create areas like NKHP.

#### Name

Jocelyn H Wright

#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below:

I am writing regarding the proposed idea of paving more of the Heritage Park trail system. I am a frequent user of the park (I'm very grateful for the access to this wonderful resource). I do not think paving more of the trail is a good idea. As a year-round user (frequently in the early mornings when it is dark) I have twice slipped on the pavement when it was wet. Once I sprained my ankle and once I "dumped" my bike. I was not seriously injured, but the pavement is not reliable surface in the wetter months (Fall, Winter and Spring). Also, most people do not ride "road bikes" on the trail. The inclines are too steep, and the natural surface of the trail is ideal for mountain bikers, hikers and runners. More pavement seems like a maintenance nightmare and I don't think it is safe.

Thank you for all of your hard work!!

**Name:** Bridget Young

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#### District Are You From?

Central Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below:

I am a trail running user of port gamble. Please do not pave a path for STO project. Can gravel /existing service roads be used instead?

**Name:** Gretchen Ta

#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below

The Heritage Park trail system is such a beautiful place to walk and ride bikes. I simply cannot imagine it with paved roads. That would be awful!! The vast number of trees that would need to be removed, the disruption to the wildlife, and the end product of more asphalt would be tragic. We may not be able to do much to stop population growth, but we can certainly preserve Heritage Park as it is. I believe I speak for the many users of the park that we go there to escape civilization for a brief but satisfying bit of time. Please do not destroy this gem by putting in paved roads. Please!

**Name:** Karen Kinnaird

#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below

I have looked at the plan that the stewards have proposed, and approve if their high conservation standards. I use the trails on a daily basis, and I appreciate the natural surfaces and quiet. I especially love the beaver ponds and would be dismayed to have this area developed in any way.

**Name:** Louisa Brown

#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below

My first comment is to THANK the volunteers who work so hard to keep Heritage Park in such wonderful condition for those of us who use it. The park as it is, provides an amazing place to walk (which is what I do daily with my 2 dogs), ride bikes or horses and for others a place to jog/run. The trails provide what type of terrain a person wishes to have for what they want to do. Personally, I use the South entrance and enter on pavement until the natural paths begin, ah, to feel the earth beneath your feet! A petition that I signed previously was to indicate my "no paving of trails" attitude. That attitude has not changed. Our county/country has enough pavement and sidewalks, what we need are more trails allowing Mother Nature to be herself. The tranquility of Heritage Park is something special and it is with great hopes on my part, that that is not changed.

**Name:** Nancy Niemi

#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below:

I am opposed to paving trials through the North Kitsap Heritage Parks. Paving will introduce petroleum and / or other toxic components used for paving roads and trails. This will damage the ecosystem, kill wildlife and introduce more harmful elements that will runoff into the wetlands and aquifers in the area.

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We need to the county to step up and assume responsibility for being responsible stewards of our environment. Paving the trails will ruin North Kitsap Heritage Park.

**Name:** Lisa Bruce

**What District Are You From?** North Kitsap

**Please leave your comment below:**

Please do not destroy heritage park and the surrounding habitat by adding a paved road. We need to protect our local environment. Let's think of other ways to improve access while protecting animal habitats.

**Name:** Caitlyn Bailey

**What District Are You From?** Central Kitsap

**Please leave your comment below:**

Plan looks good; thanks to the active work of the Stewards! Please work to eliminate (not just reduce) the use of chemical herbicides in the park.

**Name:** Maradel Gale

**What District Are You From?** North Kitsap

**Please leave your comment below:**

Chapter 19 NKHP Landscape Classifications, Subparagraph 'Natural Area' indicates that "No developed recreational access or use" is permitted in these (green) zones. Management prescription is limited to forest management activities. The NKHP Map on page 34 shows several pink dashed lines (proposed trails) in the green zone 'Natural Area'. While these trails are presumably located in areas where there will be minimal impact to natural resources, the language of what can take place in these areas conflicts with the proposal for construction of new trails that are not located on existing trail alignments. Recommend the language that is contained in 'Conservation Area', 'Purpose' paragraph that states "Minimal, limited, and resource-compatible public access. Conditional access intended for education, restoration and resource management purposes. Restricted access due to potential environmental or heritage impacts." be added to the 'Purpose' statement under the 'Natural Area'. This would allow selected trails that area identified on the plan on page 34 to be added in the Conservation Area.

**Name:** Connie Reckord

**What District Are You From?** North Kitsap

**Please leave your comment below:**

I understand that a paved trail through the park is part of the proposed plan. There is no justification for a paved trail and in my opinion, it takes away from the park's rural experience. In addition, it created environmental impacts which are counterproductive to streams and wildlife.

**Name:** Patrick Sullivan

**What District Are You From?** North Kitsap

**Please leave your comment below:**

Please preserve the forest in North Kitsap Heritage Park. The ecological conditions are the most important to our family. We urge the county to find areas that have already been cleared for ball fields and other park facilities that require land cleared of forest.

**Name:** Phyllis Meyers

## North Kitsap Heritage Park

### Draft Stewardship Plan Appendix-- Public Comments

#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below:

The draft plan of the NKHP stewards is a wonderful plan. Let's keep the park in its natural state as much as possible .... free of paving!

**Name:** Judy Drew

#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below

I moved from Austin, Texas a year ago and found a lovely spot to live in Indianola. I discover new wonders in the area frequently. One of my favorites has become the North Kitsap Heritage Park which I access from Miller Bay Road. I have two Boykin Spaniels and we walk the trails at this park almost daily. There are so many things about the park that are treasures. It is great exercise for both my dogs and I as we climb up the main trail. One of my dogs has limited mobility because of arthritis in one of his front legs which means we have to walk very, very slow but he still walks as he needs the exercise. This is the perfect place for us. When I ask them if they are ready to go to the park, they run to the car. They know what it means and are excited to go any time I will take them. There are so many sights, smells, fauna, growth, noises, birds and critters that we enjoy. Mother Nature has worked her magic on this park and just the fact that 99% of it remains as she gave it to us for us to enjoy all the beauty she has bestowed onus is amazing. The trails that have been created and the manner they were created by disturbing as little as possible says a great deal to the people who are committed to so enjoy this park as Mother Nature intended us to. It came to my attention recently that there is talk of making the trails in the park asphalt. I simply cannot image. This world already has way too much asphalt, concrete and buildings whether it before companies, corporations or subdivisions. If the trails were asphalted, where would all the animals, birds and critters go while the work was being done? Where would I go to walk with my dogs while the work was being done - and for what? Anything of that magnitude would take months and months and cost more money than I can image. What is the purpose of the asphalt? To allow access for bicycles? If there is an excess of money that needs to be spent, spend it on something else. If bicycle riders need somewhere to ride, then add asphalt to the already existing asphalt on the roads and make more bike lanes like so many roads already have. I cannot stress strongly enough how opposed I am to putting even an inch of asphalt down and ruining this beautiful park that Mother Nature has given us.

**Name:** Loretta Gordon

#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below

Paving a 'road' thru NK Heritage Park is not only a waste of money but a bad idea. It would forever change its natural beauty and feel. To have a green space uninterrupted by any pavement and manmade structures at our community's backdoor is truly unique. Especially, given our proximity to the rest of the 'paved' world. My family and I have been using this park weekly for the past 15 years for the very reason that it is all natural.

**Name:** Thomas Jeffers

## North Kitsap Heritage Park

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#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below:

I encourage the Department of Parks to protect the natural environment of the North Kitsap Heritage Park by maintaining unpaved trails and paths in the manner of any natural forest. Uses should focus on and be limited to the opportunity to experience a natural forest environment and maintenance should be in accord with this goal, along with the goal of protecting said environment.

Thank you for taking my comments into consideration.

**Name:** Barbara Brooking

#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below:

I am a NKHP park steward and I support the NKHP Stewardship Plan. To keep the Park a natural and habitat friendly area, development/ infrastructure such as the STO paved road and sewer treatment facilities should not be allowed in the Park.

**Name:** Paul Larson

#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below:

I am so very concerned about the plans to pave Spine Line trail in North Kitsap. The woods are a constant source of pleasure and soft walking surface. Spine Line is the main trail through the woods that we helped purchase and it would be a destruction of that set-aside that I and our neighbors' value so much. I understand the desire for a trail to run to the Olympics, but this is on the road to nowhere. Why not find a route that would serve high schoolers safely biking to school and also runs in the direction of the Hood Canal Bridge? The amount of paving and gravel shoulders would absolutely destroy the nature of this important sanctuary. It also feels like a bait and switch for those who helped make this woodland/wetland set aside with financial and other contributions. It is a breach of trust to your constituency.

**Name:** Robin Hruska

#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below:

I have been walking Kitsap Heritage Park for the last 20 years. I walked it before the color-coded metal signs went up, before the masses of people found out about it. I loved the birds, wildlife & amazing flora & fauna. It used to be a beautiful wild place.

Since it was designated a county park & now is groomed & manicured & one can never go on a hike there without running into many other people, off-leash dogs, bikes etc. Well it's just not the same.

One thing I truly appreciate is it is still dirt paths. There is no need to pave any of the trails. I am totally against that idea. Most people that use the park now hate the idea of it being paved. Turning into some golf course type path is against what people use the park for getting back to nature. In order to pave it much would be destroyed.

Please just leave Heritage Park as it is, please do not tame it down any more than it already is.

Waste of money & resources to pave any of it.

**Name:** B Ford

## North Kitsap Heritage Park

### Draft Stewardship Plan Appendix-- Public Comments

**What District Are You From?**

North Kitsap

**Please leave your comment below:**

Please don't pave any trails in NK Heritage Park. This will damage the ecosystem and the expense would not justify the usage.

**Name:** none entered

**What District Are You From?**

North Kitsap

**Please leave your comment below:**

This park gives our family (ages 11-70) easy access to nature and a quiet environment to relax and exercise. Having continued access to all the existing trails is very important to us. Please do not add anymore paved trails or roads. The paved road from Indianola Rd NE by the golf course takes away from the feeling of being in nature and is not safe for horses. A designated space to safely unload horse trailers is also needed. Thank you.

**Name:** Nora Bopp

**What District Are You From?**

North Kitsap

**Please leave your comment below:**

NKHP should be an undeveloped, natural, habitat friendly park.

**Name:** Sara Baetz

**What District Are You From?**

North Kitsap

**Please leave your comment below:**

I enjoy the quiet trails of Heritage Park about once a week. Often, I am the only person on a trail but Other times I run into neighbors' families with kids, mountain bike riders, runners. and trail working volunteers. It has never felt crowded nor unsafe. I appreciate the natural material of the trails and the variety of the terrain in this relatively small park. I understand there may be a plan to paved some surfaces and I am opposed to that both personally and as an environmental concern. Why pave a nature trail? There are plenty of paved surfaces in Kitsap County where people in wheelchairs, folks on road bikes, and families with children in strollers can enjoy outdoor activities. A nearby example is the park along Liberty Bay in Poulsbo. Kingston also has paved surfaces in the park around the marina and there is skate park nearby. I say leave this patch of forest in paved and a place of peace and quiet.

**Name:** Gretchen Beatty

**What District Are You From?**

North Kitsap

**Please leave your comment below:**

I love this park and walk in it every day. This park is one of the MAJOR reasons why I purchased my home in North Kitsap rather than a place more affordable and closer to my work. I work in central/southern Kitsap but chose to live in Suquamish because I am close to the North Kitsap Heritage Park. I need to walk in this park as part of a healthy balanced life. It's extremely important to have these natural spaces for human health and well-being and for the benefit of our area.

**Name:** Laurie Sharp

## North Kitsap Heritage Park

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**What District Are You From?** North Kitsap

**Please leave your comment below:**

I use the NK Heritage Park for walks, exercise and wellbeing on a regular basis. It should remain an undeveloped, natural park which allows native plants and animals to thrive. Please do not pave the park.

**What District Are You From?**

North Kitsap

**Please leave your comment below:**

I agree with the proposed Stewardship Plan. We go to this park several times a week and it is a treasure. Please no pavement in this park - protect the wetland.

**Name:** Malone Steverson

**What District Are You From?** North Kitsap

**Please leave your comment below:**

I love the trail the way it is. I think a paved path through it would be awful! We need to keep any kind of motorized vehicles off the trail to preserve and protect the land and its inhabitants.

**Name:** Matika Marino

**What District Are You From?** North Kitsap

**Please leave your comment below:**

I am a frequent user of the North Kitsap Heritage Park, and I would like to endorse the current Stewardship Plan for the area. I do not believe there should be paved or asphalt areas in the park as proposed when there are current bike trails available for use on West Kingston Road. If a path needed to cut through the park it would make more sense and be less costly if it were located along the Power Line trail and accessed from White Horse. Please keep the park a "Heritage" Park!

**Name:** Susan Michaelis

**What District Are You From?** North Kitsap

**Please leave your comment below:** The Heritage parks in Kitsap County are a unique asset that should be available for use by citizens of diverse interests. However, the primary goal should be preservation of forest lands and wetlands, and that goal should govern any proposed development in the park. Development should be limited to that necessary for recreational use.

A regional trail would also be a great asset to the County, and it makes sense to utilize County property, including parkland, for the trail. However, alternative solutions can and should be found that do not include paving a wide trail through this, or any other, Heritage Park. Sensible routes can be chosen that will limit hardscape infrastructure expenditures and all trails through the Park can be constructed using environmentally friendly materials and techniques.

I recommend acceptance of the proposed Plan.

**Name:** Roland Null

**What District Are You From?** North Kitsap

**Please leave your comment below;**

No paving of trails, no skateboards. Leave the trails natural. Don't cave to big developments wants

**Name:** Lois Schultz

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#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below:

I am a park steward and I approve the plan. I think its especially important to preserve natural areas for habitat corridors, for water resource quality and for future generations of visitors to be able to have a natural experience. With VISION 2050 forecasting a 40% increase in population across our area, natural park areas will become ever more precious. I am especially against any plan to pave trails within the park. Not only is an asphalt paved trail/road a barrier within a natural corridor, but it would also introduce toxic chemicals into the wetlands and waterways. A paved trail would be incredibly expensive to construct but also require expensive maintenance. The typography of NKHP with extensive wetlands and steep ravines would make a plan like the STO plan in the County's TIP a costly waste of resources. The STO Trail should be built alongside the current roadways of the county where possible because those roadways have taken the flattest and most economical routes and construction costs would be less. Steep slopes become leaf and moss covered in the rainy seasons which makes for treacherous footing when paved - the paved White Horse Trail is an example of this problem. Aesthetic considerations are also important. I go to the park to avoid and escape pavement and to experience the quiet, to breathe and meditate while walking.

**Name:** Jayne Larson

#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below:

I walk the White Horse trail from the Indianola Firehouse to the White Horse clubhouse and back daily. Love the walk but would much prefer a natural path (not paved). The edges of the paved path are very slippery with slimy leaves and moss and I and my walking companions have all slipped many times. The wooden bridge is dangerously slick and I have slipped and fallen and my grandson has had a bad bike accident because of the slippery surface.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment.

**Name:** Carolyn Helgeson

#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below:

I do not want any of the heritage trails to be paved. The portion that already is paved consistently gets really slick with leaves in the fall. It's a toxic, costly and unnecessary project that the community has already rejected once

**Name:** none entered

#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below

NKHP should remain undeveloped, natural, habitat friendly park.

**Name:** Aimee Svarthumle

## North Kitsap Heritage Park

### Draft Stewardship Plan Appendix-- Public Comments

#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below

Please protect North Kitsap Heritage Park for generations to come. Clearly, it's evident that once lost, like so many resources, it can never be reclaimed. This beautiful, precious, and strongly supported park is a treasure and it falls on you to do the right thing in protecting it. I pledge to dedicate my time, treasure, and talent toward the same cause and look forward to working with you and the many volunteers in keeping North Kitsap Heritage Park protected open space for years to come. Thank you.

**Name:** William Vinci

#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below:

I support the Kitsap County North Kitsap Heritage Park Stewardship Plan

**Name:** Jason Manges

#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below:

The trails are great the way they are, please do not pave them.

**Name:** Lora Brown

#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below:

I support the Kitsap County North Kitsap Heritage Park Stewardship Plan.

**Name:** Kate D'Archangel

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below:

The Stewardship Plan represents a well thought out proposal that documents the many assets of the Park, how the Park serves the multiple user groups human, plants animals, and how the Park will be maintained now and in the future. I believe it represents a consensus of the present users and those who appreciate having this asset as part of their community. It is important to all that the natural aspect of the Park be preserved as much as possible given the current use and the potential of greater future use. The restorative ability of the natural environment should not be underestimated.

The Stewardship Plan respects the land, plants, animals and provides a sustainable path forward. I would encourage you to adopt it. Thank you

**Name:** Kevin McDonald

#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below

Please keep the Heritage Park Stewardship plan as it currently is. It should not be paved as this causes maintenance issues with dangerous, slippery moss and leaves (look at how BAD the paved trail is right now between the old Indianola fire station and Whitehorse) and this property should certainly not be used for a sewer treatment plant either!

**Name:** George Hayes

## North Kitsap Heritage Park

### Draft Stewardship Plan Appendix-- Public Comments

**What District Are You From?**

North Kitsap

**Please leave your comment below**

Please support the stewardship program and help keep such a lovely area natural.

**Name:** Diane di Furia

**What District Are You From?**

Central Kitsap

**Please leave your comment below:**

Please leave heritage park as it is.

**Name:** Carrie Randall

**What District Are You From?**

North Kitsap

**Please leave your comment below:**

Please support the NK stewardship management plan and let their best practices guide the use of the parks.

**Name:** Michelle Amicucci

**What District Are You From?**

North Kitsap

**Please leave your comment below:**

I think the plan proposed by the Stewards is impressive. Please keep the park as undeveloped as possible. I oppose use of park land for a sewage treatment plant and would prefer to see as little paved area as possible.

**Name:** Charles Epps

**What District Are You From?**

North Kitsap

**Please leave your comment below:**

Please keep the park as it is. It is maintained by a group of dedicated volunteers and is best in its most natural state. Adding facilities such as restrooms is not necessary.

**Name:** none entered

**What District Are You From?**

North Kitsap

**Please leave your comment below:**

I think this is a good plan and I support its goals and philosophy. Different parks within the Kitsap Parks purview can have different focuses. In the light of climate change, I think that it is more important than ever to manage for wildlife and watershed protection.

**Name:** Alia Pirzada

**What District Are You From?**

North Kitsap

**Please leave your comment below**

The Stewardship Plan represents a well thought out proposal that documents the many assets of the Park, how the Park serves the multiple user groups human, plants animals, and how the Park will be

## North Kitsap Heritage Park

### Draft Stewardship Plan Appendix-- Public Comments

maintained now and in the future. I believe it represents a consensus of the present users and those who appreciate having this asset as part of their community. It is important to all that the natural aspect of the Park be preserved as much as possible given the current use and the potential of greater future use. The restorative ability of the natural environment should not be underestimated.

The Stewardship Plan respects the land, plants, animals and provides a sustainable path forward. I would encourage you to adopt it.

Thank you

**Name:** Kevin McDonald

#### **What District Are You From?**

North Kitsap

#### **Please leave your comment below**

I am writing to comment on the North Kitsap Heritage Park (NKHP) Stewardship Plan. This plan is excellent and I strongly encourage the County to adopt it without any changes. I hike in the NKHP regularly and find it to be one of the best examples I have experienced of a well-managed and maintained park that has is cared for with great respect for the natural resources and unique environments within the park. The trails are not intrusive, are environmentally friendly and are located in a manner that has the least impact on the surrounding areas through which they travel. As a result, the NKHP is a great example of how to protect natural resources and allow the public to enjoy and experience those resources.

**Name:** Kim Osmond

#### **What District Are You From?**

North Kitsap

#### **Please leave your comment below:**

I fully support the Stewardship Plan and agree with the "less is more" concept for protecting habitat of wildlife. This is not a landscape suitable for further development and is a wonderful opportunity to preserve some space for nature to have a chance to be natural.

**Name:** Bethany McDonald

#### **What District Are You From?**

Central Kitsap

#### **Please leave your comment below:**

The plan addresses the restoration and maintenance required to sustain and maintain the current NKHP Conservation and Natural classifications. But recognizes and identifies how the NKHP stewards will work with Arborwood commercial development and any future ventures that may/will impact the NKHP. The current NKHP provides a unique opportunity for its visitors to experience a natural NW Washington environment, not a staged environment present in most parks. The plan presented for review must be approved as written to provide the restrictions and guidelines for the future of NKHP.

**Name:** Yolanda Guillen-Burris

#### **What District Are You From?**

North Kitsap

#### **Please leave your comment below**

DO NOT PAVE OUR THE NK HERITAGE PARK!

LEAVE IT ALONE FOR ALL TO ENJOY!

**Name:** Robert Kraft

## North Kitsap Heritage Park

### Draft Stewardship Plan Appendix-- Public Comments

#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below:

I am a frequent hiker on the North Kitsap Heritage Trails. I enjoy walking on the natural surfaces and do not see a need for more paved trails. There is a paved section from Indianola road that parallels the White Horse Golf Course to the clubhouse. The paved surface is often slippery when wet or frosty and the mossy areas are treacherous. The board walk that crosses a wet area is a hazard and I have slipped and fallen several times. Warning signs have been posted. The natural surfaces are easily maintained by mostly volunteer trail crews. Please respect the original plan to protect the natural aspects of this area.

**Name:** none entered

#### What District Are You From?

Central Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below

The NKHP plan looks very thorough. Nice job. I agree that NKHP should remain undeveloped and should continue the effort to maintain and/or increase the natural diversity.

**Name:** Bill Wasson

#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below

I am absolutely HUGELY opposed to this plan to modify Kitsap Heritage Park!! The trails and forest of this park are my solace from everyday stresses. I walk these trails on a very regular basis, and I totally treasure the place. I will fight you tooth and nail on this misguided plan. I just do not believe there are not other choices available for this major infrastructure change.

I also need to point out that this park is quite actively being used for educational purposes by local schools and private groups as well. Just today I was walking the trails of the park and ran across a person running an outdoor photography class with about 12 students. I have taught outdoor education naturalist classes for children in the park through WildSociety.org and Olympic College regularly runs spring field trips for ecology, geology, plant identification and environmental science on the trail of the park. Mushroom hunting in the fall is also very popular in this park for many people. This park needs to be kept in a fully natural state as it recovers from historical logging. You are going to get major pushback for this plan and the community is going to fight back on this - we will organize and defeat this poorly conceived idea.

**Name:** Mark Darrach

#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below

I haven't completed reading the Stewardship Plan, but I agree with all the sentiments and strategies I've read so far.

I've lived in the immediate area for more than five years but only in the last few months have started exploring NK Heritage Park. I walk in it several times a week to recover from recent leg surgery and it's a wonderful place for peaceful exercise. I also practice nature photography there. This park is beautifully maintained and well-marked (but unobtrusively so). It's a real asset to the community.

**Name:** Robert Bates

## North Kitsap Heritage Park

### Draft Stewardship Plan Appendix-- Public Comments

**What District Are You From?**

North Kitsap

**Please leave your comment below**

Please leave the park as it is today to permit the natural experience it offers today for walkers and cyclists and any other park users. Paved trails will destroy that experience and encourages more misuse of the park's natural resources. Further, as area population increases, natural experiences like those offered in North Kitsap Heritage Park become more and more important.

Thank you for considering.

**Name:** Marie Sprandel

**What District Are You From?**

North Kitsap

**Please leave your comment below**

North Kitsap Heritage Park is an amazing community resource - preserving a natural area while giving us a place to escape the ever-more-busy town areas. I hope it will continue to be preserved as such and not converted into an active recreation area. We can convert farmland and clear-cuts to baseball diamonds and picnic areas, but if we clear our remaining natural areas they're gone for good!

**Name:** none entered

**What District Are You From?**

North Kitsap

**Please leave your comment below**

I would like to see trail system unpaved. We should preserve habitat as much as possible. Green spaces and habitat will become increasingly scarce. We need to look to the future and preserve what can never be replaced.

**Name:** Mary Gleysteen

**What District Are You From?**

North Kitsap

**Please leave your comment below**

Please do not develop North Kitsap Heritage Park.

**Name:** none entered

**What District Are You From?**

North Kitsap

**Please leave your comment below:**

The 53-page stewardship plan for NKHP seeks to keep the property in its natural state as much as possible, without paving (asphalt) or barrier erection (chain link fencing, etc.) and without the use of dangerous chemicals that would detract from its natural beauty, but more importantly, its ability to sustain wildlife and water quality. We agree with the plan developed by the stewards.

**Name:** Lynn Anderson

**What District Are You From?**

North Kitsap

**Please leave your comment below:**

I live on the east boundary of this forest (next to the proposed Arborwood area) and have used the

## North Kitsap Heritage Park

### Draft Stewardship Plan Appendix-- Public Comments

Heritage Park area for recreational activities since the mid 80's. The content of the plan is in complete harmony with my recreational goals. I have 3 criticisms. The first 2 are editorial in nature. 1. This (and any) plan is ultimately a reference document to guide subsequent activity. It could be structured better. In particular paragraph titles do not correlate or accurately describe paragraph content to aide rapid location of information. Consider adding an index. 2. At first reading I felt that it overly long a bit repetitive and contained extraneous information. However, when I reached the appendix containing the County's Compliance Matrix I realized the problem. The County needs to come up with a succinct, specific, clear, non-redundant, and shorter compliance list. 3. The plan should be more proactive regarding restroom facilities in the parking areas.

**Name:** none entered

#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below

I'm a Kingston resident, and frequent visitor to North Kitsap Heritage Park with my dog, Yuki. Today when I visited, I ran into a few stewards of the park, and they told me there were considerations to include a paved path through the middle. I sincerely hope this does not come to pass. We really love the quiet and tranquility of the park, and are always glad to spot wildlife during our visits. The disruption to their natural habitats to build and maintain a paved trail is not something I can endorse.

Part of what brought my husband and I to Kitsap County was the green space, that there was plenty of "wild" left here. I think North Kitsap Heritage Park's well-maintained trails are more than sufficient for visitors, and I can't express how nice it is to lose yourself in the woods and forget that you're a stone's throw from a major city. It may seem silly, but introducing paved pathways takes away from that.

Please preserve this park as-is, it's such a treasure to our community.

**Name:** Melissa Mohr

#### What District Are You From?

#### Please leave your comment below

This beautiful park should be left in its natural state without further development.

**Name:** Michael Cogill

#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below

I oppose paving in the park--please find another route,

**Name:** none entered

#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below

I would like to register my hearty endorsement for the NKHP Master Plan as written by the NKHP Stewards. I have been walking, jogging, or riding in NK Heritage Park almost daily for the past 3 and a half years and recognize why the Stewards feel strongly that a regional trail (STO) should not be placed in the park, especially through the environmentally sensitive eastern hilly portion which has abundant wetlands and streams. If a regional trail were to transect the park, I am worried about the probability that it would be an asphalt surface that would be toxic to wildlife, especially amphibians. Even if the trail was constructed from crushed rock to avoid toxicity, it would have to have many switchbacks in order to

## North Kitsap Heritage Park

### Draft Stewardship Plan Appendix-- Public Comments

get the grade to conform to ADA standards. That would denigrate much more land than the present trail. I appreciate the softness of the natural trails and would not care to walk daily on a hard surface and would never attempt the occasional jog. I am also concerned about maintenance of a hard surface that would be covered with fallen leaves and needles and cones from evergreen trees for many months of each year which become slippery. It is also a shady area which will grow mosses and algae on the road surface. If you've come in at the paved trail from White Horse, you know how treacherous the pavement can be for both of those reasons most of the year. Trying to keep up with the maintenance of a paved trail would have to be a continuous chore.

If the trail for the STO were to be routed through NKHP, it would come with environmental costs. An 8foot wide paved regional trail with additional space for shoulders would require huge swaths of trees to be cleared and a much more extensive area required for the switchbacks needed to reduce the grade. These hilly portions would require concrete barriers and chain-link fences to satisfy the safety requirements on the curves which would drastically change the aesthetics of NKHP and be detrimental to the wildlife and their habitat.

The NKHP Stewards have dedicated many, many hours to developing, studying, and maintaining this park for the enjoyment of all. (They are also in the process of coming up with ADA accessible areas so that everyone can enjoy this beautiful park.) Because of their expertise and commitment, I feel that their voices and concerns are extremely important. I would urge you to do a study for a more appropriate route for the STO. As it is now, the trail is a refuge from the outside world. It is peaceful and soothing in our paved over, congested, noisy world. To walk along a meandering dirt trail with the rustling of leaves and the song of the Pacific wren overhead is a sublime experience. Please endorse the NKHP Stewards Master Plan for this wonderful park.

**Name:** Nancy D'Archangel

#### **What District Are You From?**

North Kitsap

#### **Please leave your comment below:**

I make use of the North Kitsap Heritage Park trails with my dog regularly and value the conservation efforts going on in the park by having so much dedicated forest space. This plan seems like a good one and the park is worth protecting and investing in.

**Name:** none entered

#### **What District Are You From?**

North Kitsap

#### **Please leave your comment below**

The North Kitsap Trails Association plan of completing the Sound-to-Olympics Trail at a cost proposal at \$4.8 million, paving a shared-use path that winds down from the Hood Canal Bridge, with one branch leading to Kingston and the other to the Washington State Ferry terminal in Winslow seem counter to keeping nature somewhat undisturbed. Adding pavement through the woods expanding trails seems counter to keeping the open spaces rural. The impact of paving and added people using the woodlands doesn't seem to add up to protecting the habitat, fish, or protecting wetlands. So, I am against developing the parks beyond the exiting unpaved trails that currently exist.

**Name:** Eric Cookson

## North Kitsap Heritage Park

### Draft Stewardship Plan Appendix-- Public Comments

**What District Are You From?**

North Kitsap

**Please leave your comment below**

As a frequent user of North Kitsap Heritage Park, I strongly agree with the Stewardship plan. I want to keep and protect the natural beauty, healthy, and diverse woodlands the way they are.

Please keep it natural. Thank you to all the Stewards who work so hard to preserving the park and fighting for it.

**Name:** Colleen Crowley-Vlahovich

**What District Are You From?**

North Kitsap

**Please leave your comment below:**

Having moved from King County (Sammamish) 5 years ago to get away from urban sprawl, I was so happy to find this beautiful park (NKHP) in my new home area. Please leave this park undeveloped and in its natural state. Let's not become another King County!!

**Name:** Lorna Griffin

**What District Are You From?**

North Kitsap

**Please leave your comment below:**

I am wholly in favor of North Kitsap Heritage Park stewardship plan. They know the park, they know what they're talking about and have sound, intelligent, sensible ideas and suggestions. I truly hope "those powers that be" will listen to those who care for that park and move ahead with the plan they've set forward.

**Name:** Robin Storey

**What District Are You From?**

North Kitsap

**Please leave your comment below:**

Re: NK Heritage Park

It is important to keep this park natural. That is why people use it. Studies show health benefits to walking in nature. There is no need for a paved road through it. The park does need an outhouse or restroom facilities at the Miller Bay entrance. this will become a bigger problem as usage increases.

**Name:** Sue Riddle

**What District Are You From?**

North Kitsap

**Please leave your comment below:**

This is a beautiful hiking area and should be preserved for humans to connect with nature. More importantly, though it should be preserved and protected for the species who inhabit it. The stewardship plan takes this balance as its core value.

**Name:** none entered

**What District Are You From?** South Kitsap

**Please leave your comment below**

Please leave the park as it is--a natural area with no paved trails.

**Name:** none entered

## North Kitsap Heritage Park

### Draft Stewardship Plan Appendix-- Public Comments

#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below

Please adopt the full plan per the recommendations of the North Kitsap Heritage Park Stewards. They know best what will assist in preserving this beautiful treasure in our county we are so fortunate to have available. Adding the additional infrastructure to pave trails, adding other so-called upgrades to the park is counter-productive, and counter-intuitive to the process of conservation and preservation in perpetuity of this land. Thank You.

**Name:** Cindy Brooke

#### What District Are You From?

Central Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below

It is critical to protect wetland area from development. Birds and many native species rely on these wetlands for survival. It is also critical that these areas are preserved for future generations.

**Name:** Linda Gillespie

#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below

The proposed paved trail through the park will be an environmental disaster. The topography of the park won't work for most handicapped people. Let's think "this through and do the right thing for the environment. Please don't ruin the park.

**Name:** Robert Bruce

#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below:

I believe in the stewardship plan. Please don't pave our Heritage park. Please leave it natural!  
Thanks.

**Name:** Susan Hancock

#### What District Are You From?

Central Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below:

Hi, I love Heritage Park and would like to see it remain a park without paved paths. It is a joy to be able hike through the forest on forest soil. Thank you for your consideration.

**Name:** Elaine Fosness

#### What District Are You From?

Central Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below:

I would like to see all trails be made from natural nontoxic permeable materials with native soils and gravels. No pavement please! Restoration of the original forested habitat would be best!

**Name:** Damon Brown

## North Kitsap Heritage Park

### Draft Stewardship Plan Appendix-- Public Comments

#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below:

I'm glad this plan allows for this undeveloped land to remain forested with only passive recreation via a trail system allowed. Our community will continue to grow and add housing in the surrounding area and preserving natural areas like this park will help ensure that our quality of life - both human and aquatic - is preserved in the face of ongoing development.

**Name:** Jennifer Leach

#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below

I am NOT in favor of any plan for paved paths. It's not just a direct disruption of nature. It would bring an increase in human usage that would bring more limits of space to current wildlife. I've already seen severe decreases in the wildlife in other areas that have too much trail usage.

**Name:** John Klemesrud

#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below:

NKHP should remain undeveloped, natural, habitat friendly park. Please keep no green, after development there is no going back. Green space helps our environment and is the reason it is desirable to live here.

**Name:** Meredith Chernick

#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below

I support the proposal as written by the Park Stewards. I am against any paving of trails and against building a sewage treatment plant.

**Name:** Sara Rekow

#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below:

I regularly enjoy the trails at NKHP and support the draft of the stewardship plan in order to preserve this beautiful park moving into the future. The proximity of this park to my home is one of the reasons I decided to move to this area three years ago. From the park I have watched trilliums bloom, snow fall, and autumn color change and come around again. It holds a special place in my heart and in implementing this plan I hope to be able to give these same experiences to my young son so that he can grow up and appreciate the natural beauty that Kitsap county holds. It is a vital resource for many species and having seen so much development and logging in the few years I have been here I feel strongly about preserving and maintaining this habitat for future generations.

**Name:** Lauren DeStefano

## North Kitsap Heritage Park

### Draft Stewardship Plan Appendix-- Public Comments

#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below

Please. No more paving. Paving is bad for the environment and bad for old joints and just generally ruins the woodsy ideal.

**Name:** Deborah Hogness

#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below:

I urge you to adopt the Stewardship Plan to protect these lands from toxic pavement, septic facilities, and water storage towers. Protecting this treasure is an absolute priority.

**Name:** Neva Welton

#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below:

Hikers will still treasure the NKHP if it DOESN'T have a paved 10 ft. wide "trail" and a water system that supports the golf course. The park is special because it's natural. Hikers and bikers can still enjoy it if there's no pavement (in fact, they'll appreciate it more!) Please leave the NKHP the way it is today!

#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below

We urge you to approve the North Kitsap Heritage Park Stewardship Plan AS WRITTEN!

The Trail Development and 25 Year Vision section on pages 23-24 specifies that future trails or route modifications should generally be "Natural Surface Trails" consisting of minimum widths and PERVIOUS SURFACES to minimize impacts to the Natural Resources. This means that paved trails should not be allowed. Neither should a retention pond for "purple water." Thank you for carefully considering the comments of those of us who are concerned with the welfare of the North Kitsap Heritage Park.

**Name:** Paula Brooke

#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below

My bottom-line reaction to the Stewardship Plan is that I would be pleased if it were adopted as-is because it does a great job of laying out a vision and associated guidelines for the future of North Kitsap Heritage Park. I do realize that there is a broad spectrum of outdoor interests in this county, and that one park or one plan cannot satisfy all of them. I believe this plan does a great job of maximizing what this particular park has to offer, providing both the community and the wildlife with a sizable oasis, free of most of the kinds of development that will occur around the park in coming decades. We are fortunate to have a Comprehensive Plan that recognizes the value of the bits of natural environment that we have managed to retain here in Kitsap: "These heritage parks...are large enough to remain primarily undeveloped natural areas, with trails and environmentally sensitive areas preserved or enhanced." (COMP page 6-69)

That mindfulness of the value of a healthy environment is echoed in the PROS Plan: "The 2016 Kitsap County Comprehensive Plan (COMP) clearly outlines restoration and protection of the natural

## North Kitsap Heritage Park

### Draft Stewardship Plan Appendix-- Public Comments

environment...This plan takes environmental protection very seriously, including the idea of the environment as an asset. The County, through the plan, promotes environmentally sound development methods, such as low-impact landscaping, rain gardens, and permeable pavement.” (PROS page 24) We, as a society, are finally beginning to grasp both the large scope and local impacts of the environmental damage caused by a myriad of unintended consequences of well-intended development over the last two centuries. Now we have a special responsibility to future generations to learn from those mistakes. One key lesson is that no matter how much we continue to learn, there will always be unintended consequences. And in order to preserve our few remaining undeveloped, or lightly impacted, areas such as North Kitsap Heritage Park, we should err on the side of conservation. If we are wrong in our assessment of the park’s future, and if we have been too conservative, it will be relatively easy to add development later. This type of reassessment was clearly spelled out in the PROS plan: “Periodically review and update Heritage Park Forest Stewardship Plans including Newberry Hill, North Kitsap, and Port Gamble Forest.” (PROS page 29)

However, if years down the road we find that we have allowed too much development, it will not be as easy, if even possible, to undo the damage.

I would also like to call attention to Sections 5 and 6 of the North Kitsap Heritage Park Stewardship Plan. Section 5 explicitly lists education, user surveys, and inhabitant monitoring as Management Objectives. These are all part of the adaptive management that is necessary as we recognize that our current knowledge of these ecosystems and habitats is far too limited.

Section 6 recognizes that water is a very important part of our environment, especially here on the Kitsap Peninsula where there is no snowpack to rely on for water. The Management Objectives outlined in this section address ways in which our water, wetlands, and other water-related parts of the park’s ecosystem can be kept healthy.

**Name:** John Williams

#### **What District Are You From?**

North Kitsap

#### **Please leave your comment below**

Thank you to all who have put so much time into this Stewardship Plan. Please...please...please!!! Do not have any paved trails in the park. This would ruin the ambience. Also I feel that there should be no major construction projects allowed. Thank you for your consideration.

**Name:** Michael Schroer

#### **What District Are You From?**

Central Kitsap

#### **Please leave your comment below:**

Please super the plan as written by the park stewards. Having trails cut through and a golf course water retention pond are not good ideas.

Thank you.

**Name:** Patrick Hickey

#### **What District Are You From?**

North Kitsap

#### **Please leave your comment below:**

While I do support the idea of safe bike travel, putting a paved path through sensitive bird habitat is not the answer. Can we get back to bike lanes on Miller Bay Rd please?

**Name:** Marcy Trueman

## North Kitsap Heritage Park

### Draft Stewardship Plan Appendix-- Public Comments

#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below

To begin, a big thank you to everyone that planned, put together and maintains the North Kitsap Heritage Park. Your efforts have rewarded so many of us that now regularly visit the park . I am in full favor of maintaining the park AS IS. I am very opposed to any paving of trails and strongly agree with the use of the natural soft tread trails. Because of the nature of the trails as they are now, I have been delighted to see frogs, newts and even had an interaction with a Pacific NW Alligator Lizard that attached itself to my son's pant leg! Also, the natural trails are so much kinder to my body. Walking on these trails actually helps my low back feel better ( I suffer from an old injury) as opposed to hard paved or concrete surfaces where my back is aggravated from the jarring impact. In a world where we are so dominated by manmade materials, sound and light pollution, and just overall stress and anxiety, I feel we deserve a natural environment to help counteract the assault to our senses. And this might not be a popular option, but I am also against the use of trash receptacles, lights and picnic tables. I feel we could all benefit from a dose of reality about the amount of waste we produce, and if individuals must bring excess along on a walk in the woods, then they can just as easily pack it all out as well. It might just be that by providing too much comfort, we would encourage a too blasé attitude about the purpose of the park and what they could actually experience in a more natural, pristine environment. Who wants to look at another overflowing garbage can? So, to recap, I am not opposed to the STO - but I am adamantly opposed to all the paving and restructuring it would require to run through NKHP. And again, my many thanks to those of you who are working so hard on this issue.

**Name:** Nancy (no last name entered)

#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below

As a resident of Indianola who lives and works in North Kitsap, I have reviewed the Heritage Park Stewardship Plan and support the provisions therein. Most notably, I ask that you not allow any development on the protected lands within the Park, banning any water towers, septic fields, concrete paths, or other development.

Thank you for helping us to keep some portion of area lands wild and protected.

**Name:** Dionne Deschenet

#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below

Throughout North Kitsap the ongoing conversion of forest communities to accommodate new housing, roads, and commercial centers is permanently eliminating or fragmenting the remaining large blocks of privately-owned forest habitat. As a result, publicly owned areas of protected habitat such as NKHP are becoming increasingly important not only as habitat for native wildlife but also as areas where the public has access to recreate among a variety of forest communities and view streams and wetlands undisturbed by residential or commercial development. The draft plan currently under review has the foresight to identify activities and define future infrastructure and trail development designs and materials that would be incongruous or environmentally harmful in a park where a primary goal is to protect and conserve its biological heritage. We support maintaining

## North Kitsap Heritage Park

### Draft Stewardship Plan Appendix-- Public Comments

NKHP as a public space that preserves its wildlife habitat communities while providing access for low impact recreational activities and urge County Parks staff and our County Commissioners to approve the draft Stewardship Plan without revisions.

**Name:** Ron and Peggy Vanbianchi

#### **What District Are You From?**

North Kitsap

#### **Please leave your comment below:**

I have been part of the stewardship group at the NKHP since the park first opened to the public. I also participated in most of the meetings which produced this draft master plan update. Although I may not agree with every word in the document, I fully support the plan and in particular, the overlay of the land classifications which the restrictive language which will characterize the park as a natural oasis in the ever-spreading urbanization of the Puget Sound region. Less development is more for this park. Personally, the active-use trails are all I need. Surveys that the stewards have done over the years reflect that most park visitors use the park to hike, run, walk their dogs and bike, and in this way derive health and recreation benefits. For those lobbying for more active recreation, I want to note the potential of acquiring the sand mining site (Arness sand pit) in the future for active recreation fields and their associated parking needs. This area has already been disturbed and could be sculpted for these uses. This property is bounded by NKHP on two sides and would be a great way to address unmet needs in the park's long-term future. Finally, I want to state that although ten years ago I supported the idea of a paved trail through the park, real-life experience maintaining the park has shifted my thinking. Many parts of NKHP are shady and/or north facing and therefore not suitable for paving: I have seen bikers and runners slip and fall on mossy pavement on the adjacent White Horse paved trail. Additionally, the park does need surfaces that encourage speed. Porous surfaces are best for this park.

#### **Name**

Carolina Veenstra

#### **What District Are You From?**

North Kitsap

#### **Please leave your comment below:**

We support the stewardship plan to preserve North Kitsap Heritage Park without any further development Protecting this park is a top priority Please vote for acceptance to this stewardship plan

**Name:** Patty and Mike Harris

#### **What District Are You From?**

Central Kitsap

#### **Please leave your comment below:**

Anything that can be done to help preserve and protect this beautiful park has to be a good thing! Not just for the enjoyment of visitors, but especially to safeguard the natural ecosystem for years to come.

**Name:** none entered

## North Kitsap Heritage Park

### Draft Stewardship Plan Appendix-- Public Comments

#### What District Are You From?

None entered

#### Please leave your comment below: (forwarded e-mail comment)

NKHP is one of the best parks in Kitsap County and it is also uniquely a pro-environmental park for all wild life inhabitants and users of the park. NKHP should NOT have any paved trails or other concrete or hardscape infrastructure added to the already natural and most enjoyable trails in the north end of Kitsap County.

I heartily recommend that Kitsap commissioners veto any plans to spoil with concrete or asphalt paths 10 feet wide the beautiful park called NKHP. Nor should Kitsap commissioners allow any federal design standards to grossly and negligently impact the wildlife, their habitat and the many enjoyable and happy walks, bike rides, group treks that have been enjoyed on the beautiful trails of NKHP.

Many users of the park of enjoy hours of quiet and peaceful scenery. Many users of the park have discovered that walking on the many trails of NKHP is both peaceful and invigorating. Perhaps for many a place to walk and contemplate. This park should remain as pleasant park where many can enjoy natural forest experience. It should not be considered for uses such as STO due to heavy dependence of the necessity to have wide concrete or asphalt paths. Also please consider the disruptive environment for the critters who live in NKHP, their home.

I urge to approve the stewards plan to protect the wetlands, the forest habitat, and the intimate experiences one usually finds within the forests of NKHP. I am most emphatically in favor of the stewards' plan.

**Name:** Laurie Yamamura

#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below:

Keep out green spaces rural. Please.

**Name:** Darren Chernick

#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below:

I approve the Plan and I don't want a paved trail or other development infrastructure in the park.

**Name:** Jerrine Gabrio

#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below:

I do not support the proposed bike path through the North Kitsap Heritage Park. Please consider alternate routes that follow roadways - separated bike lanes, etc. Thank you, Reed

**Name:** Reed Blanchard

## North Kitsap Heritage Park

### Draft Stewardship Plan Appendix-- Public Comments

**What District Are You From?**

North Kitsap

**Please leave your comment below:**

I like the Heritage Park Plan as it is drafted. I do not want to see large paved paths through the park. This is a very beautiful tract of land that we can all go escape from our ever-expanding concrete and paved environment. Let's keep it the way it is currently structured; which includes more primitive trails and paths that allow users to better enjoy the trees, vegetation, and natural terrain. Again, please do not construct paved paths/roads through the park. Thank you.

**Name:** none entered

**What District Are You From?**

North Kitsap

**Please leave your comment below:**

Since the stewards' Plan protects the wetlands and forest habitat and keeps the natural soft-tread trails, I see no reason to not approve the plan. We do not need a paved trail or other development infrastructure in the park.

**Name:** Anna Null

**What District Are You From?**

North Kitsap

**Please leave your comment below:**

I do not support making changes to the current walking trails at NCHP.

**Name:** JOHN KOZLESKI

**What District Are You From?**

North Kitsap

**Please leave your comment below:**

Please support the north Kitsap heritage park stewardship plan. We need this natural resource kept natural in our community.

**Name:** Julie O NEAL

**What District Are You From?**

North Kitsap

**Please leave your comment below**

As one of the authors of the NKHP Stewardship Plan, I support the Plan and the science on which it is based. The well-documented, ongoing extinction event (involving, especially, insects, birds, Salmond fishes and amphibians) has a variety of very local causes including habitat alteration/destruction affecting endemic species that are critical, functional components of NW ecosystems. We have the opportunity here to preserve a declining community of species representative of the groups in greatest danger, with no impact on public access and near-zero cost to Kitsap County. Please, accept out plan, as written, and know that posterity will judge you well. Respectfully, Tom Doty, Emeritus Professor of Biology at Roger Williams University.

**Name:** Tom Doty

## North Kitsap Heritage Park

### Draft Stewardship Plan Appendix-- Public Comments

**What District Are You From?**

North Kitsap

**Please leave your comment below:**

I live and work here and use the heritage trails for walking and running. Being in the woods in a natural setting is important to me. Being off the pavement is essential for this peace of mind. I would only want concrete or asphalt trails or roadways in the park if erosion were such a huge problem that graveling or other solutions could not keep up with it. No paving the heritage trails please.

**Name:** none entered

**What District Are You From?**

North Kitsap

**Please leave your comment below**

I fully support the North Kitsap Heritage Park Stewardship Plan. Having a wide paved trail through the park would degrade the experience I have in the park. I will be much less likely to walk or run in the park with a paved trail and associated infrastructure. I think another route can be found for the STO.

**Name:** Bill Agnew

**What District Are You From?**

North Kitsap

**Please leave your comment below:**

NKHP is one of the best parks in Kitsap County and it is also uniquely a pro-environmental park for the wildlife inhabitants and for users of the park to enjoy. NKHP should NOT have any paved trails or other concrete or hardscape infrastructure that would ruin this pristine and most natural park in the north Kitsap area.

I recommend that Kitsap commissioners VETO any plans that would ruin the habitat and trails with concrete or asphalt paths 10 feet wide as it will cause undue harm to the habitat. Nor should Kitsap commissioners allow any federal design standards to grossly and negligently impact the wildlife and their habitat. Most visitors and walkers do enjoy the beautiful trails of NKHP as they are today.

Many users of the park like myself enjoy hours of quiet, solitude and peaceful scenery. Many users of the park have discovered that walking on the many trails of NKHP is both peaceful and invigorating. Perhaps for many a place to walk and contemplate. It should not be considered for uses such as STO due to heavy dependence of the necessity to have wide concrete or asphalt paths. Also please consider the disruptive environment for the critter who live in NKHP, their home. I support the stewards plan to protect the wetlands, the forest habitat, and the rejuvenating experiences one usually finds within the forest of NKHP. I am most emphatically in favor of the stewards' plan.

**Name:** Laurie Yamamura

**What District Are You From?**

North Kitsap

**Please leave your comment below:**

I am not in favor of any plan which included paving surfaces within the park. Paths can be made safe without paving.

**Name:** David Mcilvena

## North Kitsap Heritage Park

### Draft Stewardship Plan Appendix-- Public Comments

#### What District Are You From?

Central Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below:

Please complete the STO feasibility study!

**Name:** Sheila

#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below

I fully support the North Kitsap Heritage Park Stewardship plan as drafted. I DO NOT support North Kitsap Trail Association efforts for a Sound to Olympics trail through the North Kitsap Heritage Park. Again, I support NKHP plan as drafted.

**Name:** Kim Greenwood

#### What District Are You From?

South Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below

I'm very concerned about the accelerated rate of development throughout the Puget Sound region and especially in Kitsap County. My husband and I bought our house in South Kitsap in 1999, and since then, we have seen much of the natural habitat for wildlife diminishing at an alarming and exponential rate. It's upsetting, saddening. We value our natural places, our forests, our undisturbed ecosystems, and I think you will find that most residents of our area agree with us. We coexist with wildlife and without undeveloped, natural, habitat friendly parks, it is not worth living here. North Kitsap Heritage Park (NKHP) should and must remain an undeveloped, natural place for the wildlife that call it home and for all of us to enjoy via the trails. Thank you.

**Name:** Anjali Banerjee

#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below:

I Approve the Stewardship Plan and don't want a paved trail or other development infrastructure in NK Heritage Park! The challenges of crossing wetlands and steep slopes would require a very large construction project with significant clearing, cut and fill switchbacks, retaining walls and extensive fencing on the slopes. There would be significant impacts to habitat, wildlife, and user experience. I want trails to be protective of habitat and to maximize the user's natural forest experience. A paved trail would severely degrade the park and cost unnecessary tax dollars initially and for maintenance into the future.

**Name:** Scott Blymyer

#### What District Are You From?

Central Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below:

I am a frequent user of Heritage Park and am very grateful to have access to this community resource. I support the North Heritage Park (NKHP) Stewardship plan and the proposal to protect our environment and natural resources.

**Name:** Rosemary Carraher

## North Kitsap Heritage Park

### Draft Stewardship Plan Appendix-- Public Comments

#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below:

Please keep the NK heritage park stewardship plan as it is. Don't let developers take advantage of it.

**Name:** Brad Simpson

#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below

I am very supportive of the NKHP Stewardship Plan to protect our long-term resources and set up appropriate public use and recreation. I have seen the park recovering nicely, as I am one of those neighbors who was a weekly trail volunteer when I first moved to Indianola and use the park frequently with my husband, kids, and grand kids. I so appreciate having a place for us all to enjoy woodland trails right in our own back yard. Watching the park become healthier and healthier has made my heart soar!

**Name:** Anita Collings

#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below

Please approve the plan BUT, DO NOT include a paved trail nor any infrastructure in the park.

**Name:** Doug Hayman

#### What District Are You From?

South Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below

The NKHP Stewardship Plan is basically good, but no new trails should be built in the Natural Area (green on your map). I don't like chipping away at natural areas, whose primary purpose is to be just as they are, forever..

**Name:** Kevin Kilbridge

#### What District Are You From?

Central Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below:

Please do not allow paved trails, roads in the park. The naturalness of the park is dependent on minimal interference so that wildlife can survive, and the atmosphere is not ruined.

**Name:** Pam Nelson-Kimball

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below

NKHP is a tremendous asset to the community. The people that made it that way, through strictly volunteer efforts over the years are the people who wrote the subject Stewardship Plan. These people have made the park what it is today, they deserve to be the ones who steer its future development. Please accept their plan as written.

The STO trail is a concept. There is no real reason that every bit of the trail be paved and or wheelchair accessible. It's a great goal, but that doesn't mean compromises can't be made. Common sense may be the way to solutions.

**Name:** Richard D'Archangel

## North Kitsap Heritage Park

### Draft Stewardship Plan Appendix-- Public Comments

#### Support for More Active Recreation Opportunities

[STO Trail Ok, Better Trails & More Trails]

##### **What District Are You From?**

North Kitsap

##### **Please leave your comment below**

Our family of four and many extended friends have and will continue to enjoy many uses for the North Kitsap Heritage Park - I will ride it for the 3rd time this week and am volunteering for an event there this weekend. It's great to see such a variety of users including horse, mountain bike, hiking, mushroom hunting, trail runners, and more enjoying the fruit of many years of labor there. I am concerned about some of the wording in the stewardship plan that appear to prohibit the Sound to Olympics Trail, a very worthy effort to connect communities across this part of the world without using cars. Words matter and specifying "only natural trail surfaces, no fences or guardrails and declaring the park a biological reserve with visitor privileges" and the like seems to really go against the countless hours and efforts of many people across our region here to make this accessible to all.

NKHP is a balanced mix of recreation and habitat conservation. Rigid language would prevent the STO, or any future shared use path, from being built. This overrides the adopted County plan, code and park policy and is in direct conflict with the original purpose of the community park. This is an asset created over years of County and Community efforts. Please consider this as you work towards a final draft of the plan which should offer a more inclusive approach. I look forward to reviewing the efforts. Thank you!

**Name:** Steve Ruggiero

##### **What District Are You From?**

North Kitsap

##### **Please leave your comment below:**

Although the draft plan shows wonderful work to define and describe the current North Kitsap Heritage Park, I recommend that the plan be expanded and modified to allow more active recreation and support a wider variety of individual and group activities.

The proposed plan has numerous restrictions and criteria that seem to limit the entire public park to a conservation refuge. The Plan's conservation theme is evident from the introduction through the appendices, and is perhaps most directly stated in Appendix 11, policy 8: "The emphasis at NKHP is habitat and wildlife accessibility - a biological reserve with visitor privileges ....".

I disagree with that proposition. In my opinion, with its large and diverse acreage, the NKHP should, accommodate a wide range of community activities. The plan should not exclude hard surface trails needed to meet the non-motorize facility criteria for regional multi-use trails suitable for road bikes. Active use areas should not be limited to trails. There should be areas, facilities and policies that allow group activities. Also, in my opinion, the plan must respect and include the elements of NKHP as original pitched to the community. The park has sufficient space for protection of ecologically sensitive areas and ecosystems, and also support the community's recreational and transportation needs.

Please direct that this plan be modified and expanded to support a multi-use public park before it is accepted and approved.

**Name:** Mark Libby

## North Kitsap Heritage Park

### Draft Stewardship Plan Appendix-- Public Comments

#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below

It has come to my attention that the present wording of the plan could severely limit, or even prohibit, the use of the North Kitsap Heritage Park for the Sound to Olympic Trail (STO). This would be crazy. I am an avid fan of hiking trails as much as the next person. However, we all know how hard it is to obtain land to complete the STO (which is part of a much larger Washington State system.) The NKTP is one of the few places where the STO could be built to extend that bicycling network. It is also easily large enough to accommodate both a hiking trail system and a bicycle trail, both of which could live happily in a space where neither would impinge on the other and in fact could complement each other. Please do not make the serious mistake of restricting or prohibiting the extension of the STO. Thank you.

**Name:** Robert Weschler

#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below

I frequent use Heritage Park, love the outdoors and nature. I fully support the STO trail going through the park!!! Volunteers at the trailhead a few days ago suggested a possible full-size road with guardrails going through. I would not support that. Please use the park in support of broad public use while maintaining its character of untainted forest.

Thank you very much.

**Name:** Maureen Lander

#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below

I am submitting a comment on the North Kitsap Heritage Park Stewardship Plan. As proposed the stewardship plan would block a future regional Sound to Olympics (STO) trail, block handicap accessibility potentially exclude future events (especially those associated with the adjacent schools) and arbitrarily declare our public park a "biological reserve with visitor privileges". The park was bought with an array of grant and county funding sources, less than 1/4 of the park acreage acquired utilized urban wildlife or habitat focused funding, and all of the grant strategies planned for a regional trail to pass through the park. I have been on the board of the North Kitsap Trails Association since 2008 and am a founding member. Back in the day it was the Legacy project. Though biological diversity is important it was never the main focus of the park and its funding. To turn it into something else would be a blow to those that worked so hard to make it happen.

**Name:** John Kuntz

#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below

I have a house near Heritage Park and enjoy the outdoor opportunities that it provides, especially biking. It is a great activity that I can do as a family with my 6, 8, 10, 13-year-old kids. I am very concerned the language in the draft plan does include a trail plan for biking. In fact, I think the writers' envision a future for the park where there are few to no bikers. That is just wrong. A section in the plan needs added that

## North Kitsap Heritage Park

### Draft Stewardship Plan Appendix-- Public Comments

addresses the future of biking in the park. It is a great trail system, with access for all types of nonmotorized use that will encourage youth to be more active and be stewards of the land.

**Name:** Quentin Vaira

#### **What District Are You From?**

North Kitsap

**Please leave your comment below:** The Heritage parks in Kitsap County are a unique asset that should be available for use by citizens of diverse interests. However, the primary goal should be preservation of forest lands and wetlands, and that goal should govern any proposed development in the park. Development should be limited to that necessary for recreational use.

A regional trail would also be a great asset to the County, and it makes sense to utilize County property, including parkland, for the trail. However, alternative solutions can and should be found that do not include paving a wide trail through this, or any other, Heritage Park. Sensible routes can be chosen that will limit hardscape infrastructure expenditures and all trails through the Park can be constructed using environmentally friendly materials and techniques. I recommend acceptance of the proposed Plan.

**Name:** Roland Null

#### **What District Are You From?**

North Kitsap

#### **Please leave your comment below:**

I believe that there ought to be bike trails connecting the Norman Road entrance of the park with the Miller Bay entrance of the Park.

I believe that gravel trails will be environmentally sensitive enough for bicyclers needs.

I'm sorry the Steward group is arguing against those trails.

**Name:** Craig Jacobrown

#### **What District Are You From?**

South Kitsap

#### **Please leave your comment below:**

The Stewards of North Kitsap Heritage Park have done a huge disservice to the citizens of Kitsap County by recommending no trails be built in the park. I have walked in this park more than once and agree there are wetlands and sensitive areas, but that the stewards could not find areas suitable for trails and more so specifically the Sound to Olympics Trail in all of the 500 or so acres seem beyond belief. It appears the stewards have an agenda that is based on their wants not those of the general population of Kitsap County. I would ask that the county hear the citizens desires when making their decision on this park land so that the citizens of Kitsap County can all use the Park and benefit from, it's beauty and tranquility.

**Name:** Dee Marie

#### **What District Are You From?**

North Kitsap

#### **Please leave your comment below:**

The plan is good and should be adopted as it. The need to use only natural materials on trails has deep science behind it. Pierce County has prohibited the use of asphalt on its trails to avoid polluting Puget Sound. The National Park Service research also concludes that asphalt materials leach toxic chemicals into natural water systems over time. This park should not use asphalt, nor should it be cut and filled to

## North Kitsap Heritage Park

### Draft Stewardship Plan Appendix-- Public Comments

accommodate a major trail whose development would compromise the integrity of the wetlands and water areas. Let alone the expense of such a trail.

I support a regional trail, not the STO as it is currently being discussed. A long-distance trail is a great idea-it just needs more thought and better design. I understand that the alignment was talked about 10years ago without the benefit of ecological data for the park and a perhaps limited knowledge of the trail building industry. There are numerable surface solutions that meet federal funding standards for ADA as well as sound thinking for separation of users, not the one size fits all of a shared use path. I HAVEPHOTOS OF current examples in public parks. If the idea of the trail is well thought out, meaning environmentally sensitive as well as functional, there are plenty of funding sources to assist the construction, namely the LAWCON program which I am personally familiar with. In conversation with Public Works it appears the source of funding, the FHWA, and its requirements, is leading the decisions, rather than the type and need for the trail, creating the best solution for this part of the county. We now have new ecological data and updated trail industry information to find a better solution. I believe that 1)some separation of uses is needed (think Central Park, NYC), and that 2) these separations can be aligned in multiple locations with a much less destructive footprint, can be more cost effective while achieving positive experiences for bikers, runners, the mobility impaired, equestrian users, and dogwalkers. As a Landscape Architect I volunteer my services to work on a task force to resolve the siting and design issues.

In addition, the zoning of the park (land classification) is appropriate to protect the valuable source waters that contribute to cleaner streams that meet salmon recovery goals. The hilly terrain of this location just accelerates the rate of polluting those streams and shortens it from years to days.

Further-walking is a stimulating and "ACTIVE" use which offers the opportunity for group learning events, is affordable/doable for volunteer maintenance, and is engaging with the elements in a personal and rewarding way. It is also the easiest 'entry level' activity for unhealthy folks seeking health. We have an epidemic in this country of machine/mechanized recreation that rarely helps personal health. Getting our children walking and enjoying it, is a noble goal that will reap long term benefits in lowered health costs. Anyone for FOREST BATHING? A popular Japanese practice now popular here, of walking in forests to absorb healthy oxygen and natural peace. From the Stewards survey results they have found that current users unanimously appreciate the park for these reasons.

Finally, the need for ADA opportunities is critical. The volunteer stewards have 3 proposals for projects to achieve accommodations. More access for disabled users should be studied and considered, including for the blind, deaf and emotionally traumatized, (PTSD) population, as well as those whose mobility is challenged. Until then, all three proposals should be fully funded and supported by the county.

**Name:** Laura Rotegard

#### **What District Are You From?**

North Kitsap

#### **Please leave your comment below:**

I read the draft with interest, as we have that work coming up for us in the PGFHP Stewardship group. The online copy I found is missing appendix 5 which is to include future trail plans. Do you have a copy you could email to me?

I am also curious that the draft establishes only Natural and Conservation designations, but they all contain active recreation trails - they describe mountain bike, some equestrian, active running, etc. I'm wondering if I misunderstand those two designations and how one accounts for active trails through those areas. I get that the Stewards are very protective of the significant habitat features of this park. I would agree with them there.

## North Kitsap Heritage Park

### Draft Stewardship Plan Appendix-- Public Comments

I am interested in learning more about how accessibility issues and the STO will be accommodated in the park so it can serve all ages and abilities.

**Name:** Judy Willott

#### **What District Are You From?**

North Kitsap

**Please leave your comment below:** North Kitsap Heritage Park needs to remain a possibility for the Sound to Olympics Trail to go through it. This is a critical Corridor to get from Kingston to the Hood Canal Bridge. Please don't allow any language in this document to restrict the possibility of this future Trail going through this property. Myself and other folks donated money to help acquire and maintain this property in anticipation that the STO would eventually go through here.

**Name:** none entered

#### **What District Are You From?**

North Kitsap

#### **Please leave your comment below**

There are a few specific points I disagree with in the Draft NKHP Stewardship plan, although in whole I support the document. Section 10.1.1, Harvesting of Forest Products: I feel commercial brush harvesting should be discontinued entirely. Section 10.2.1, Mushroom Harvest: I don't believe this should be limited to the Conservation Areas. Section 18, Trail Development: I feel that future trail development should strongly adhere to the North Kitsap String of Pearls Trails Plan, and that the future Sound to Olympics regional trail not be limited to "Natural Surface Trails". I find it vital that we move forward with a shared use trail system from the 2 ferry docks to the Hood Canal Bridge, both for our physical and inner well-being, and for the county's economic benefit.

**Name:** Andrew MacMillen

#### **What Districts Are You From?**

North Kitsap

#### **Please leave your comment below:**

My main concern with the park is the lack of active recreation opportunities in the park. The first half of the park was bought with funds to provide this and it does not seem to be a priority of the county and stewardship committee. Living in Miller Bay Estates, this park should be able to provide me a place to ride my bike in an engaging and enjoying manner without having to drive to a trailhead. Being able to open my garage and ride to a trail is a major quality of life requirement for me.

While there are a few single-track trails open to bike in the park, they are poorly designed to accommodate mountain bikes. Features such as super tight corner lead to more impact as biker will skid into them. It also promotes a culture of screw it, I'll build it on my own since the need of the biking community is being overlooked. There are also not friendly to the younger rider who is learning the sport as I saw in the park on my ride tonight.

Reviewing the park plan I see that there is no area that is designated as active recreation. If this is how RCO money is being used in Kitsap I will vote for it to go to other places where it provides recreation as it is intended.

**Name:** Jonathan Chadburn

## North Kitsap Heritage Park

### Draft Stewardship Plan Appendix-- Public Comments

#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below:

I understand that the proposed stewardship plan for the North Kitsap Heritage Park deliberately excludes the Sound to Olympics Trail. That is a terrible proposal. Routing the STO through this park has specifically been intended in previous county planning documents (including the Kitsap County trail plan). This proposed stewardship plan must be revised to plan for inclusion of the STO, which will be a huge regional asset for our area.

Name: none entered

#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below:

I hope the feasibility study for the STO route can move forward and not be held up by the steward's opposition to a paved shared use path. There are so many alternatives to pavement, but a stable surface would support accessibility to wheelchair users among others. Logging roads could likely provide the base for that without significant additional landscape alterations. That is part of the plan for the Port Gamble Forest HP.

Such a feasibility study would likely include connectivity to the already studied STO route west of Miller Bay Road on GPC conserved (mostly natural and not publicly accessible) property then through Pope lands. I believe an easement from Pope for the trail there is in the works.

The interesting thing for me in this is that I am an advocate for restoring and protecting habitat. It is possible to have habitat and trails especially in public parks.

Name: Judy Willott

#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below

I support a paved trail through the North Kitsap Heritage Park and dismiss and strongly disagree with the current draft stewardship plan that states the park should remain primarily undeveloped as a preserve with most areas reserved from allowing accessibility or visitor amenities. The small group of NKHP stewards has been divisive with other park stewardship groups, become 'entitled' and pushed away others who have wanted to get involved in park stewardship, despite the stewards' pleas that they're all 'getting old' and need younger people to step up. They also regularly express to the public their disdain and negativity about the County Parks Department. It's obvious they want to keep most of the public from enjoying the park - that is, not maintaining areas where people of all ages and abilities can enjoy them. When the first portion of the park was purchased, it was designed to include active recreation, including ballfields. While I don't believe NKHP is an optimal location for ballfields, due to the lack of water and topography, a paved trail will allow much for accessibility to the park. Given the lack of wide shoulders, designated bike paths and separated walkways along most of the roads in North Kitsap, constructing a paved path through NKHP would:

- provide recreation and wellness opportunities for the elderly, families with small children, and those with disabilities or other physical challenges who use wheelchairs, walkers, strollers and wagons;
- be lower maintenance in the long-term compared to a dirt trail
- provide a connector trail for cycling commuters and more direct access between the communities of Kingston and Indianola
- provide emergency access into the park

## North Kitsap Heritage Park

### Draft Stewardship Plan Appendix-- Public Comments

- still maintain ample trails and preserve other sensitive areas of the park

Those who claim the park should be a nature preserve are a very small group and shouldn't get to prevent ALL citizens from accessing and enjoying a county park. The Great Peninsula Conservancy is obtaining hundreds of acres of nearby nature preserves and conservation areas nearby. The North Kitsap Heritage Park should be a recreation area for PEOPLE.

If the stewards can't accept that then they should be asked to leave. Thank them for their service and move on. Replace them with younger people who can build on some of the current management objects but shift the stewardship to being more inclusive. This is public property. If they want to work on creating nature preserves, they can go volunteer with GPC.

Thanks for listening. Shame on the Parks Advisory Board for accepting the plan without proper vetting by the public.

**Name:** None listed

#### **What District Are You From?**

North Kitsap

#### **Please leave your comment below:**

I would like to comment on the importance of a Sound to Olympics trail through the North Kitsap Heritage Park. The trail is an integral linkage connecting Kitsap county communities as well as part of the Cross-State trail, connecting the Olympic Discovery Trail to downtown Seattle and the I90 trail/John Wayne Trail. This is also part of the Great American Rail Trail.

Language in the NKHP Stewardship plan poses a threat to the development of such a trail through the park. The wording restricting "only natural...trail surfaces". I strongly disagree with language declaring "biological reserve with visitor privileges". The park was acquired with the intention to provide a balance of recreation and habitat conservation.

I would recommend a less restrictive language for a stewardship plan as well as a more balanced approach to recreational uses for the park.

**Name:** Mark Schorn

#### **What District Are You From?**

North Kitsap

#### **Please leave your comment below**

The stewards who developed the NKHP Steward Plan should be commended for their dedication, their expertise and their concern for the environment. They have done an amazing amount of work. However, I do not believe that it is ready for approval.

- 1.. Wording in several locations would essentially preclude the Sound to Olympics (STO) regional trail from going through the Park prior to a determination of the best routing for that trail.
2. The description of the Park as a "biological reserve" and the elimination of all recreation except a few "narrow corridors designed for trails" is inappropriately based on the steward's philosophy rather than facts or the intent for which much of the park was acquired.
3. The organization is often confusing with no goals cited and objectives that are generally a "to do" list without reference to what the listed items are intended to accomplish. Impact on the Sound to Olympics Trail Kitsap County has envisioned creating a Regional Trail System for many years. Like the Burke Gilman or Olympic Discovery Trails it would connect communities via a non-motorized "shared use path" accessible to users of all abilities, including wheelchairs, strollers and cyclists. A citation to it is included on page 24 of the Stewardship Plan and it is documented in recently approved, but uncited, County plans, including the Non-motorized Facilities Plan (amended 2018) and the 2018 PROS Plan. Land for NKHP was acquired in part to provide a route for the Regional Trail System, and current County's

## North Kitsap Heritage Park

### Draft Stewardship Plan Appendix-- Public Comments

plans show it going through NKHP. The RCO grant application, for example, stated that Block I was, "large enough to accommodate a wide range of active uses and trails, while protecting sensitive areas." An RCO application for Block II stated that, "The Kitsap County Parks and Recreation Department will use this grant to buy 218 acres for a hub in a regional trail system" and that, "Upon purchase, Kitsap County and the North Kitsap Trails Association, along with the volunteers, will develop nearly 2 miles of non-motorized and interconnecting recreational trail." [my emphasis] Despite this history the Stewardship Plan would essentially prohibit the STO from going through the Park by banning fencing and guardrails and by requiring trails be made of permeable, non-toxic materials. Page 24: "Future trail development (new trails or route modifications) should generally be "Natural Surface trails" consisting of minimum widths and pervious surfaces to minimize impacts to the Natural Resources." Page 42; Appendix 11; Policy 11: "The NKHP Master Plan specifies natural, permeable, perpetually nontoxic surfaces. There must be no interruption in the wildlife corridor function – no fences, guardrails or other obstructions to movement larger than trees." (my emphasis) While the Stewardship Plan gives lip service to the possibility of the STO going through it, the above provisions would preclude construction of even a gravel trail (which is classified as impermeable) even though the current logging roads are themselves impervious gravel. While a pervious trail surface that can be use by all may someday be possible no such alternative is currently known. Worse, given the Park's topography, it would be impossible to construct a safe shared use trail without some fences or guardrails or "obstructions" such as retaining walls. The final routing for the STO has not been determine, and it may turn out that a route around the Park is preferable. However, the decision to change previous adopted County planning documents should be based on study of the merits of alternative routes rather than a couple of sentences in the Park Stewardship plan. Until such a study is completed any wording that would prohibit construction of a regional trail through the park should be removed from the Stewardship Plan.

**Name:** Evan Stoll

#### **What District Are You From?**

North Kitsap

#### **Please leave your comment below:**

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Please preserve all routing options for the Sound to Olympics Trail (STO) and future accessibility to North Kitsap Heritage Park (NKHP) near Kingston along with the intended mix of uses that designated types of public funds have already paid for! The STO is a regional trail similar to the Burke Gilman or Olympic Discovery Trail, connecting the Hood Canal Bridge and Kingston via a non-motorized "shared use path" that will bring cottage industry and sustainable rural business to our bucolic country side, which is a primary reason that brought me to Kitsap 30 years ago. This path will string our rural communities together and connect them for users of all ages and abilities (including hikers, wheelchairs, strollers, equestrian and cyclists). Please edit the draft North Kitsap Heritage Park Stewardship plan to accommodate the whole community's vision as reflected in the numerous grant applications that stated the "Park is large enough to accommodate a wide range of active uses and trails, while protecting sensitive areas." Remove the narrow, inflexible and rigid language such as; "only natural...trail surfaces", and "no fences or guardrails" and declaring the park as a "biological reserve with visitor privileges". This is not what the community envisioned and is not how a public park, purchased primarily with public "recreational" funding should be planned and implemented. We can reuse some of the existing roadbeds for the route of the community trail to educate the public on the value of wetlands. The Sound to Olympics Trail impacts less than 1% of the acreage in the park and fulfills the mission of the park by making it accessible to all, including

## North Kitsap Heritage Park

### Draft Stewardship Plan Appendix-- Public Comments

handicap access. Meanwhile, it is important to preserve all possible routing options for the STO. Please complete the next STO feasibility study for this location in order for the County to determine the preferred route to optimize both community access and habitat. If the NKHP Stewardship Plan is implemented as presently written, Kingston public park vision (and the STO) would be permanently blocked by a small group of citizens with a private agenda. Thank you.

**Name:** Doug Maraist

#### **What District Are You From?**

North Kitsap

#### **Please leave your comment below:**

Please complete a feasibility study for the STO before making a final determination.

**Name:** Sasha Nosecchi

### Support for Accessibility / General Comments

#### **What District Are You From?**

North Kitsap

#### **Please leave your comment below**

I understand there is some controversy over the prospect of paved, accessible paths in the Heritage Park. I am torn on this issue: it's better for the land to have as little paving as possible AND I and many others with physical challenges would like to be able to use at least some of this park!

Are there any alternatives to asphalt paving? Porous pavers? Stabilized soil? The North Kitsap Heritage Park is not wilderness. Although keeping paving to a minimum is a worthy goal, so is guaranteeing access for the handicapped; parents with strollers; children on bikes, skates, and scooters; and walkers who require a smoother surface than currently provided.

Thank you

**Name:** Susan Parrington

#### **What District Are You From?**

Central Kitsap

#### **Please leave your comment below:**

I do not see any info on the sound to Olympics trail or the proposed sewage treatment lagoons in the master plan. Did I miss something or are these projects being routed around the master plan process?

**Name:** Joel Bolin

#### **What District Are You From?**

North Kitsap

#### **Please leave your comment below:**

Just a thought about the proposed paved path. I understand, and for the most part agree with the desire to preserve the park in as pristine way as possible. However, the park was sold in part as a place for all. By excluding those who may not be able to enjoy the park because of mobility issues you may lose some of your support for future projects and acquisitions.

Thanks!

**Name:** Scott Johnson

## North Kitsap Heritage Park

### Draft Stewardship Plan Appendix-- Public Comments

#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below

Preserve the north Kitsap heritage Park stewardship plan. If the development wants waste treatment they should have it on their land. Stewardship means being a steward, not removing regulations every time a private company wants one.

**Name:** Jonah Anderson

#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below

Once again those of us with disabilities are denied recreation within Kitsap County. And I'm not just talking those in wheelchairs and such. The current "nature is only for the fittest" policies mean even those with impaired walking ability, those who struggle with balance, etc. are denied recreation. It's called DISCRIMINATION. And I get it, not all of nature is going to be accessible; Kitsap doesn't make an attempt on any of it. Want to see nature if you are handicapped, well go to one of the urban parks? Maybe score a day at Amazon? If I were to give Kitsap County a grade for disability access... D, maybe. Perhaps a recent trip to a couple other parks may highlight the problems. For one, there is only two paved handicap parking spots, others are on a chunky gravel. So, drove to a Discovery Park a few minutes away, great parking lot... if you want to stand on the edge of the parking lot, the step down to the beach a hazard of jagged rocks. I was able to access a Gazebo from one parking lot, woohoo loved that nature visit. Maybe I could head to one of the beaches near the Bridge... except you can't really get to those beaches either for the large boulders, not to mention boat traffic. Roughly 25 years ago, my Mother came to Washington for a visit. Polio meant that a wheelchair was necessary. Sadly, in order to show her some of our "great outdoors" we had to drive to Port Angeles to get to a paved trail. I am sad to say, in a quarter of century of park acquisitions, increased taxes to support parks, new park taxing districts, millions and millions spent, and we are probably less accessible county-wide.

When will county planners, park stewards, etc. start considering all of the population?

**Name:** David Fennewald

#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below

Chapter 18 Trails subparagraph 'Trail Categories' cites a willingness to "explore ADA-compliant or handicap access for suitable locations in the Park." The last subparagraph of this chapter 'Regional Trail Connectivity' acknowledges the numerous Trails Plans the County has adopted and notes "the Park is a logical acreage that may provide an opportunity as a link in a much larger network of non-motorized trails. The linkage with these, or other regional plans, remains an important consideration." These 2 statements alone should not restrict the consideration of a paved shared use regional trail in this Park now or in the future. Chapter 19 NKHP Landscape Classifications subparagraphs 'Passive Recreation Area' and 'Active Recreation Area' both indicate under 'Management Prescription' the following statement: "Trails shall be constructed of natural materials that are permeable, perpetually non-toxic consisting of compacted or stabilized native material soil, gravel aggregate, or forest duff." These surfaces are not considered ADA compliant (accessible for all ages and abilities) and are not the recommended surfacing for regional trails under any of the plans cited (and approved or adopted by the County) listed in Chapter 18. This statement, restricting paved trails in PR and AR zones, directly conflicts

## North Kitsap Heritage Park

### Draft Stewardship Plan Appendix-- Public Comments

with the commitment stated in Chapter 18 Trails, and conflicts with previously adopted County plans, and should be stricken from the document.

It would be helpful, and important to future planning efforts, to include the regional trails map from the Kitsap County Non-Motorized Facility Plan (appendix E) in this document for cross reference.

**Name:** Connie Reckord

#### **What District Are You From?**

Central Kitsap

#### **Please leave your comment below:**

Access to parks and recreation areas is important to the quality of life of people with disabilities and to their families and friends. Access to parks, trails and other recreation areas and programs affects an individual's quality of life. Unfortunately, many parks and recreation facilities were built without accessibility in mind. Because of this, individuals with disabilities and their families often cannot participate in programs and activities at parks and recreation areas. Any planning must be inclusive, and provide ADA access to facilities and trails, not all trails but a representative. that would present the maximum exposure to the flora and fauna.

**Name:** Richard Weiland

#### **What District Are You From?**

North Kitsap

#### **Please leave your comment below:**

As a NKHP steward working toward a Park Stewardship plan has been a multiyear process. We have attempted to collaborate with County Park staff as much as possible to craft a plan which remains flexible yet consistent with County policy. The Heritage Park system in Kitsap County is a legacy concept which provides great value to our region. One important element which is identified in Section 14. Parking and Facilities - is the issue of a landscapes "Carrying Capacity". The principle sentence in the NKHPSP (Sec 14 under "issue") "Parking at entrances and trailheads needs to be sized appropriately so as not to exceed the Park's carrying capacity (Manning, 2007)" This is not a simple task! The language here has implications for all Parks. The referenced literature "Parks and Carrying Capacity", Robert Manning describes a variety of metrics which can be employed to determine, or attempt to determine, a park carrying capacity. Within Section 14 (bullets 2,3, & 4) make judgements about the three principle parking access points to the NKHP – I believe these judgements reflect a general consensus amongst the Stewards but do not reflect a biological or social evaluation of carrying capacity. Bullet 8. (Sec 14) suggests "Stewards will monitor the Park's use and impacts to the quality of the natural environment, animal habitats and providing a good visitor experience" The NKHP stewards have been attempting to estimate Park visitor use over the last few years. However, the two-principle carrying capacity metrics, "biological impacts or social "the visitor experience"" are very challenging to evaluate with precision. The National Park Service with its responsibility to manage so many exquisite geographies have had to wrestle with the issue of Carrying Capacity with various success. It is important the concept is identified in our Heritage Park Stewardship Plans - The NK plan has not identified the "best" metric to use for determining an upper limit on visitor use, but the county would be forward looking to engage on a process to establish thresholds.

**Name:** Jay Zischke

## North Kitsap Heritage Park

### Draft Stewardship Plan Appendix-- Public Comments

#### What District Are You From?

Central Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below:

Paved trail? No asphalt? Is there another surface that could be used that would accommodate wheelchair access?

**Name:** Leif Bentsen

#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below:

It is great that the NKHP Volunteers/Stewards have taken the time to do this. My suggested additions in language to the NKHP Stewardship Plan and the trail development there...and, any forest management plans. "Proposals for new trails or modification to existing trails within the Park shall be developed WITH THE HELP OF MANY, INCLUDING: the NORTH KITSAP Stewardship Group, COUNTY STAFF AND OTHERS, and then submitted with recommended action to the Parks Director for review. AFTER WHICH APPROVAL WILL BE SOUGHT THROUGH THE EXISTING COUNTY VETTING AND ADOPTION PROCESS." Or something like that.

**Name:** John Willett

#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below:

The STO, which was one of the biggest selling points to the public and government agencies that supported the funding for the addition of Pope Property to the NKH Park, should, in some form, be allowed in NKHP. Being that I am a part of the Cross State Trail Coalition and was in Leadership for: NKHP Stewardship Committee, Port Gamble Heritage Park, NK Trails, KFBP/C and Kitsap NMFCAC I know this route has been in NKHP Plans for years and is in all our resent Kitsap County NMT Plans and Funding Applications, was fully vetted for years and alternate routes looked at and put aside as being not feasible. Not doing the trail with ASHTO standards through NKHP is not an option for the majority of the users and supporters of trails per NK Trails surveys and opinion polls that we did. Also, there are lots of ways to mitigate impacts for an ASTHO standards trail. I hope the County Commissioners and Kitsap County Parks step up and support the STO, trails and its ASTHO standards through the NKHP and subsequently the Washington Cross State Trail, which is hugely supported by Users and so many others across the state and whose designed route is already completed, huge trail portions done or are in the works and are overwhelmingly supported here on the Olympic and Kitsap Peninsulas by thousands of Users and hundreds who have also worked on the route; planning and building the Sound to Coast (Combined: LST,ODT and STO) Trail and our portion of our Cross State Trail, for decades. Wildlife, habitat and trails can coexist in NKHP, as it does in so many other places in this State, this County and this Country, if there are positive attitudes, egos put aside and transparency embraced in planning the future of NKHP for all and not just a few.

**Name:** John Willett

#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below:

It seems like overkill to pave heritage parks trail. On the other hand, if say 1/4 mile into it was paved from Miller Bay rd., access, then wheelchairs could be wheeled in. It does not need pavement very far to

## North Kitsap Heritage Park

### Draft Stewardship Plan Appendix-- Public Comments

accomplish access to handicapped, yet still giving them a "forest" experience. lots of trail not accessible so leave that part of trail alone

**Name:** Janet Cook

#### **What District Are You From?**

Central Kitsap

#### **Please leave your comment below:**

If NKHP document's name has been changed from a "Master Plan" to a "Stewardship Plan", there are 16 mentions of "Master" Plan that remain in the PDF document, and 14 of them should be changed to "Stewardship Plan" to align with the new title of this document.

**Name:** Josh Hopp

#### **What District Are You From?**

North Kitsap

#### **Please leave your comment below**

Please take the advice from the citizen's advisory board and create the Heritage park in a way that will sustain future generations.

**Name:** Cole Boughton

#### **What District Are You From?**

North Kitsap

#### **Please leave your comment below**

I have read the plan and as an avid park user and volunteer I absolutely agree with it. The many and increasing number of people using the park that I have talked to love the park because it is mostly undeveloped. I have seen bear, coyote and many small critters in the park and that alone should be enough to not overly develop the area.

The few suggestions I have are

- 1: Miller bay Rd. trail head needs a Sani can such as the Port Gamble park or Norwegian pt. Park. Many people are using the woods and a few even use the parking lot to relieve themselves.
  - 2: Many volunteers use their own tools to help out with park maintenance. Possibly dedicated tools and maybe a storage shed such as Hansville Greenway has?
  - 3: This talk of a paved path/road going from the White Horse trailhead to Norman road is expensive and unwanted or needed. How about paving the already existing road going to the sewage treatment plant and a short connector to Norman road instead?
  - 4: Dogs need to be able to run free so if leashing your pet becomes a rule, I think an off leash area should be a future consideration.
  - 5: Now that there are electric bicycles and one wheels etc... I am seeing more and more of them on trails, they tend to go very fast and, in my opinion, should be banned from all park use. They are a motorized vehicle.
- This park is a gem, let's keep it that way.

**Name:** Blaine Riddle

#### **What District Are You From?** Central Kitsap

#### **Please leave your comment below:**

Please, no hard surface trails or fences in the park. We need to retain a natural" setting as much as possible.

## North Kitsap Heritage Park

### Draft Stewardship Plan Appendix-- Public Comments

Work with tribes and other government agencies to get wide shoulders on Miller Bay Road from Suquamish to NE West Kingston Road and/or Hwy 104 to facilitate pedestrian and bicycle to and from the park. This would complete large corridor in north Kitsap for bicycles.

**Name:** David Tramel

**What District Are You From?** North Kitsap

**Please leave your comment below:**

I would like to address the plan to pave some of the trails in heritage park. I don't think it would be beneficial to the park to pave any of the trails. If it is for wheelchair accessibility, I would think the money would be better spent to invest in all terrain wheelchair rentals.

**Name:** Carl Larson

**What District Are You From?** North Kitsap

**Please leave your comment below:**

I support the draft stewardship plan – it seems complete, well written and I think it should be passed.

**Name:** Aimee A. Kellert

**What District Are You From?** North Kitsap

**Please leave your comment below:**

General: A good plan for nature but not so much for the public. The Plan should not put unnecessary restrictions on use of park areas where restrictions are not justified. The Plan emphasizes nature over people throughout; heritage parks are public lands and public access on properly developed and maintained trails should be valued. The Kitsap County Comprehensive Plan 2016 and the PROS 2018 both acknowledge the value of trails in heritage parks.

Recommendation: The Plan should recognize that public access is a least an equal priority to nature where environmentally sensitive areas are not at risk.

Specific comments follow:

A. Restriction on trail materials: Section 18-Trails of the Plan states that new trails or route modifications should generally be “Natural Surface Trails” (page 24). The Glossary of Terms on page 52 of the Plan defines “Natural Surfaces” as “trail surfaces consisting of forest duff, moss, mineral soil, or crushed rock.” The Comprehensive Plan matrix for policy 11 on page 42 of the Plan specifies “natural, permeable, perpetually non-toxic trail surfaces.” These restrictions would prevent practices that have already been used on park trails, and that are required to deal with some of the soil types and hydrologic conditions found in the park such as non-toxic geotextiles, environmentally acceptable treated lumber and galvanized steel fasteners and pipes. Section 18 also recognizes that future trails and maintenance are to be guided by Parks Department policies and are to be submitted to, and approved by, Kitsap County. Given this approval requirement, the prescription of “generally” “Natural Surface” would not restrict other materials as long as other non-toxic construction materials are recognized as acceptable when specified in the approval process. Recommendation: The sentence specifying “generally” ... “Natural Surface” at the top of page 24 should be followed by a sentence recognizing that approved non-toxic trail construction materials may be used for trail modification and construction when deemed acceptable by the approval process.

B. Protection of Phase I (Block I) Uplands: Wetlands identified in the Plan conflict with wetlands reported in County documents:

## North Kitsap Heritage Park

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1. Consultant wetland delineations in County Parks Dept. PLANT COMMUNITIES/WETLANDS document found at: [https://www.kitsapgov.com/parks/Documents/NKHP\\_HabitatAssessment.pdf](https://www.kitsapgov.com/parks/Documents/NKHP_HabitatAssessment.pdf); . and

2. NORTH KITSAP HERITAGE PARK FOREST STEWARDSHIP PLAN, Revision F, August 13, 2015, Page 47 (Berger Partnership 2006) found at:

[https://www.kitsapgov.com/parks/Documents/NKHP\\_ForestStewardshipPlan.pdf](https://www.kitsapgov.com/parks/Documents/NKHP_ForestStewardshipPlan.pdf)

Document 1, the Habitat Assessment document, specifically notes that large areas of Block I uplands have “no evidence that this area was ever wetland’ (area 4) and “no evidence of flowing water” (area 6).

Using Kitsap County’s current merged parcel designations; almost all of 042602-1-005, save the extreme north portion; and the southwest third of 03602-2-006 are unnecessarily classified as Conservation Areas in the DRAFT Stewardship Plan. Recommendation: The Plan should acknowledge that some portions of 042602-1-005 and 03602-2-006 should not be eliminated for possible future classification for Active Recreation.

C. Phase II (Block II) restrictions 1: The quotation of the 10-1297 Block II Deed of Right on page 7 of the Plan which begins with “... access shall be subject to ...” omits the preceding sentence of section 2 on page 2 of the deed which states: “The Grantor shall allow public access to the property as provided in the Project Agreement”. Recommendation/correction: Page 7 of the Plan should be amended to include the full quote.

D. Protection of Phase II (Block II) uplands: Page 7 the Plan incorrectly implies that the 10-1297 Deed of Right applies to all of Block II. Although protection of the Grovers Creek watershed in Block II is extremely important, the Plan should be factually accurate. RCO Project 10-1297 which provided \$492,000 for acquisition of Block II combined two RCO grants: 1. Urban Wildlife applied for as RCO Grant 10-1255A provided \$392,000, and 2. Salmon Recovery Fund granted \$100,000. Awarding of both grants is documented in the RCO archives final report of 10-1297, dated October 16, 2015. The 10-1255A Urban Wildlife grant application and work documents in the RCO archives clearly identify distinction between uplands and lowlands, with recreation in the form of a regional trail connection. The Salmon Project Agreement distinguishes between wetlands/habitat conservation and uplands/public access. The final report of RCO 10-1297 updated the final distribution as: Riparian, 188 acres, Uplands, 153 acres, and Wetlands, 25 acres; the final report also records the acquisition primary purpose to be habitat conservation and public access. Recommendation/correction: Page 7 of the Plan should be amended relative to the Block II deed to acknowledge the right of public access.

E. Phase II (Block II) restrictions 2: Page 7 of the plan quotes the second paragraph of the Community Forest and Open Space Acquisition Grant from USDA U.S. Forest Service (County, Resolution Number 140-2012, 2012). The Plan fails quote paragraph 3 of the same document that States “The Phase 2 property acquisition is identified as a priority for protection to provide public recreation, environmental and economic benefits and forest-based educational programs.” Subsection of 5-(b) 1(v), titled Recreation, of the document recognizes that community recreation is an important part of the grant; Subsection 5-(b) (2) includes the value of “maintaining recreational access.” Recommendation/correction: The reference to the USDA grant should be amended to include that the grant includes the right to retain community recreation.

F. Phase II (Block II) restrictions 3: Paragraph 5.1 on page 9 on the Plan incorrectly states that: “5.1 Issue: Environmental health of Natural Resources and animal Habitat in the Park are of paramount

## North Kitsap Heritage Park

### Draft Stewardship Plan Appendix-- Public Comments

importance, as established by this Stewardship [Master} Plan, and in accordance with the Deed Of Right specified by RCO funding used to purchase NKHP Block II property (RCO & Kitsap County, 2014).” As explained above, the RCO 10-1297 Deed of Right applies to riparian and wetlands portions of Block II, and not to Block I. Recommendation/correction: Paragraph 5.1 on page 9 of the Plan should be amended to clarify or delete reference to the RCO Deed of Right.  
G. Erratum: In section 1-Introduction, page 5, the size of the park is 818 acres, not 799.

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**Name:** David Haley

**What District Are You From?**

North Kitsap

**Please leave your comment below**

I support the Proposal as written by the park stewards. Thank you for considering my opinion

**What District Are You From?**

North Kitsap

**Please leave your comment below**

I support the aims of the NKHP Stewardship group. I think this plan should be approved and followed.

**Name:** William Fidler

**What District Are You From?**

North Kitsap

**Please leave your comment below:**

The NK Heritage Park Stewardship Plan is based on years of experience in managing and developing the park. It seems comprehensive, inclusive of appropriate types of recreational use that most would desire. It includes ideas for possible increase in park size to protect habitats and lower habitat fragmentation. One concern I have of the plan is that it seems to be dependent solely on volunteer stewards to patrol and monitor the park; is there a more specific plan for expanding and providing education for that essential group?

In general, it is a valuable plan that should be supported and implemented.

**Name:** Linda Marcuse

**What District Are You From?**

North Kitsap

**Please leave your comment below:**

The primary trail/corridor in the park MUST BE PAVED in order to 1.) provide access to this resource for people of ALL AGES AND ABILITIES as required both legally (per ADA/ADAAG) and morally, and 2.) to allow access for emergency vehicles. These are standard requirements/mandates in virtually every public-owned and managed conservation resource area, and can be accomplished with minimal impacts on the resource if done properly.

When we plan facilities and programs to accommodate the needs of ALL individuals, we improve the experience and comfort for everyone.

**Name:** Terry Reckord

## North Kitsap Heritage Park

### Draft Stewardship Plan Appendix-- Public Comments

#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below

I have another comment about the Six (6?) Stewards of NKHP Plan and their myopic view of that Park and iterated in their Stewardship Plan. They also fail to recognize the fire danger of their plan and what they have tried to stop Parks from doing currently with Forest Restoration in the Park and the damage that their Plan will ultimately do to the Park and those that live around it. They fail to see that the Park is an old Tree Farm and consequently the trees are not in their natural formation and that 100 years of tree farm management needs to be managed back to a thriving old growth forest. Leaving it up to mother nature has been catastrophic in other places in this State and around the West and the once wet western side of the Cascades is changing to be drier and more prone to wildfire. The whole forest needs to be manually thinned so there isn't all the dry fuel on the ground in places and when it comes to wildlife enhancement it needs to be thinned to get light back on the forest floor to grow shrubs and berry bushes to feed and hide wildlife. Right now, the forest floor in most places in NKHP is a desert and there is no wildlife under the canopy to speak of. The soil is dry, there are no ground plants and very little life. The Stewards seem to not understand what other scientist and foresters have figured out after so many failures and wildfires; mother nature could care less about you or wildlife if let to its own means. MN will burn everything in its path if it has a chance and the recovery, as we have seen all over the state, will take forever and will not help wildlife. Also, something I have argued with the USFS for decades (I worked for them in the 70s) and turned out to be true, when you have a logged forest and you want to get it back to a more natural state you need roads and trails to access the land you want to restore. USFS demolished many access/logging roads in the 90s and 2000 and when the huge fires came they could not access the forest quickly to stop the spread of wildfires, which in some cases took out 100s of thousands of acres of forests, scab-lands, houses and business, killed people and destroyed most all the wildlife. I have personally fought some of these fires close to my house in the Methow not long ago and if we did not have the big community trails/roads that we developed in the 80s and early 90s we would have lost the town of Mazama from a fire that started in the Park and was moving quickly into the houses on the valley floor. So, The Forest management Plan for NKHP needs to include more forest restoration (Arno Knows how to do this if he is given the green light) and Community Trails are a proven tool for restoration and protection, so that the thinning can proceed and fire suppression/prevention can be quick and easy to do (spend money on the front end and you save money on the back end). Community Trails and forest roads are good here, if done with insight and concern for habitat, and will help us restore and preserve the forest and its wildlife and for generations to come.

**Name:** none entered

#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below

My comments primarily refer to Appendix 14-Event/Activity Evaluation Screening Criteria (p. 47) in the North Kitsap Heritage Park (NKHP) Stewardship Plan. The language in the draft stewardship plan is vague and does not align with the process Kitsap County currently uses to review requests for park events/activities in other county parks.

1) The Kitsap County Parks Department should establish the criteria for events/activities at the NKHP using a collaborative process involving public input. Already, activities taking place in the park often conflict with wildlife preservation and the enjoyment of other users, particularly those involving large

## North Kitsap Heritage Park

### Draft Stewardship Plan Appendix-- Public Comments

groups. The increasing demand for park use by a multitude of diverse groups highlights the need to establish criteria for events/activities in the NKHP.

2) The Kitsap County Parks Department should provide event/activity usage information (including No Charge usage, such as a trail run event) for the North Kitsap Heritage Park in a manner similar to other county parks (see link below). The Kitsap County website provides detailed information for each individual park at the following link based on the number of people attending an event/activity: <https://www.kitsapgov.com/parks/Pages/RentalFacilities.aspx>.

3) The Kitsap County Parks Department should be responsible for reviewing requests to use the North Kitsap Heritage Park for events/activities using a process the same as or similar to other parks in the county (see link below). The Kitsap County website provides park event/activity forms at the following link <https://www.cognitoforms.com/KitsapCounty1/ParksReservationRequest>.

4) The North Kitsap Heritage Park Stewardship Plan should provide a copy of the event/activity information found on the Kitsap County NKHP webpage, once criteria is established, and include a direct link. As a suggestion, similar to other county parks, the Kitsap County NKHP webpage could include information outlining the allowed uses of the park for events/activities. For example, information on the county NKHP webpage might include language such as, "events/activities where the number of people exceeds 10 people must go through a review process using the parks request form. Subsequently, the webpage would provide a link to the request form."

Other comments:

- The North Kitsap Heritage Park Stewardship Plan should define terms such as active recreation, recreational use, and passive recreation at the beginning of the document so there is no ambiguity. The plan should include specific examples of each term in order to provide clarity for people reading the plan.
- The map legends do not always match up with the maps. For example, Appendix 5-Future Trails Map, the map legend does not clearly coincide with the map shown.

**Name:** Deborah Weinmann

#### **What District Are You From?**

North Kitsap

#### **Please leave your comment below:**

Please preserve the option of connectivity and accessibility for all trail users. A variety of public uses must be retained.

**Name:** none entered

## North Kitsap Heritage Park

### Draft Stewardship Plan Appendix-- Public Comments

#### Additional Comments from Website Responses:

**What District Are You From?** North Kitsap

**Please leave your comment below:**

**Name:** Joseph Lubischer

JSL public comment 9/26/19 (not accepted by Parks website)

I wish to voice my support for the NKHP Stewardship Plan, the land classifications, and emphasis on soft trails. I applaud the focus on habitat protection.

My personal vision is that we allow re-establishment of a lowland old-growth forest for future generations to appreciate and enjoy. The loss of forest habitat adjacent to the park (White Horse Golf Course and Arborwood developments) increases the importance of protecting North Kitsap Heritage Park in its entirety.

Alignment of an STO route from Kingston appears to be the primary point of contention with the plan. The following points need to be acknowledged.

1. The current STO alignment through NKHP is a concept level, line-on-a-map proposal. The critical step of identify issues, let alone analyzing them, has not been taken.
2. Significant unaddressed issues are present. These include crossing Miller Bay Road, traversing Beaver Creek and Bear Creek wetlands, and negotiating hillsides on both east and west sides of the park.
3. One or more of these issues will likely require routing outside the park.
4. The shared-use road design is a major construction project, entirely out of line with the purpose of heritage parks as “primarily undeveloped natural areas” (PROS Plan 2018, pg 13). In the case of NKHP, building a road from east to west through the center of the park would completely destroy the park. Habitat and wetland functions would be impaired. The intimate forest experience now appreciated by users would be degraded.
5. Route and design solutions require rethinking the shared-use concept. Different functions of a shared-use route can be separated and satisfied in different ways and using multiple routes. To date, these options have not been explored.

Basic flaws exist in the concept of shared-use.

6. The shared-use design is a road. A truck can drive down the pavement. That is a road, not a trail.
7. Bicyclists and pedestrians or horses don't mix any better than cars and bicyclists. Such limitations of multi-function routes have been noted (PROS Plan 2018, pg 30).
8. Hard surfaces are unacceptable for horses and hard on runners.
9. Paving of the public path through the White Horse Golf Course has created unresolved traction and maintenance issues, resulting in injuries to users.

It's also worth noting that the trail categorizations in the NK String of Pearls Trails Plan and the county Non-Motorized Plan focus on moving people and do not really include the purpose of NKHP trails. In the park, trails are ideally soft-tread and single-track with the purposes of providing access and enhancing experiences of our natural habitat.

**WHAT DISTRICT ARE YOU FROM?**

North Kitsap

## North Kitsap Heritage Park

### Draft Stewardship Plan Appendix-- Public Comments

PLEASE LEAVE YOUR COMMENT  
BELOW

For the record, the question should be asked whether the public comment process is procedurally deficient. After six months of avoiding engaging the public, it appears the commissioners made an abrupt decision to call for public comment with no notice to park stewards and during the prime vacation season. With scheduled vacations and typically good weather for outdoor activities, August and September are the worse possible months to schedule a public comment period.

---

NAME

Joe Lubischer

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**What District Are You From?** North Kitsap

**Please leave your comment below:**

**Name:** Liz Bailey

I am responding to the information I just received regarding the stewardship plan for North Kitsap Heritage Park. I am not sure of the proper procedure for weighing in with comments, so I thought I'd go directly to you. If you wouldn't mind telling me the best way for the public to comment, I would appreciate it!

I speak on behalf of the many members of the local equestrian community when I ask that, moving forward, the Parks Department please create a parking area sufficient for and dedicated to trucks and trailers. Right now, although the park says they welcome equestrians, there are no adequate public facilities where trucks with trailers can park and riders and horses can access the trails (at least none of which I or my equestrian friends are aware). So, while stating that horses are welcome, the access for horses and riders is limited to those who live within riding distance of the park and can get to the trails without hauling in. It's a huge disappointment to those of us who would love to ride in the park. I applaud the stewardship plan, and I have already read portions of it, but I don't see anything in the plan to specifically address this issue.

Thank you for your time and attention. There are a lot of us out here who would love to weigh in on this subject!

**What District Are You From?** North Kitsap

**Please leave your comment below:**

**Name:** Joseph Lubischer

Please note that the Park website link lists a "stewardship" draft with April 26, 2019 date, but the title page shows July, 2019 while footer still shows stewards' original submittal date of April 26, 2019. I think it would be most helpful to correct the dates.

Also, the three Park purchases are not 799 acres, but total 818 acres as in the stewards' submitted draft. Apparently, past calculations did not include the later 19-acre Miller Bay Road acquisition with the original 799-acre Block I and II purchases. I note the 799 error in three places: July, 2019 draft, county

## North Kitsap Heritage Park

### Draft Stewardship Plan Appendix-- Public Comments

announcement, and Parks website. For support, parcel search shows 818.29 acres in two "parcels" zoned as Park (although the east "parcel" additionally lists Rural Wooded for unclear reasons). And I can also share a spreadsheet tally of earlier parcels with the same 818.29 number.

**What District Are You From?** North Kitsap

**Please leave your comment below:**

**Name:** Linda Berry-Marait

September 26, 2019

To Kitsap County Parks and the NKHP Stewards,

The North Kitsap Heritage Park Stewardship Plan should not be approved as currently written. It contains an array of factual errors, is in direct conflict with the stated purpose for which most of the land was acquired and conflicts with adopted County Planning documents and some County codes. Though park stewards provide a very valuable service to the community, this document oversteps the power that a few individuals should be allowed to have and attempts to redirect the purpose of this huge community asset to support a few individuals' personal mission. The vision for this park is well documented over the last 15 years and has long been "a park large enough to accommodate a mix of active uses and trails, while protecting sensitive areas".

Instead of that balance, if this stewardship plan is adopted virtually any mix of uses, key trails and accessibility for users of different physical abilities would all be locked out. This plan converts this recent tree farm initially planned for ball fields into a "biological reserve with visitor privileges". It would prohibit the planned regional Sound to Olympics Trail, prohibit improvements needed for handicap accessibility, and would create obstacles for utilizing the park for events. (Possibly excluding use by the adjacent Kingston schools).

The Sound to Olympics Trail would provide important regional non-motorized access for all ages and abilities and would impact ~ 1% of the acreage in the park. The STO would improve public safety in a location with serious bike and pedestrian road hazards, improve safety for both young people heading to school and to citizens heading to the ferries, and connect multiple North Kitsap communities.

The Stewardship plan is factually incorrect w/ how it conveys restrictions from the grants and ignores that including a regional trail through the park was always part of the vision. In truth, only ¼ of the park acreage was acquired utilizing any habitat or salmon restoration grants.

- Phase One (426 acres) was purchased with a 2004 WWRP Local Parks grant and County funding. That grant application included a regional paved trail across the park & showed multiple hubs of ball fields. OPG provided a trail easement to provide the future trail connectivity across the park. I was asked to participate with a citizens group for the planning of that park by Commissioner Endresen so have first hand knowledge of those discussions.
- In 2008 the County unsuccessfully applied for grants to "acquire 218 acres for a hub in a regional trail system".
- In 2010, the County applied for a package of grants strategically arranged with the center planned for a regional trail corridor, and two corners focused on habitat and wetlands. I was integrally involved in the grant applications and worked closely w/ County staff and the lead grant consultant.

An adopted Park Stewardship plan should not be allowed to prohibit handicap access by prohibiting guardrails or fences. An adopted plan should not be allowed to prohibit the Sound to Olympics Trail before Kitsap County has completed a Feasibility Study to determine if there are other feasible route options or determine the County's preferred STO route. The plan should be consistent with the County

## North Kitsap Heritage Park

### Draft Stewardship Plan Appendix-- Public Comments

Critical Area ordinance, not create a new code to increase setbacks. An adopted plan should be consistent with County, adjacent jurisdictions, and regional non-motorized plans as required by GMA. And an adopted plan should be consistent with commitments made to the community, donors and grant funding sources, and provide a balanced mix of habitat and recreation as has been long envisioned. An adopted plan should not be allowed to restrict events that the County would otherwise allow, especially those for the children and youth in our community. When my daughter was at NKHS, the County adopted a stewardship plan for Hansville Greenway that prohibited the high school cross country team from running in the park. Instead of teens running in a park, the team had to run in the streets in Poulsbo. They did that once, and then gave up home meets. Our community's children should have full access to our parks, these are their parks.

Many members of our community invested a huge amount of effort into the Kitsap Forest and Bay Coalition efforts to conserve vast amounts of land in North Kitsap. My family is one of those. The KFB coalition was a broad mix of people and organizations who worked together for a very long time and in a respectful and cooperative manner for a project that is remarkable in its scope, inclusivity and accomplishments. The STO was always part of the Kitsap Forest and Bay vision. The STO was shown in every fundraising brochure and all the descriptions of this visionary project. Phase two of the NK Heritage Park, was the first KFB acquisition, "our" first victory. Back in 2010, the NKHP stewards supported the Sound to Olympics trail and wrote an enthusiastic letter of support for the STO through the NK Heritage Park. While the rest of us carried on working on the other KFB land acquisitions, the bulk of the NKHP stewards did not.

It feels like it would be a grave injustice to our community and the inclusive intent of the Kitsap Forest and Bay coalition, if a few changes or few new members of a stewardship group, would be allowed to potentially and forever block a regional non-motorized trail system for North Kitsap, and convert a community park away from the balanced mix of uses for which it was acquired.

Please remove the restrictions on handicap accessibility, trail surfaces, handrails and events before the North Kitsap Heritage Park Stewardship plan is approved. And please complete a feasibility study to determine the County's preferred route of the Sound to Olympics Trail to Kingston, before any provisions are allowed that would permanently exclude the STO from the NK Heritage Park.

Sincerely,

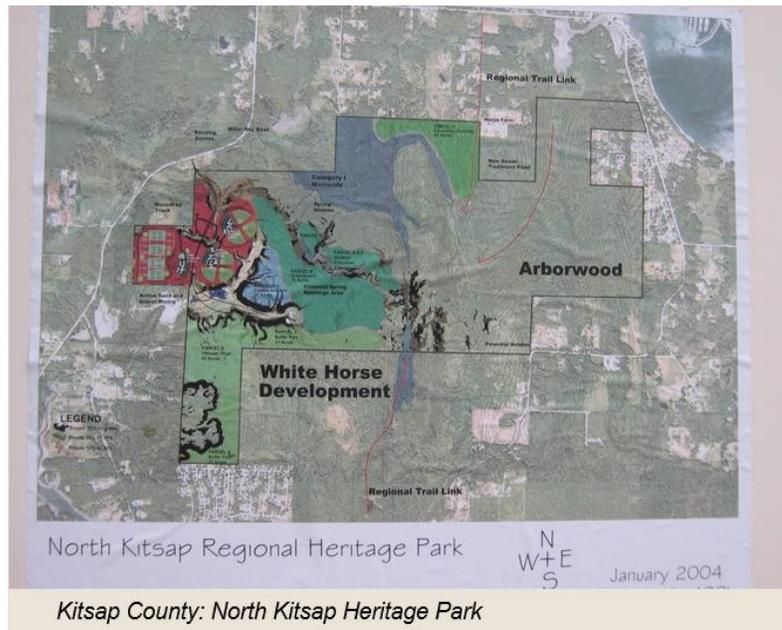
Linda Berry-Maraist

Please see separate attachments w/ documentation of grant applications and history

## North Kitsap Heritage Park Draft Stewardship Plan Appendix-- Public Comments

### Attachments:

A paved regional trail was a key part of the park vision and a promise made to both the grant sources, the community and those that pledged grant match and groups that worked to help acquire the park. **2004 North Kitsap Heritage Park Phase One** was purchased w/ County funds and a state WWRP “Local Parks” grant. The project was described as “426.11 acres in size, with the potential for future expansion to double that size – large enough to accommodate a wide range of active uses and trails, while protecting sensitive areas.” “A large part of the site has soils and topography ideally suited for fields, for which there is a significant, documented need.” A pledged part of the grant match was a floating trail easement from Pope Resources/Olympic Property Group. WWRP – Local Parks # 04-1456

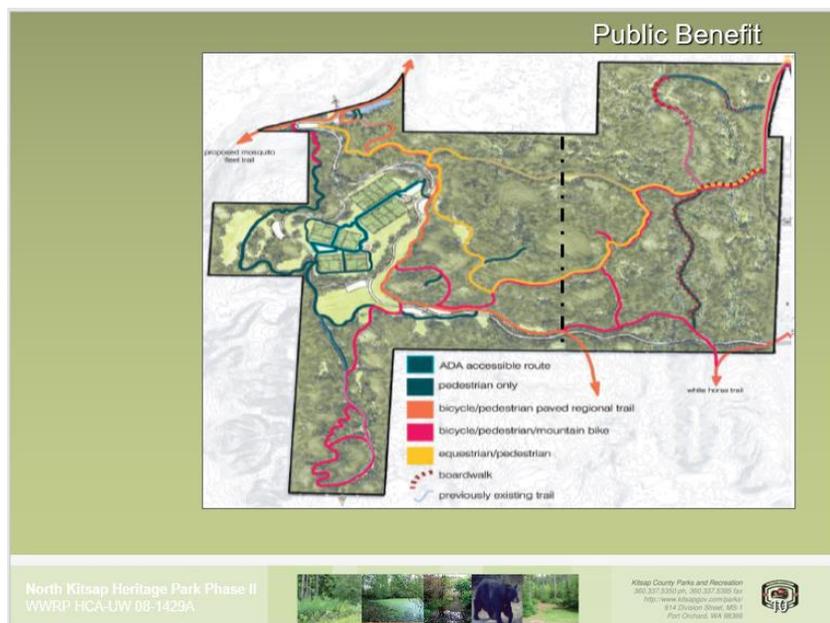


**2008** Kitsap County unsuccessfully applied for grants to expand the park and applied for a Trails grant. The stated purpose of the grant was “to buy 218 acres for a hub in a regional trail system”. The map shows a “bicycle/pedestrian paved regional trail”.

### **2008 North Kitsap Trails Association receives National Park Service Grant for community Trail Plan.**

In 2010 alone, NKTA held over 27 public meetings, and with the professional expertise of the Health District designed a survey that was completed by 724 residents.

- 94% of residents believed that a trail system is important to their quality of life.
- 89% agreed that a paved shared-use path separated from cars would be an important addition to our community, and that if a paved path were built, they would use it.



## North Kitsap Heritage Park Draft Stewardship Plan Appendix-- Public Comments

- The #1 priority of residents were walking and hiking trails
- #2 priority was biking on paved trails separated from roadways (408 respondents).

**Kitsap County 2010 Grant Applications:** The Sound to Olympics Trail was a centerpiece in the vision for the Park expansion and was a key part of the overall grant acquisition strategy.

- All four 2010 grant applications were strategically designed to “nest” around the Sound to Olympics trail that would pass through the center portion of the park, while the habitat grants focused on the NW and SE corners of the “option” property. The wide “Z” shaped trail corridor was designed to link the existing and proposed paved regional trails. The “paved non-motorized trail” was indicated on the maps.

N Kitsap Heritage Park Phase 2  
WWRP-Trails #10-1257A Conceptual Plan



Trail alignments exist except for those within the future Arborwood development

Paved non-motorized trail / existing roads  
 Non-paved natural trails

N. Kitsap Heritage Park Phase II Acq. (Grover Ck.)  
SRFB #10-1297

Conceptual Plan - Habitat Areas



- The smallest grant, for Salmon Recovery funding states adjacent parcels would be purchased to “serve as a non-motorized trail with a collection of interior connecting soft trails”, and cites a “voluntary donation by Olympic Property Group of 69 acres at an estimated value of \$480,000, providing the third-party match.” The required public access and stewardship plan specified; “Public access will be allowed throughout the property via access points including regional and community trails and existing logging roads.” states, “The North Kitsap Heritage Park Expansion will be available to the public for special events.” (SRFB #10-1297, pg. 5 March 2010)

- The newly formed North Kitsap Heritage Park Stewards voiced “enthusiastic support” for the Trails grant application (RCO 10-1257A WWRP-TR) and wrote a 4/28/2010 letter citing the strategic location between multiple communities that need to be connected by trails, the need to complete and not “dead-end” the existing paved White Horse Public Trail that borders the park and the value of “the Kingston spur of the Sound to Olympics Trail proposed by the North Kitsap Trails Association, that would connect the Kingston ferry to the Olympic Discovery Trail via a paved shared use path from Kingston through the Phase 2 property and the Heritage Park.” • North Kitsap Trails Association organized letters of support, including NKTA, NKHP Stewards, City of Poulsbo, City of Bainbridge Island & the Suquamish tribe.

## North Kitsap Heritage Park

### Draft Stewardship Plan Appendix-- Public Comments

**North Kitsap String of Pearls Trail Plan 2008-2011** The North Kitsap Trails Association obtained two National Park Service Rivers and Trails Grants, in 2010 alone held over 27 public meetings, and with the professional expertise of the Health District designed a survey that was completed by 724 residents. 94% of residents believed that a trail system is important to their quality of life. 89% agreed that a paved shared-use path separated from cars would be an important addition to our community, and that if a paved path were built, they would use it. The #1 priority of residents were walking and hiking trails, followed by the #2 priority of biking on paved trails separated from roadways (408 respondents).

**Kitsap County adopted the NK String of Pearls Trail Plan into the Comprehensive Plan Nov. 28, 2011:**

The top priorities recommended by the Trail Plan were: 1) Acquire access across the OPG property for the Sound to Olympics Trail. 2) Conserve as much of the OPG open space as possible.

**Nov. 2012:** Kitsap County updated the entire County Non-Motorized Plan into the County Comprehensive Plan and included the Sound to Olympics Trail and included by reference the North Kitsap String of Pearls Trail Plan.

Excerpt from Access & Stewardship Plan for SRFB grant for portion of NKHP Phase Two

Excerpt from Kitsap County Parks staff description of Phase 2 NKHP and map 2010

## North Kitsap Heritage Park Draft Stewardship Plan Appendix-- Public Comments

### NORTH KITSAP HERITAGE PARK STEWARDSHIP GROUP

April 28, 2010

To: Recreation and Conservation Office via  
Kitsap County Parks & Recreation  
614 Division MS-1  
Port Orchard, WA. 98366

RE: Kitsap County application for North Kitsap Heritage Park Phase 2 Trails Acquisition under the Recreation & Conservation Office (RCO) 10-1257A WWRP-TR.

The North Kitsap Heritage Park Stewardship Group, hereafter referred to as the Stewardship Group, was formed in April, 2009 with the sanction of the Kitsap County Department of Parks and Recreation. The Stewardship Group is dedicated to the maintenance, management, and public enjoyment of North Kitsap Heritage Park. The Stewardship Group is an all-volunteer organization responsible to Kitsap County in compliance with the Memorandum of Agreement between the Stewardship Group and Kitsap County Parks and Recreation. The purpose of the Stewardship Group is to develop and maintain trails in North Kitsap Heritage Park and on trail easements in the adjoining property eastward which is currently owned by Olympic Property Group and which is Phase 2 property (RCO 10-1257A).

Stewardship Group members are in a position to speak knowledgeably of the terrain and existing and potential trail routes in the Phase 2 property having explored and mapped much of the terrain in planning for trails. The Heritage Park and Phase 2 property are interdependent properties connected by their common boundary, ecology, hydrology and biology. The contiguous wetlands along the northern portions of these two properties adjoin the proposed public areas of the Arborwood development and thereby represent an invaluable greenway and wildlife habitat corridor. On this basis the Stewardship Group enthusiastically supports Kitsap County's application for expanding the North Kitsap Heritage Park to include the Phase 2 property and any other adjoining properties.

The Phase 2 property is also a vital acquisition that provides an essential missing link for completion of a trail system linking communities and major roads in North Kitsap County. The North Kitsap Heritage park and the Phase 2 property are strategically located between Kingston and Indianola, and are adjacent to Miller Bay Road connecting to Suquamish and Poulsbo. These properties are at the heart of a plan envisioned by the North Kitsap Trails Association and are essential for connecting those communities by trails. Trails in the Phase 2 property provide a link between Heritage Park trails and trails planned in the proposed Arborwood development. The Phase 2 property is adjacent to three schools and can provide safe off-road walking and biking access between our communities and our schools, safe running trails for youth athletic teams and fitness trails.

## North Kitsap Heritage Park

### Draft Stewardship Plan Appendix-- Public Comments

The White Horse Public Trail originates at its southern end at N.E. Kitsap St. in Indianola and is nearing completion. This trail was permitted as a condition for development of the White Horse Golf Community which lies south of the Heritage Park and Phase 2 property. A trail in that vicinity was originally conceived as a connector between the communities of Indianola and Kingston. At the present time this trail terminates at its northern end at the southern border of the Phase 2 property. A temporary connection to the Phase 2 property trail network has been built by the Stewardship Group in partnership with the North Kitsap Trails Association, Kitsap County and the Olympic Property Group under the trails easement. Without permanent access through the Phase 2 property the White Horse Public Trail would become a pointless dead end and the connection between Indianola and Kingston would not be realized. It is essential to realizing the county's investment in the vision for the White Horse Public Trail that the Phase 2 property be acquired.

In addition the Kingston spur of the Sound to Olympics Trail proposed by the North Kitsap Trails Association would connect the Kingston ferry to the Olympic Discovery Trail via a paved shared use path from Kingston through the Phase 2 property and the Heritage Park. The trail would then continue westward via Olympic Property Group properties to the Hood Canal Bridge.

The Stewardship Group has logged hundreds of volunteer hours in the last year and has actively worked with Kitsap County to build trails within the North Kitsap Heritage Park and the Phase 2 property. To date the Stewardship Group has worked with the county to open the Heritage Park for public access via the entrance on Miller Bay Rd. N.E. and has opened over six miles of trails in the Heritage Park and Phase 2 property for public use. The North Kitsap Heritage Park Stewardship Group emphatically submits this letter of support to Kitsap County and commits to leading a volunteer effort to partner with Kitsap County and the North Kitsap Trails Association to create volunteer built trails on this key Phase 2 property.

Respectfully,



David Haley  
North Kitsap Heritage Park Stewardship Group Chair

# North Kitsap Heritage Park

## Draft Stewardship Plan Appendix-- Public Comments

### NORTH KITSAP HERITAGE PARK PHASE II/EXPANSION PROPERTY PUBLIC ACCESS AND STEWARDSHIP PLAN (#10-1297)

#### General

In December 2014, Kitsap County acquired 366-acres of property from Pope Resources for long-term open space preservation and public access. This acquisition expanded the North Kitsap Heritage Park, allowed improved land management, and regional and community trail access for the public. The property includes several high quality wetland systems, headwaters to Grovers Creek and wildlife habitat. This plan is intended to address future public access considerations for the Heritage Park Phase II/Expansion Property as well as continued allowances for access to the adjacent lands of public benefit.

#### Public Access and Use Requirements

Public access will be allowed throughout the property via access points including regional and community trails and existing logging roads. The public's use of the property will be governed by Kitsap County Parks and Recreation rules included in Kitsap County Code Chapter 10.12 (Exhibit A) and well as other Kitsap County policies. Any public access will subordinate to the protections of wetlands and stream habitat.

#### Scheduling of Park Facilities for Special Events

The North Kitsap Heritage Park Expansion will be available to the public for special events. Scheduling of these events shall be pursuant through the Kitsap Parks and Recreation Department reservation policies. Primary responsibility for oversight of these events will be that of the applicant and consistent with Parks and Recreation policies. Parks and Recreation will work collaboratively with applicants for large-scale community events with off-site impacts.

#### Forest Stewardship Plan Development

A forest stewardship plan for the property has been developed and is attached (Exhibit D). This plan specially addresses, in great detail, the long-term habitat management of the property for restoration and environmental protection. This planning will be consistent with public access, regional and community trail systems through the property, and address any conflicts between these uses. All forest management will be consistent with the recorded deed –of-right to enhance or restore habitat values of the property. All revenue generated by any restoration thinning will be used consistent with RCO Acquisitions Manual 3: Section 7: Post-Award Issues regarding Income and Income Use, specifically

Excerpt from Access & Stewardship Plan for SRFB grant for portion of NKHP Phase Two

Excerpt from Kitsap County Parks staff description of Phase 2 NKHP and map 2010



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## N. Kitsap Heritage Park, Phase II Acq. - Trails

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### Project Details

**Project Status:** Board Alternate since 06/22/2011

**Project Type:** Acquisition

**Project Sponsor:** Kitsap County Parks and Recreation

**Funding Board:** Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

#### Funding

WWRP - Trails:	\$475,000
<b>Total RCO Grant:</b>	\$475,000 (34%)
Sponsor Match:	\$925,000 (66%)
<b>Total Agreement:</b>	\$1,400,000 (100%)

#### Links

Attachments: 17 files

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### Project Description

The Kitsap County Parks and Recreation Department will use this grant to buy 218 acres for a hub in a regional trail system. Upon purchase, Kitsap County and the North Kitsap Trails Association, along with the volunteers, will develop nearly 2 miles of non-motorized and interconnecting recreational trail. The property links existing trails in the adjacent Suquamish Tribe Whitehorse housing development and the Arborwood planned residential development. It will provide for links to southern regional trails connecting through Poulsbo to Bainbridge Island, northwestern links to the Hansville Greenway and the Hood Canal Bridge, and eastern links to Kingston and regional trails in south Snohomish County. The County will contribute \$925,000 in cash, a federal grant, and donated land.

### Project Contacts

**Project Sponsor:** Kitsap County Parks and Recreation

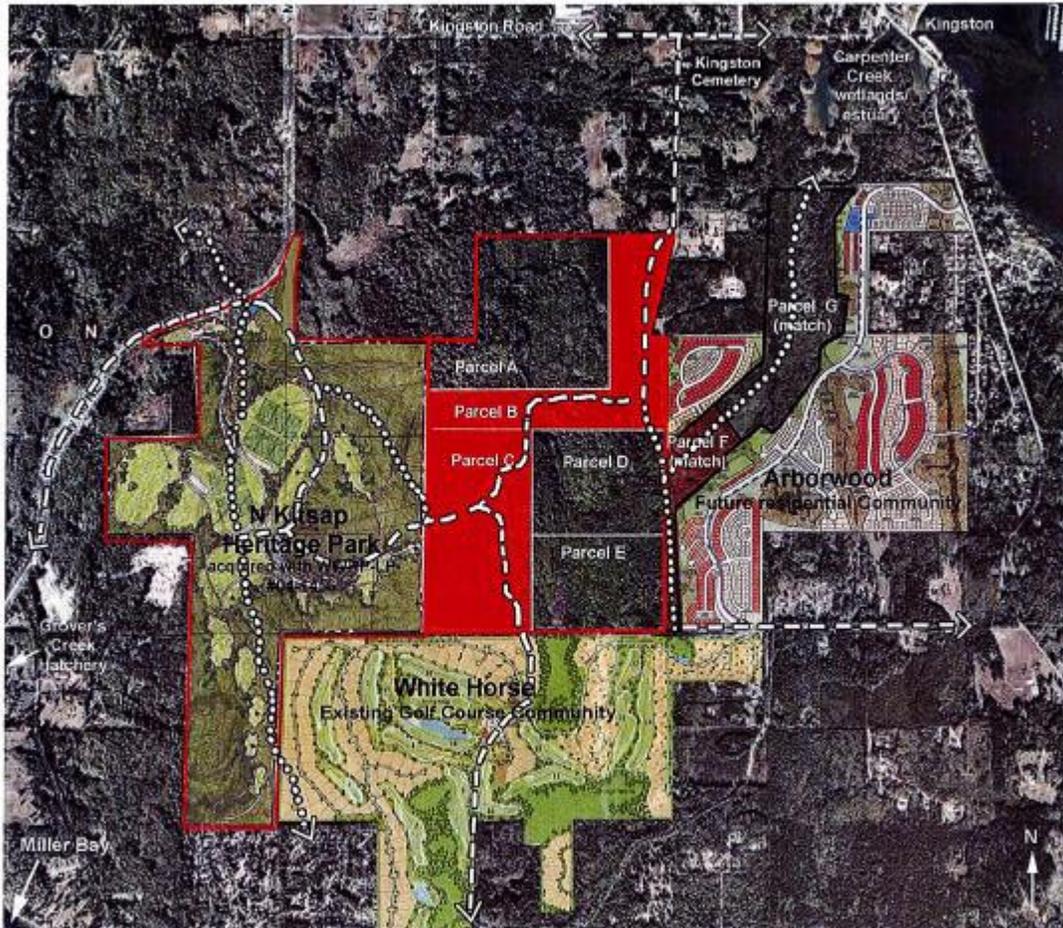
**Project Contact:** Martha Droge  
martha\_j\_droge@nps.gov  
(206) 220-4122

**Funding Agency:** Recreation and Conservation Office

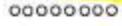
**Project Manager:** Kim Sellers  
kim.sellers@rco.wa.gov

# North Kitsap Heritage Park Draft Stewardship Plan Appendix-- Public Comments

## N Kitsap Heritage Park Phase 2 WWRP-Trails #10-1257A Conceptual Plan



Trail alignments exist except for those within the future Arborwood development

-  Paved non-motorized trail / existing roads
-  Non-paved natural trails

## North Kitsap Heritage Park

### Draft Stewardship Plan Appendix-- Public Comments

**What District Are You From?** North Kitsap

**Please leave your comment below:**

**Name:** Evan Stoll

I am admittedly picky about the use of terms like goal, vision, objectives, and activities. Too many people use the term interchangeably, which is not the case. How each is defined is not as important, however, as the fact that they provide a hierarchy for thought and action. A frequent cause of difficulty results from the cyclical nature of these terms, which often depend on a person's perspective. The boss may see constructing a boardwalk as the objective towards a goal, while the designer may see coming up with 3 sets of blueprints as their objective towards pleasing the boss. I think we need to view NKHP from the perspective of our vision for the park. The hierarchy I use places the "vision" at the top, goals as the means to obtain the vision, objectives as **measurable** milestones towards the goals, and activities are finite events needed to achieve the objectives

For illustrate, the "vision" should be something we are looking to achieve. The document states it as, *"The vision for North Kitsap Heritage Park (NKHP) is to set aside and steward a portion of Puget Sound lowland forest and stream Habitat for all visitors to enjoy."* Since we already have set aside the land, that portion of the statement is not a vision, it is a reality. Also, we are already "stewarding" the Park so to some extent that has already happened. The second sentence, *"Our goal is to conserve, protect and enhance the Park to allow native flora and fauna to return to a natural condition while supporting public access for users of all abilities "*, is a restatement of the stewarding "vision". In addition, the last phrase seems to make the public an afterthought. I prefer a vision something like:

*"To provide public access for users of all abilities in an environmental protected environment that promotes the restoration of native flora and fauna."*

Where the "vision" provides a unified broad view of what the future should look like, "goals" are action statements focusing on specific things that can be done to achieve the "vision". There can be many of goals. One goal might be to provide handicap access; another parking at various location; a third the removal environmental constraints. These all fit into the vision.

Many people confuse goals with objectives, and they are similar, but objectives focus on a specific accomplishment and include both timeframes and a way to measure progress. Just as achieving the vision may have several goals, achieving a goal can include many objectives. Using removal of environment barriers as a goal example, one objective might be the removal of 5 culvert in 2019. Another might be replacing the beaver deceiver with a bridge by 2022. Anther might be 200 hours of work removing invasive species in the next 6 months. While you could cite objectives without stating the goal it would not be productive. Removing a culvert would be pointless unless it led to some improvement as cited by a goal.

Activities, the lowest level of the hierarchy, are the ways in which objective are met. As before, several activities are usually required to meet an objective. For example, creating a new trail might require clearing the right-of-way, constructing a boardwalk, adding signage, etc. Typically, a management plan such as the stewards are creating would not include activities and often would not include objectives which will change over time.

## North Kitsap Heritage Park

### Draft Stewardship Plan Appendix-- Public Comments

In this light I suggest reorganizing the sections to start with a straight forward goal statement followed by the explanation of why the goal is important and the bulleted list of possible means of doing so (perhaps these might be labeled "focus area" rather than objectives. Note, these are not objectives since they don't have measurable outcomes. Rather they provide a clarification of work areas to achieve the goals. For example, Vision and Guiding Principles

"The vision for North Kitsap Heritage Park (NKHP) is, "To provide public access for users of all abilities in an environmental protected environment."

This area has a rich history of Native American People living with nature. Preserving that legacy within a controlled environment provides ecological, cultural, recreational and educational benefits. Protecting the Park's forested streams, wetlands and associated uplands will help to improve the water quality and environmental health of Grovers Creek, Carpenter Creek, and their receiving waters of Puget Sound: Miller Bay and Apple Tree Cove. Protecting the natural characteristics of the Park will secure its role in the broader landscape as an integral part of wildlife corridors ~~that may be~~ threatened by fragmentation resulting from development while also benefiting the wider surrounding Environment and providing for the enjoyment and education of future generations.

We hope to achieve this vision by:

- (1) conserving, protecting and enhancing the biological heritage of Park to allow native flora and fauna to return to a natural condition;
- (2) providing and maintaining public trails, etc. for visitors of all abilities to enjoy the Park's forests and wetlands and to recharge their wellbeing;
- (3) engaging and educating visitors of all ages ~~so that they may learn~~ about and experience the natural environment ~~and recharge their wellbeing.~~

P.6 I don't think a draft should be referenced. Referencing actual documents is fine.

P. 6 Most of the history look excellent.

Starting on p.7, however, (To create the NKHP Master Plan....) it goes off the subject of park history and into master plan history. I think this is covered by the bibliography (or elsewhere in the document). I see no reason to single out any specific issue (GMA goals) from among the variety of issues cited in the documents.

P.7 section 5:

I have both some general concerns that apply in other location and some specific to this section.

Starting with specific concerns:

- delete the phrase, "as established by this Master Plan". You can't cite yourself as an authority for what you want to do. Basically, it says this is of paramount importance because we say so.
- I see no reason for the following "*... and in accordance with the Deed Of Right specified by RCO funding used to purchase NKHP Block II property (RCO & Kitsap County, 2014). In accordance with the NKHP Forest Stewardship Plan (Kitsap County , 2014), following the initial thinning of Douglas Fir trees in high density areas, designed to increase native vegetative diversity, the need for further forest thinning intervention at NKHP should be weighed carefully (Welsh, 2011).*" The plan is a long-term document and 10 years from now local events will not matter. I've no problem with the rest of the paragraph. Examples of human intervention, such a thinning, etc. could be added for context.

## North Kitsap Heritage Park

### Draft Stewardship Plan Appendix-- Public Comments

General concerns:

An “issue” implies a problem, but problems are seldom stated. Since an “issue” is “an important topic or problem for debate or discussion” the statements should address a concern, even if not stated directly. For example, “5.1 Maintaining the Environmental health of Natural Resources and animal Habitat in the Park:”. Other “issues throughout the document should be similarly stated so as to delineate the “topic”. In some cases, the issues include statements of “policy”. For example, “Human interventions in the Park should only be undertaken after first establishing that the benefits to be gained outweigh any possible Ecological or Habitat harm.” Those are not “issues”.

Management Objective: Now we run into the issue of what’s an objective again. These are **principles**, not objectives because they aren’t measurable. I know some of you are saying who cares? I think terminology is important to preventing fuzzy thinking. The bullets address things to keep in mind, not measurable things to achieve.

Issue 5.2: This tries to define “heritage” as “preservation of our biological legacy”. There is nothing to support that position. Central Park in NYC could be considered a heritage park but little about it is a biological legacy. I agree that preservation of it is important, but not because of the name. That’s a stretch. Simply say “Preservation of our environmental legacy.” Include this information in the explanation paragraph.

Issue 5.2 Management Objectives (Principles):

The issue statement cites preservation of our environmental legacy the bullets address a variety of topics: ADA compliance, conduct periodic surveys, etc. It seems like we are trying to say how to improve public access while protecting the environment. This overlaps with section 13 Public Access. We could either change the “issue/topic” to say, “to improve public access while protecting the environment” or move it the section 13, which I think is better.

6-Streams, Wetlands, Culverts, and Waterbodies

This section addresses 3 topics; however, the verbiage comes across as statements rather than an issue. I suggest citing the goal in a phrase followed by background verbiage and the bulleted principles. For example:

6-Streams, Wetlands, Culverts, and Waterbodies

Goal: “Promote wetland habitat by improving and preserving stream flows to enhance water quality and limiting habitat fragmentation.

6.1 Issue: Protecting stream flows:

Full water flow through the Park’s streams and wetlands is essential for maintenance of local races of salmon and viable populations of other aquatic residents, and to recharge the local aquifer. Because of their wide geographic distribution and local social relevancy, streams (whether potentially or actually fish-bearing) require special protective and restorative attention. The construction of the original logging roads that now permit access to the Park for Park visitors, and any future trails, have the potential to obstruct water flow and thereby limit access and dispersal of anadromous fishes and other aquatic organisms. Effects of human activity on stream and wetland health at NKHP should be evaluated on a periodic basis.

Park Stewards and other volunteers have completed a map of the Park’s wetlands and streams (Appendix 1 - Wetland Delineation Map).

## North Kitsap Heritage Park

### Draft Stewardship Plan Appendix-- Public Comments

Management Objectives Practice:

1. Maintain full culvert flow (collapsed/perched but functional culverts must be repaired, replaced or upgraded).
2. Non-functional culverts or those on abandoned roads/trails should be considered for removal and streambed re-contouring.
3. Re-establish streamflow, where feasible, where it has been eliminated in the past (e.g. western Spine Line Trail relocation).
4. Bridge stream crossings where chronic beaver activity precludes full culvert function.
5. Avoid water channelization, aesthetic alterations, etc. in the recognition that human goals regarding water flow may conflict with the needs of some organisms.

6.2 Issue - Limiting habitat fragmentation:

Habitat reduction and/or fragmentation are debilitating to aquatic organisms, whose life histories hinge on dependable water supply. Whether natural or man-made, all habitable water bodies within the Park deserve protection for their Habitat, and groundwater recharge and streamflow maintenance functions. There is great biological value in temporary ponds and intermittent streams which serve the reproductive needs of invertebrates and amphibians.

Management Objectives Practice:

1. Protect both large and small (those <0.25 acre) wetlands with the recognition that all are biologically significant.

6.3 Issue - Preserving water quality:

Protection of water quality is vital not only to the interests of Park inhabitants but also to Park neighbors and the groundwater we share. Do nothing that knowingly compromises surface or subsurface water quality.

Management Objectives Practice:

1. Encourage the removal of invasive plants by physical means.
2. Curb/curtail the use of Roundup® and other chemical herbicides and pesticides.
3. Observe the wetland and stream buffers contained in Appendix 2, NKHP Wetland and Stream Buffer Guidelines, Tables 1 and 2, when planning and developing Park facilities and user amenities.
4. Observe the wetland and stream buffers described in Appendix 1, Tables 3 and 4, when planning and completing restorative thinning or other forestry activities.

??? Why itemize the observation of buffers. Consolidate.

7-Forest Restoration and Management

The issue seems to simply be Forest Management (restoration is redundant), which is affected by issues addressed elsewhere and especially in the Forest Stewardship Management Plan. Again, I suggest a consistent approach of first citing the problem/topic, add background verbiage under Management Principles (or following the topic), then the bulleted principles.

- bullet 2 – remove: “and the value of both timber and non-timber assets” since timber is not a concern anymore.

- bullet 2: does promoting a diverse forest conflict with an earlier bullet dealing with limiting thinning?

## North Kitsap Heritage Park

### Draft Stewardship Plan Appendix-- Public Comments

8-Invasive Vegetation Issue: Controlling Invasive Vegetation

- Why isn't this part of Forest Management?

- A list of potential action items is not a plan. It is simply a list of activities leaving the question of what is the related objective? In some case the items can never be accomplished (if you pull 1 weed and 3 are left have you accomplished something)?

9-Park Expansion

Supporting something is not a plan. I support making a million dollars a year, but that is not a plan. This really amounts to preserving additional land (a great idea) but not part of park management unless there is a problem that needs addressing (e.g. eliminating water pollution from adjacent farm land or providing land for a recreational area.) There will always be unprotected park areas because once you acquire a piece of property the next parcel over is unprotected. To be an issue there must be a problem the correction will address; what's the problem?

10-Harvesting of Forest Products

Again, isn't this part of Forest Management?

Are the bulleted items goals, guidelines, policies, rules or what?

Issue 10-2: true, but what is the associated practice or control procedure.

13 - Public Access

The verbiage provides background but does not cite an "issue". The last sentence addresses organized events, which seems to be the issue. I suggest citing that as issue 13.1 "Organized Events".

Add issue 13.2 "Improving public access while protecting the environment" and move the bullets from 5.2 to here.

Additional Comments:

I have briefly gone through the comments. There were many good comments on both sides of the STO routing issue. As expected many people do not want any paved trail. Many of those are people who currently use the Park, in part because it feels "natural" to them. Similar to asking the choir if they like to sing, you'd expect that group to like the Park as it is; I get that. It was also clear that quite a few had misconception about the Park's genesis. One person said adding paving was a "bait and switch" when the reality is that paving was part of the original plan and no paving is the switch. Another described it as displaying "mother nature" despite being a former tree farm. Regardless, they like it as it is. There were several comments about protecting the amphibians, most likely from people who heard Tom Doty's lecture. I am not convinced that a paved trail, should that ever be built, would be much of a problem. I have asked Tom repeatedly for support for his position but have received only macro level studies (e.g. deforestation is harmful, roads are harmful). I've not seen or gotten from my research anything about harm caused by a non-motorized paved trail. In fact, the information I've come across indicate that the effect is minimal.

- The Coast Guard toxic materials Manual says, "The effect of low levels of asphalt is unknown". [7] Not finding a problem doesn't mean it doesn't exist, but does tend to show that the effect is small.
- Many harmful material found in asphalt are bound in place fairly tightly and is sometimes used to

## North Kitsap Heritage Park

### Draft Stewardship Plan Appendix-- Public Comments

lower leaching rates. [7]

- The Grand Teton NP, Transportation Plan’s environmental review found no major adverse impacts to the environment or wildlife, including amphibians, from 40 miles of planned new paved trails. [8]
- A study of salamander behavior around paved trails, did not detect an effect of treatment or distance from treatment edge on movement of these amphibians. [6]

[6] “Effects of Roads and Trails on Peaks of Otter Salamander and Eastern Red-backed Salamander Movement Behavior August 2015”

[7] Environmental Contaminants Encyclopedia - Asphalt (NPS 1997)

<http://www.nature.nps.gov/hazardssafety/toxic/asphalt.pdf>

[8] Grand Teton National Park (N.P.), Transportation Plan: Environmental ...

<https://books.google.com/books?id=bPU3AQAAMAAJ&pg=PA171&lpg=PA171&dq=impact+of+paved+trails+on+amphibians&source=bl&ots=tUdPRBkeI7&sig=UMQxxbR6YnvylDaLejR9ETE0BCQ&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwi4o9a244LOAhUC5WMKHefQCfsQ6AEIVzAJ#v=onepage&q=impact%20of%20paved%20trails%20on%20amphibians&f=false>

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**WHAT DISTRICT ARE YOU FROM?**

North Kitsap

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**PLEASE LEAVE YOUR COMMENT BELOW**

The vision for NKHP was for a park and trail system created by the community to connect towns for the enjoyment of hikers, bikers with accessibility for all. This vision was enhanced by grants for this park deemed “ large enough to accommodate a wide range of uses and trails”. Do not overlook this vision. Preserve all possible routing options for the STO trail. The park is over 800 acres. Please complete a feasibility study for the best route for the STO, before excluding it. The completion of the STO is something the community has been working for for many years. Do not deny access to our parks.

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**NAME**

Caroline Perisho

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## North Kitsap Heritage Park

### Draft Stewardship Plan Appendix-- Public Comments

What District are you from:

Central Kitsap

Comment:

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I am writing to express my concerns about the 2016-2036 Kitsap County Comprehensive Plan as it pertains to the classifications within North Kitsap Heritage Park (NKHP). The NKHP is unique from the standpoint that Kitsap County possesses both the land interest and the future timber rights within the park. This is in contrast to the Pope-Talbot (P-T) tracts near Port Gamble where the swap between P-T and Kitsap County preserved the timber rights with P-T for the next 20 years. As anyone who is a frequent hiker in the Port Gamble tracts can tell you, P-T is making good use of its timber rights to clear cut large swaths of land in this area. The unsightliness of the area is shocking in comparison to the natural beauty which predated the clear-cutting. Furthermore, the machinery used for this purpose leaves virtually no stands of tree, as that machinery cannot distinguish between yearlings and fully harvestable trees. I can understand that P-T is running a business, however there should be some restrictions on the extent of timber that can be extracted from this North Kitsap area.

But I have digressed from the purpose of my comments. The current environment of the NKHP consists of hilly land full of springs and wetlands, geared toward active recreation defined as trail uses. The current collaboration between the volunteer stewardship group and Kitsap County Parks classifies land use within NKHP to achieve long term resources protection and describe compatible public uses including recreation. As stated in the 2011 North Kitsap String of Pearls Trail Plan: "The beauty of simple walking trails is that they can be built and maintained by volunteers, have minimal environmental impact and provide people of all ages the opportunity to get outside and enjoy nature." As I understand the proposal that is coming before the Board of Commissioners in the near future, a permanent road surface traversing the park from the north (Norman Road Entrance) to the south and to the White Horse Golf Course entrances, is planned. This road surface requires county standards for width, (I was informed the distance will be 12 feet) not including culverts and shoulders.

Although supposition on my part, it would appear the primary beneficiary of a diagonal access route across NKHP for the purpose of expediting traffic from the Kingston ferry terminal, would be the White Horse Golf Course.

I oppose the request for a permanent road access route (whether paved or gravel surface) that interferes with the current environment of the NKHP.

Name: Mike Liebert -- Silverdale

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## North Kitsap Heritage Park

### Draft Stewardship Plan Appendix-- Public Comments

#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below

For the record, the question should be asked whether the public comment process is procedurally deficient. After six months of avoiding engaging the public, it appears the commissioners made an abrupt decision to call for public comment with no notice to park stewards and during the prime vacation season. With scheduled vacations and typically good weather for outdoor activities, August and September are the worse possible months to schedule a public comment period.

#### Name

Joe

First

Lubischer

Last

#### What District Are You From?

Central Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below

I am writing today to express my concern regarding certain limitations and exclusions in the NKHP's draft Master Plan pertaining to the proposed route of the Sound to Olympics (STO) trail through NKHP. The STO has been included in several area trail plans; The Mosquito Fleet Trail Master Plan (prepared 2001), Kitsap County Bicycle Facilities Plan (prepared 2001), Kitsap County Greenways Plan (1996) and, most significantly, the North Kitsap String of Pearls Trails Plan (County adopted 2011). The rationale behind the exclusion of the STO through NKHP has been presented in a manner based on misinformation and construed as something that does not align with the NKHP's Draft Master Plan's stated goals. NKHP was never intended to be a biological preserve and the construction of the STO would not be in conflict with that even if it had been the original intent of the park's construction. One carefully designed and built, shared-use paved trail (less than 1% of the total park's acreage) through nearly 800 acres of park, originally designated as a mixed-use park to include passive and active use, will not adversely affect wildlife, biologically sensitive areas or the serenity of the park. It will provide connectivity to the Cross State trail and the Olympic Discovery Trail and will ultimately close the "gap" across Kitsap County with the Great American Rails Trail stretching from Washington DC to the Washington State coast.

The completion of the STO through NKHP will also provide much needed accessibility to users of all ages and abilities to be able to enjoy the beauty, serenity and educational opportunities now only accessible by individuals who are not restricted by physical limitations. The STO would provide an ADA compliant shared-use path, available for all to use. An amendment to Item 2-Guiding Principles (Page 5) should be done to address this: "A goal is to engage and educate visitors of all ages so that they may learn about and experience the natural environment and recharge their wellbeing" to read "A goal is to engage and educate visitors of all ages AND ABILITIES so that they may learn about and experience the natural environment and recharge their wellbeing."

The NKHP Master Plan should not be allowed to block a future regional trail, block handicap accessibility, potentially exclude future events (especially those associated with the adjacent schools) and arbitrarily declare a public park a "biological reserve with visitor privileges". The park was funded with a variety of grant and county funding sources to include both active and passive use of the park. Less than 1/4 of the park's purchase utilized urban wildlife or habitat focused funding, and all the grant strategies planned for a regional trail to pass through the park. Careful editing pertaining to limitations

## North Kitsap Heritage Park

### Draft Stewardship Plan Appendix-- Public Comments

on trail surfaces, fences and guardrails (draft wording that overrides existing County Policy), and stating that the park is a "biological reserve with visitor privileges" should be done prior to the approval of this trail plan. NKHP's Master Plan should not exclude the possibility of routing the STO through the park, especially before a feasibility study for the STO has been completed.

In short, I am committed to working toward the completion of the STO to ensure a quality, regional shared-use trail that will enhance the quality of life for all who seek opportunities to spend time in nature and desire safe non-motorized connectivity to communities throughout North Kitsap, the region and the state. And while I appreciate the hard work and dedication of the NKHP stewards, it is not their place to include misinformation and arbitrarily change the original intent of the park in this NKHP Master Plan.

Thank you.

#### Name

Patricia

First

Bryan

Last

#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below

I am writing as an individual, though I am the Conservation Chair for Kitsap Audubon Society, Vice-President of the North Kitsap Trails Association, and have numerous other roles related to the integration of open space with habitat and mobility.

I would like to share a few key recommended principles and specifics for revisions to the current (July,2019) NKHP Stewardship Plan Draft.

1) This draft plan should not be adopted with only the current content.

It is my understanding that a trail plan will be drafted at a later date. That trail plan needs to be integrated with the current draft. The full plan needs to be considered as a package

2) Complete a feasibility study for the route of the STO through the NKHP.

The Sound to Olympics Trail (STO) is called for in the North Kitsap 'String of Pearls' Trail Plan (and subsequent planning documents adopted by Kitsap County), the Puget Sound Regional Council, the City of Bainbridge Island Comprehensive Plan, the Rails to Trails Conservancy's Great

American Rail Trail, and other planning documents. One branch of the STO is called for to be routed through the North Kitsap Heritage Park. Connecting between the Kingston WSF Terminal, through the "Divide Block" and the Port Gamble Heritage Park to the Hood Canal Bridge—where it will connect with the Olympic Discovery Trail, which crosses Jefferson and Clallam Counties to the Pacific Ocean.

This draft should specifically list the STO by name as one facility provided in the NKHP.

However, there should be a feasibility study done by Kitsap County with skilled consultants to determine the optimum route for both habitat and trail functionality for the STO--as has been done through Kitsap County Public Works Department for both the Divide Block and the Port Gamble Heritage Park. In addition to the NKHP Stewardship group, stakeholders participating in the study should include people who are advocates and knowledgeable about regional trail design, as well as open space conservation—as was done with these two previous feasibility studies. Note that the Great Peninsula Conservancy was represented on the previous feasibility studies (in addition to Port Gamble steward advocates) as one example of an expert outside voice for habitat conservation.

## North Kitsap Heritage Park

### Draft Stewardship Plan Appendix-- Public Comments

3) Use current best practices and science with regard to crossing wetlands.

Gravel paths are impervious, as are paved paths. Calling for “Natural Surface Trails” as described in this draft does not recognize current science regarding permeability. Also, critical area can have trails, including pin pile boardwalks and bridges which protect natural water flow and habitat. In fact, such designs make it less likely people will get off the designated route.

4) Call for an inclusive vision of accessibility for people with disabilities, beyond stereotypes of ADA compliance.

The draft does not adopt the spirit of “environmental justice” now intrinsic to best practices. Rather than “explore for suitable locations” as referenced in this draft, we should design all trails with consideration for what might work for people with a wide range of abilities. Accessible design is not necessarily in conflict

**Name**

Don

First

Willott

Last

**What District Are You From?**

North Kitsap

**Please leave your comment below**

Addition to my previous comment. The proposed Kingston Treatment Plant Recycled Water Project seeks to utilize two plus acres of land within NKHP for the Infiltration Area for the recycled wastewater. The NKHP Master Plan needs to address this issue and preserve the integrity of the Park for its intended uses.

**Name**

Niki

First

Quester

Last

**What District Are You From?**

North Kitsap

**Please leave your comment below**

To Kitsap County Parks and the NKHP Stewards,

The North Kitsap Heritage Park Stewardship Plan should not be approved as currently written. It contains an array of factual errors, is in direct conflict with the stated purpose for which most of the land was acquired and conflicts with adopted County Planning documents and some County codes. Though park stewards provide a very valuable service to the community, this document oversteps the power that a few individuals should be allowed to have and attempts to redirect the purpose of this huge community asset to support a few individuals’ personal mission. The vision for this park is well documented over the last 15 years and has long been “a park large enough to accommodate a mix of active uses and trails, while protecting sensitive areas”.

Instead of that balance, if this stewardship plan is adopted virtually any mix of uses, key trails and accessibility for users of different physical abilities would all be locked out. This plan converts this recent

## North Kitsap Heritage Park

### Draft Stewardship Plan Appendix-- Public Comments

tree farm initially planned for ball fields into a “biological reserve with visitor privileges”. It would prohibit the planned regional Sound to Olympics Trail, prohibit improvements needed for handicap accessibility, and would create obstacles for utilizing the park for events. (Possibly excluding use by the adjacent Kingston schools).

The Sound to Olympics Trail would provide important regional non-motorized access for all ages and abilities and would impact ~ 1% of the acreage in the park. The STO would improve public safety in a location with serious bike and pedestrian road hazards, improve safety for both young people heading to school and to citizens heading to the ferries, and connect multiple North Kitsap communities.

The Stewardship plan is factually incorrect w/ how it conveys restrictions from the grants and ignores that including a regional trail through the park was always part of the vision. In truth, only ¼ of the park acreage was acquired utilizing any habitat or salmon restoration grants.

- Phase One (426 acres) was purchased with a 2004 WWRP Local Parks grant and County funding. That grant application included a regional paved trail across the park & showed multiple hubs of ball fields. OPG provided a trail easement to provide the future trail connectivity across the park. I was

asked to participate with a citizens group for the planning of that park by Commissioner Endresen so have first hand knowledge of those discussions.

- In 2008 the County unsuccessfully applied for grants to “acquire 218 acres for a hub in a regional trail system”.
- In 2010, the County applied for a package of grants strategically arranged with the center planned for a regional trail corridor, and two corners focused on habitat and wetlands. I was integrally involved in the grant applications and worked closely w/ County staff and the lead grant consultant.

An adopted Park Stewardship plan should not be allowed to prohibit handicap access by prohibiting guardrails or fences. An adopted plan should not be allowed to prohibit the Sound to Olympics Trail before Kitsap County has completed a Feasibility Study to determine if there are other feasible route options or determine the County’s preferred STO route. The plan should be consistent with the County Critical Area ordinance, not create a new code to increase setbacks. An adopted plan should be consistent with County, adjacent jurisdictions, and regional non-motorized plans as required by GMA. An adopted plan should be consistent with commitments made to the community, donors and grant funding sources, and provide a balanced mix of habitat and recreation as has been long envisioned. An adopted plan should not be allowed to restrict events that the County would otherwise allow, especially those for the children and youth in our community. When my daughter was at NKHS, the County adopted a stewardship plan for Hansville Greenway that prohibited the high school cross country team from running in the park. Instead of teens running in a park, the team had to run in the streets in Poulsbo. They did that once, and then gave up home meets. Our community’s children should have full access to our parks, these are their parks.

Many members of our community invested a huge amount of effort into the Kitsap Forest and Bay Coalition efforts to conserve vast amounts of land in North Kitsap. My family is one of those. The KFB coalition was a broad mix of people and organizations who worked together for a very long time and in a respectful and cooperative manner for a project that is remarkable in its scope, inclusivity and

**Name:** Linda Berry-Maraist

## North Kitsap Heritage Park

### Draft Stewardship Plan Appendix-- Public Comments

#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below

After reading the draft language, I am concerned about the rigid structuring that limits the type of trails that the North Kitsap Heritage park would be limited to with the current draft. There is some concern that this would interfere with the Sound to Olympic trail plan, and we should endeavor to preserve that goal. I use the NK heritage park frequently, and there is plenty of room there for all types of non-motorized travel, and it is growing more and more as the logging finishes out its projects.

**Name:** Jacob Fulcher

#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below

I would prefer to see the North Kitsap Heritage Park environment protected in regards to sensitive wetland environmental habitats and remain as it is. The park has several very steep grades and paving the trails to ADA standards would require them to reach farther out into lower grades switchbacks near sensitive wetlands areas. Additionally, paving trails will release poly aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH) from asphalt into these sensitive wetland areas not to mention other preserving compounds from treated wood in guardrails. Please leave the park in its natural state.

Thank you.

**Name:** none entered

#### What District Are You From?

Central Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below

I am a frequent user of the North Kitsap Heritage Park and while I am all for making the natural world accessible to all users, I think the impact of a paved path through the park would be detrimental to the health of the natural world we want to enjoy and protect. I urge the county to explore other options for creating a more environmentally friendly option for providing accessibility to the park.

**Name:** Lynn Agnew

#### What District Are You From?

Central Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below

I do not support the STO stance in regard to the NKHP Stewardship Plan. I am not in favor of improvements that would compromise existing habitat.

**Name:** Yvette

#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below

Please approve the stewards' plan. I do NOT want to see any paved trails or other development in the park. As the area around the park continues to get developed, it would be great if we could keep the

## North Kitsap Heritage Park

### Draft Stewardship Plan Appendix-- Public Comments

park as natural as possible for recreation such as mountain biking, horseback riding, or simply walking in the woods.

The proposed paved trail is not a trail at all, it is a road. A 10' asphalt "trail" is nearly as wide as a highway lane which has no place in a forested park. With the additional 4' of gravel shoulder (2' each side), the "trail" would be incredibly wide and out of place. Additionally, building to a maximum 5% grade will require a lot of earthwork given the topography of NKHP. Building a paved "trail" to the proposed standard would greatly degrade the natural beauty and recreation experience one currently can enjoy.

Please approve the stewards' plan to keep NKHP accessible for unpaved recreation while preserving and improving the existing natural habitat.

Thank you.

**Name: Rob Kinnaird**

#### **What District Are You From?**

North Kitsap

#### **Please leave your comment below**

Attending the community open house in Kingston on Sept 19 certainly made it clear that this plan is a source of controversy. After having listened to both sides (and as someone who has walked almost all the heritage parks' trails at one point or other), I have to agree with the draft plan's rejection of offences/guardrails and wide paved surfaces. For some areas, such as the power line trail, a paved surface might be fine, but those are limited segments that won't provide what the STO needs, particularly as outlined in the North Kitsap String of Pearls trail plan or built between the Winslow ferry and High School road. Thank you.

**Name: David Graves**

#### **What District Are You From?**

North Kitsap

#### **Please leave your comment below**

To the Kitsap County Parks Commission:

Thank you for giving thoughtful consideration of our comments regarding the Draft North Kitsap Heritage

Park Stewardship Plan. Olympic Property Group (OPG) objects to those portions of the plan that work to eliminate active recreation including provisions for a paved regional trail.

Pope Resources (OPG's parent company) originally owned 1,100 acres that includes the now 800 acre Heritage Park and the Arborwood project. During the early 2000's the County announced the creation of a new concept; regional heritage parks. There was to be one park in the south, central, and north county districts. The county was initially considering locations on Pope Resources lands that front on SR 307 and also on property then owned by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources in Hansville

(this property was later purchased by the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe to expand their reservation).

During that time the community was also wrestling with the issue of where to expand the Kingston UGA. At that time the Arborwood project occupied around 750 acres including the portion of the park known as

the Heritage Park Expansion (or Option) Area. Arborwood was a vested, but as yet unapproved project.

OPG suggested the following:

1. The County should consider putting the Heritage Park close to where families would live so that it

## North Kitsap Heritage Park

### Draft Stewardship Plan Appendix-- Public Comments

could be access without driving. The other locations could not accomplish that. Literally everyone would have to use an automobile to access the park in those locations.

2. OPG would drop the vested Arborwood project if we could put half of it in the UGA.

3. The area of Arborwood that was dropped could then be added to the Heritage Park to create an 800-acre park

4. OPG made commitments, in writing, regarding its contributions to the recreation system.

a. We would contribute (for no remuneration) another 104 acres to the park, bringing the total to 900 acres if, and once Arborwood actually developed

b. We would commit to providing our own trails in Arborwood that would expand the outdoor experience and provide additional access points.

This was a solid community planning concept. The county did a broad and thorough community outreach which included collaboration with OPG and ultimately the funding agencies.

The plan originally included extensive development of athletic fields and recreation facilities including provisions for a regional, high quality paved trail. However, since that time, the need for sports fields diminished with the construction of the new Kingston High School and other facilities.

Is it acceptable now for the County to renege on the commitments it made to the public, granting agencies, and OPG? No more so than it would be acceptable for OPG to renege on its commitments (Imagine the outcry if OPG tried break its promise regarding the park).Prior to the Kitsap Forest and Bay project (another concept OPG initiated in a public meeting at the

Kingston Junior High School on June 27, 2007) children had very few places to ride bikes safely in North Kitsap. The regional trail is an important opportunity for children and adults of all abilities to walk and ride safely, and in an environment that is far superior to widened shoulders.

Perhaps there is a safe alternative where people can ride without the danger, noise, and intimidation created by road-side trails. If so, that alternative should be strongly considered. However, until that exists the paved regional trail originally envisioned should continue to be part of the park stewardship plan.

**Name: Jon Rose**

#### **What District Are You From?**

North Kitsap

#### **Please leave your comment below**

I am in favor of the steward's plan for Heritage Park, We must keep as much natural space in our county as possible. I am a lifelong resident of this county and want to keep natural space for future generations. Being a kid in the 50's I still have trouble grasping the growth that has happened. This makes it so important to keep some of our natural world before it's too late.

**Name: Claudia Kilburn**

#### **What District Are You From?**

North Kitsap

#### **Please leave your comment below**

The North Kitsap Trails Association and many North County residents appear to be at odds over the proposed stewardship plan. The immediate paradox is that most residents supporting the stewardship plan as drafted are also supporters of the regional trail system overall. So why the conflict?

First, a semantic clarification. Structurally, a regional trail is a small hard-surfaced road for non-motorized use. Calling it a trail is misleading. Except for lacking runoff containing petroleum contaminants, the impacts of regional trail construction and use fall into the road category. There are

## North Kitsap Heritage Park

### Draft Stewardship Plan Appendix-- Public Comments

some undeveloped places where road development is plainly undesirable. The stewardship plan suggests that the Heritage Park is one of those places.

Second, the Heritage Park route does not appear to form a critical link in the proposed regional network. It looks to be more likely a spur accessing the Whitehorse golf course pathway loop. Elimination of a Heritage Park side spur would not appear to jeopardize functionality of the regional network.

Third, the Heritage Park unpaved trail system as it exists already receives major public usage -- probably about as much as the local environment can comfortably accommodate. Transforming part of the successful existing low impact trail system into a hard surface facility would degrade an already fully functional recreational amenity. Any gain to the regional system necessarily would be offset by a loss to a valued more natural amenity.

Fourth, the stewardship plan is not a regulatory document. It does not in itself preclude or support any particular form of future development. Rather, it provides baseline information to be used in future planning. The stewards have been tasked to supply their assessment, and they have labored in good faith to provide that. Their work should be respected, not arbitrarily rejected because it does not fit some predetermined political agenda.

Finally, because the stewardship plan is simply a non-regulatory baseline inventory that will lead to furthermore specific and definitive planning, the fact that there is current controversy over those future plans implies that the critical planning process should be accelerated, not that time should be wasted now and ill-will fomented by haggling over the details of the preliminary baseline inventory.

NTKA is right in suggesting that feasibility studies should move forward promptly. In particular, wetland, stream and slope stability technical reports need to be performed to assess the extent and value of onsite environmental amenities. But NTKA is wrong to argue that delay should be incurred in order to politically massage the stewards' report to comply with its agenda.

In short, the County should adopt the stewardship report as drafted with a brief clarifying note that its recommendations are non-regulatory in effect, then move forward as proposed by NTKA to begin scoping work on a feasibility study to assess a range of potential Heritage Park future options.

**Name: Stafford Smith**

#### **What District Are You From?**

North Kitsap

#### **Please leave your comment below**

Dear Sirs and Madams: I am writing to support the North Kitsap Heritage Park Stewardship Plan as submitted. I have been a frequent hiker in the area for over 22 years. This means I am familiar with the park from the years before it WAS a park - when hikers shared it with dirt bikers and bear hunters. I am continually amazed at all the good work done by the NKHP Stewards. Their removal of Scotch broom, the trail expansion, the trail and culvert maintenance, etc. has turned abandoned commercial forest into a place that is well on its way to becoming a "heritage park" in the sense of potentially showing future generations what the plant and animal communities that evolved in Kitsap since the last glaciers receded look like in their natural state. It is a pleasure having such a beautiful natural area with both wetlands and native forest in North Kitsap's own backyard. I fully support the plan to thin and manage the parts of the park that need help to recover a more natural state (Conservation area), while minimizing human disturbance of the Natural areas. There are so few places in North Kitsap in particular that residents and visitors can hike so many miles of trail and see primarily natural features, that the idea of maintaining and enhancing that aspect of the park should be paramount as the stewardship plan intends.

The mapping of wetlands in the park in particular showed early on that the plan I initially remember for the park when acquired, involving roads coming in from either side and parking lots and ball fields in the

## North Kitsap Heritage Park

### Draft Stewardship Plan Appendix-- Public Comments

middle, was not a practical or responsible use of the land. There would have been too much disruption of the Natural areas and dividing the park in half with roads would have fragmented the valuable continuous habitat that currently exists for plants and small animals like reptiles, amphibians and the like. As much as I support the Sound to Olympics Trail as a worthy project, it would be insane to destroy what makes the NKHP special as a recreation site (hiking, walking and mountain biking) just to promote another recreation goal when we could have both! Like the STO running along 305 on Bainbridge, it would make more sense to route the STO in North Kitsap along West Kingston Road all the way to Miller Bay Road and around the park. This would preserve the park as an attraction in its own right and as a "bonus" on the STO- with a little detour. Similarly, there are other places in the vicinity - non-forested and with friendlier topography - to place ball fields and such recreation sites without disrupting natural areas with important ecosystem functions like the wetlands and uplands of NKHP.

Please adopt the NKHP Heritage Park Stewardship plan!

Thank you,

**Name: Melissa Fleming**

#### **What District Are You From?**

North Kitsap

#### **Please leave your comment below**

I approve the plan and would like to keep the North Kitsap Heritage Park trails natural and without ANY paved or developmental infrastructure. I moved here 20 year ago and during this time have walked (with various dogs) several miles a day on these trails. The network of trails are why I chose to live here and call North Kitsap home. And now that I am retired, I do not want these sanctuaries taken away from me or my neighbors. The Pope clear cutting has already decimated our area and caused the wildlife to roam and become very vulnerable. If I wanted pavement I would have stayed in Seattle.

**Name: Susan Golden**

#### **What District Are You From?**

North Kitsap

#### **Please leave your comment below**

In the plan for the Kingston Treatment Plant Recycled Water Project, the Figure 8-3 diagram, locates the proposed Infiltration Area within the boundaries of North Kitsap Heritage Park. The Infiltration Area needs to be located either within the White Horse Community or some other location outside the North Kitsap Heritage Park. It is important that we avoid using the North Kitsap Heritage Park to carry the purple pipe to the White Horse Golf Course. It is important to preserve the park for its intended use. The McMaster Plan needs to address this issue and preserve the integrity of the Park for its intended uses. It is important to protect the wetlands and forest habitat and keeps the natural soft-tread trails. I do not want a paved trail. The STO uses federal design standards of 10 feet of asphalt with 2 feet gravel shoulders on both sides and grades limited to the ADA 5% requirement. Under these standards, the challenges of crossing wetlands and steep slopes would require a very large construction project with significant clearing, cut and fill switchbacks, retaining walls and extensive fencing on the slopes

**Name: Niki Quester**

## North Kitsap Heritage Park

### Draft Stewardship Plan Appendix-- Public Comments

#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below

I am alarmed that the Stewards are so forcefully pursuing the opposition to a paved trail within the park. Our thinking since the early 90's when we supported the park and trails development was that all parties were open to the Park segment of Sound-to-Olympics being paved. The original Mosquito Fleet Trail concept was so attractive it seemed possible we would see some progress on it before too much longer. It appears to me that the opposition to any additional paved segment sets back the prospects for a North Kitsap portion of the STO trail and makes it unlikely we'll see it within my lifetime (another 30 years, presumably). Since my first exposure to the Discovery Trail in Clallam and Jefferson counties, I've been hopeful that we could pull off something resembling that wonderful asset on our side of the Hood Canal Bridge. I wondered how all of the various Discovery Trail property owners were enticed to cooperate, and now I fear that a relatively small interest group, though composed of many good people whom I consider friends, is closing off the possibility of a similarly functional asset in North Kitsap. It makes me sad that there's apparently no room for compromise.

**Name: none entered**

#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below

It is crucial to protect wetland and forests, we have limited habitat for wildlife, especially with all the development and logging that has happened in our region lately. Definitely NOT a wide paved trail, instead a natural trail that does not impact the land so heavily. We need habitat, not more roads. The plan for the paved road would be too destructive to this precious bit of habitat. We want a trail that goes through a forest, not a paved road that meets federal standards for roadbuilding.

Please, Approve the Stewards Plan.

Minimal development in the park!!!!!!

**Name: Beth Nichols**

#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below

I'm writing in support of the values of minimum intervention, minimum width, and pervious surfaces for all trails, not limited to new or rerouted trails. In particular, I do not support modifications to the Spine Line Trail that would harden or widen that trail by comparison to its current state.

**Name: Michael Orr**

#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below

STO: Because STO trail requirements (asphalt-10 to 12-foot swath, fencing, etc. and the need to change the topography would substantially alter the nature of the park I would like to see a search done for a more suitable alternate route.

Fine gravel and ecologically friendly stabilizer should be used on any route taken not only because of it being a better choice for our water, animals, and threatened fish but also humans who would be doing the required labor.

## North Kitsap Heritage Park

### Draft Stewardship Plan Appendix-- Public Comments

The plan: I am in favor of protecting and enhancing the existing streams, wetlands, and forest to truly make this a Heritage park. The plan does this.

Accessibility: The plan envisions trails built especially for persons with disabilities

**Name:** Patricia Weagant

#### **What District Are You From?**

North Kitsap

#### **Please leave your comment below**

I wish to voice my support for the NKHP Stewardship Plan, the land classifications, and emphasis on soft trails. I applaud the focus on habitat protection.

My personal vision is that we allow re-establishment of a lowland old-growth forest for future generations to appreciate and enjoy. The loss of forest habitat adjacent to the park (White Horse Golf Course and Arborwood developments) has increased the importance of protecting North Kitsap Heritage Park in its entirety.

Alignment of an STO route from Kingston appears to be the primary point of contention with the plan. The following points need to be acknowledged.

1. The current STO alignment through NKHP is a concept level, line-on-a-map proposal. The critical step of identify issues, let alone analyzing them, has not been taken.
  2. Significant unaddressed issues are present. These include crossing Miller Bay Road, traversing Beaver Creek and Bear Creek wetlands, and negotiating hillsides on both east and west sides of the park.
  3. One or more of these issues will likely require routing outside the park.
  4. The shared-use road design is a major construction project, entirely out of line with the purpose of heritage parks as “primarily undeveloped natural areas” (PROS Plan 2018, pg 13). In the case of NKHP, building a road from east to west through the center of the park would completely destroy the park. Habitat and wetland functions would be impaired. The intimate forest experience now appreciated by users would be degraded.
  5. Route and design solutions require rethinking the shared-use concept. Different functions of a shared-use route can be separated and satisfied in different ways and using multiple routes. To date, these options have not been explored.
- Basic flaws exist in the concept of shared-use.
6. The shared-use design is a road. A truck can drive down the pavement. That is a road, not a trail.
  7. Bicyclists and pedestrians or horses don't mix any better than cars and bicyclists. Such limitations of multi-function routes have been noted (PROS Plan 2018, pg 30).
  8. Hard surfaces are unacceptable for horses and hard on runners.
  9. Paving of the public path through the White Horse Golf Course has created unresolved traction and maintenance issues, resulting in injuries to users.

It's also worth noting that the trail categorizations in the NK String of Pearls Trails Plan and the county Non-Motorized Plan focus on moving people and do not really include the purpose of NKHP trails. In the park, trails are ideally soft-tread and single-track with the purposes of providing access and enhancing experiences of our natural habitat.

**Name:** Joe Lubischer

## North Kitsap Heritage Park

### Draft Stewardship Plan Appendix-- Public Comments

**What District Are You From?**

North Kitsap

**Please leave your comment below**

The plan appears to be very good. Well thought out. and valuable to our community

**Name:** Juliana Pickrell

**What District Are You From?**

North Kitsap

**Please leave your comment below**

I approve the plan but I DO NOT want a paved trail or other development infrastructure in the park.

**Name:** Catherine Freeman

**What District Are You From?**

North Kitsap

**Please leave your comment below**

Thank you for your work on this project. I am writing to urge approval of the plan, however, I do not want a paved trail or other development infrastructure in the park.

**Name:** James Kolb

**What District Are You From?**

North Kitsap

**Please leave your comment below**

My name is Janine Moss and I am a resident of the immediate Miller Bay area. I am a trail user and wildlife observer. I urge the Department not to adopt the STO alternative. The construction work that would be utilized to put in a paved trail in this park is simply at odds with the purpose of this park. This area is not only a part of the Miller Bay watershed, it is right AT the headwaters of Miller Bay. Installing a permeable gravel pathway does everything necessary to allow access to this largely natural area, without negatively impacting its wildness and it's most important function as a watershed to the Puget Sound. As contrasted with the Clear Creek Trail in Silverdale, which is in a highly developed area, the North Kitsap Heritage Park is in a much more rural area, and it supports much more wildlife. Please do NOT adopt the STO alternative. Thank you.

**Name:** Janine Moss

**What District Are You From?**

North Kitsap

**Please leave your comment below**

Approve the Plan and tell the county that you don't want a paved trail or other development infrastructure in the park.

**Name:** Chuck Belanger

**What District Are You From?**

North Kitsap

**Please leave your comment below**

I approve the NKHP stewardship plan but do not want a paved trail or other development infrastructure in the park.

**Name:** Mary Kolb

## North Kitsap Heritage Park

### Draft Stewardship Plan Appendix-- Public Comments

#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below

I am always in favor of saving land for the animals and fish to roam. However, I think it is important for people to be able to experience conserved land also with low impact walking trails. That being said, I would hope that a viable, lessor invasive bike path route made from compact gravel is allowed to be built and be part of the STO. However, care should be taken to not place it on fragile wetlands and other sensitive areas. The two sides of this issue do not seem to agree on the facts. Those that want to conserve say that a 30foot road is going to be built for the bike trail, water tower access and retention ponds. Those that want a 10 foot wide gravel bike route feel that the plan as it stands now prohibits a bike trail completely. There seems to be a solution in the middle of all this. I hope one is found that protects fragile land and allows a bike route in a less sensitive area. Thank you.

**Name:** Becky and Mike Hall

#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below

I am submitting a comment on the North Kitsap Heritage Park Stewardship Plan. As proposed the stewardship plan would block a future regional Sound to Olympics (STO) trail, block handicap accessibility potentially exclude future events (especially those associated with the adjacent schools) and arbitrarily declare our public park a "biological reserve with visitor privileges". The park was bought within array of grant and county funding sources, less than 1/4 of the park acreage acquired utilized urban wildlife or habitat focused funding, and all of the grant strategies planned for a regional trail to passthrough the park. I have been on the board of the North Kitsap Trails Association since 2008 and am a founding member. Back in the day it was the Legacy project. Though biological diversity is important it was never the main focus of the park and its funding. To turn it into something else would be a blow to those that worked so hard to make it happen.

**Name:** John Kuntz

#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below

Our family of four and many extended friends have and will continue to enjoy many uses for the North Kitsap Heritage Park - I will ride it for the 3rd time this week and am volunteering for an event there this weekend. It's great to see such a variety of users including horse, mountain bike, hiking, mushroom hunting, trail runners, and more enjoying the fruit of many years of labor there. I am concerned about some of the wording in the stewardship plan that appear to prohibit the Sound to Olympics Trail, a very worthy effort to connect communities across this part of the world without using cars. Words matter and specifying "only natural trail surfaces, no fences or guardrails and declaring the park a biological reserve with visitor privileges" and the like seems to really go against the countless hours and efforts of many people across our region here to make this accessible to all.

NKHP is a balanced mix of recreation and habitat conservation. Rigid language would prevent the STO, or any future shared use path, from being built. This overrides the adopted County plan, code and park

## North Kitsap Heritage Park

### Draft Stewardship Plan Appendix-- Public Comments

policy and is in direct conflict with the original purpose of the community park. This is an asset created over years of County and Community efforts.

Please consider this as you work towards a final draft of the plan which should offer a more inclusive approach. I look forward to reviewing the efforts.

Thank you!

**Name:** Steve Ruggiero

#### **What District Are You From?**

North Kitsap

#### **Please leave your comment below**

It has come to my attention that the present wording of the plan could severely limit, or even prohibit, the use of the North Kitsap Heritage Park for the Sound to Olympic Trail (STO). This would be crazy. I am an avid fan of hiking trails as much as the next person. However, we all know how hard it is to obtain land to complete the STO (which is part of a much larger Washington State system.) The NKTP is one of the few places where the STO could be built to extend that bicycling network. It is also easily large enough to accommodate both a hiking trail system and a bicycle trail, both of which could live happily in a space where neither would impinge on the other and in fact could complement each other. Please do not make the serious mistake of restricting or prohibiting the extension of the STO. Thank you.

**Name:** Robert Weschier

#### **What District Are You From?**

North Kitsap

#### **Please leave your comment below**

NKHP is a tremendous asset to the community. The people that made it that way, through strictly volunteer efforts over the years are the people who wrote the subject Stewardship Plan. These people have made the park what it is today, they deserve to be the ones who steer its future development. Please accept their plan as written.

The STO trail is a concept. There is no real reason that every bit of the trail be paved and or wheelchair accessible. It's a great goal, but that doesn't mean compromises can't be made. Common sense may be the way to solutions.

**Name:** Richard D'Archangel

#### **What District Are You From?**

Central Kitsap

#### **Please leave your comment below**

Please do not allow paved trails, roads in the park. The naturalness of the park is dependent on minimal interference so that wildlife can survive, and the atmosphere is not ruined

**Name:** Pam Nelson-Kimball

## North Kitsap Heritage Park

### Draft Stewardship Plan Appendix-- Public Comments

#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below

My comments primarily refer to Appendix 14-Event/Activity Evaluation Screening Criteria (p. 47) in the North Kitsap Heritage Park (NKHP) Stewardship Plan. The language in the draft stewardship plan is vague and does not align with the process Kitsap County currently uses to review requests for park events/activities in other county parks.

1) The Kitsap County Parks Department should establish the criteria for events/activities at the NKHP using a collaborative process involving public input. Already, activities taking place in the park often conflict with wildlife preservation and the enjoyment of other users, particularly those involving large groups. The increasing demand for park use by a multitude of diverse groups highlights the need to establish criteria for events/activities in the NKHP.

2) The Kitsap County Parks Department should provide event/activity usage information (including No Charge usage, such as a trail run event) for the North Kitsap Heritage Park in a manner similar to other county parks (see link below). The Kitsap County website provides detailed information for each individual park at the following link

based on the number of people attending an

event/activity:<https://www.kitsapgov.com/parks/Pages/RentalFacilities.aspx>.

3) The Kitsap County Parks Department should be responsible for reviewing requests to use the North Kitsap Heritage Park for events/activities using a process the same as or similar to other parks in the county (see link below).

The Kitsap County website provides park event/activity forms at the following link

<https://www.cognitofirms.com/KitsapCounty1/ParksReservationRequest>.

4) The North Kitsap Heritage Park Stewardship Plan should provide a copy of the event/activity information found on the Kitsap County NKHP webpage, once criteria is established, and include a direct link. As a suggestion, similar to other county parks, the Kitsap County NKHP webpage could include information outlining the allowed uses of the park for events/activities. For example, information on the county NKHP webpage might include language such as, "events/activities where the number of people exceeds 10 people must go through a review process using the parks request form. Subsequently, the webpage would provide a link to the request form."

Other comments:

- The North Kitsap Heritage Park Stewardship Plan should define terms such as active recreation, recreational use, and passive recreation at the beginning of the document so there is no ambiguity. The plan should include specific examples of each term in order to provide clarity for people reading the plan.

- The map legends do not always match up with the maps. For example, Appendix 5-Future Trails Map, the map legend does not clearly coincide with the map shown.

**Name:** Deborah Weinmann

## North Kitsap Heritage Park

### Draft Stewardship Plan Appendix-- Public Comments

#### What District Are You From?

South Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below

The NKHP Stewardship Plan is basically good, but no new trails should be built in the Natural Area (green on your map). I don't like chipping away at natural areas, whose primary purpose is to be just as they are, forever.

Name: Kevin Kilbridge

#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below

I am very supportive of the NKHP Stewardship Plan to protect our long-term resources and set up appropriate public use and recreation. I have seen the park recovering nicely, as I am one of those neighbors who was a weekly trail volunteer when I first moved to Indianola and use the park frequently with my husband, kids, and grand kids.. I so appreciate having a place for us all to enjoy woodland trails right in our own back yard. Watching the park become healthier and healthier has made my heart soar!

Name: Anita Collings

#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below

Please keep the NK heritage park stewardship plan as it is. Don't let developers take advantage of it.

Name: Brad Simpson

#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below

Preserve the north Kitsap heritage Park stewardship plan. If the development wants waste treatment they should have it on their land. Stewardship means being a steward, not removing regulations every time a private company wants one.

Name: Jonah Anderson

#### What District Are You From?

Central Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below

I am a frequent user of Heritage Park and am very grateful to have access to this community resource. I support the North Heritage Park (NKHP) Stewardship plan and the proposal to protect our environment and natural resources.

Name: Rosemary Carraher

#### What District Are You From?

South Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below

I'm very concerned about the accelerated rate of development throughout the Puget Sound region and especially in Kitsap County. My husband and I bought our house in South Kitsap in 1999, and since then,

## North Kitsap Heritage Park

### Draft Stewardship Plan Appendix-- Public Comments

we have seen much of the natural habitat for wildlife diminishing at an alarming and exponential rate. It's upsetting, saddening. We value our natural places, our forests, our undisturbed ecosystems, and I think you will find that most residents of our area agree with us. We coexist with wildlife and without undeveloped, natural, habitat friendly parks, it is not worth living here. North Kitsap Heritage Park (NKHP) should and must remain an undeveloped, natural place for the wildlife that call it home and for all of us to enjoy via the trails. Thank you.

**Name:** Anjali Banerjee

#### **What District Are You From?**

North Kitsap

#### **Please leave your comment below**

Please complete a feasibility study for the STO before making a final determination.

**Name:** Sasha Nosecchi

#### **What District Are You From?**

North Kitsap

#### **Please leave your comment below**

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Please preserve all routing options for the Sound to Olympics Trail (STO) and future accessibility to North Kitsap Heritage Park (NKHP) near Kingston along with the intended mix of uses that designated types of public funds have already paid for!

The STO is a regional trail similar to the Burke Gilman or Olympic Discovery Trail, connecting the Hood Canal Bridge and Kingston via a non-motorized "shared use path" that will bring cottage industry and sustainable rural business to our bucolic country side, which is a primary reason that brought me to Kitsap 30 years ago. This path will string our rural communities together and connect them for users of all ages and abilities (including hikers, wheelchairs, strollers, equestrian and cyclists). Please edit the draft North Kitsap Heritage Park Stewardship plan to accommodate the whole community's vision as reflected in the numerous grant applications that stated the "Park is large enough to accommodate a wide range of active uses and trails, while protecting sensitive areas." Remove the narrow, inflexible and rigid language such as; "only natural...trail surfaces", and "no fences or guardrails" and declaring the park as a "biological reserve with visitor privileges". This is not what the community envisioned and is not how a public park, purchased primarily with public "recreational" funding should be planned and implemented. We can reuse some of the existing roadbeds for the route of the community trail to educate the public on the value of wetlands. The Sound to Olympics Trail impacts less than 1% of the acreage in the park and fulfills the mission of the park by making it accessible to all, including handicap access. Meanwhile, it is important to preserve all possible routing options for the STO. Please complete the next STO feasibility study for this location in order for the County to determine the preferred route to optimize both community access and habitat. If the NKHP Stewardship Plan is implemented as presently written, Kingston public park vision (and the STO) would be permanently blocked by a small group of citizens with a private agenda.

Thank you.

**Name:** Doug Maraist

## North Kitsap Heritage Park

### Draft Stewardship Plan Appendix-- Public Comments

#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below

I frequent use Heritage Park, love the outdoors and nature. I fully support the STO trail going through the park!!! Volunteers at the trailhead a few days ago suggested a possible full-size road with guardrails going through. I would not support that. Please use the park in support of broad public use while maintaining its character of untainted forest.

Thank you very much-

**Name:** MAUREEN LANDER

#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below

I Approve the Stewardship Plan and don't want a paved trail or other development infrastructure in NK Heritage Park!

The challenges of crossing wetlands and steep slopes would require a very large construction project with significant clearing, cut and fill switchbacks, retaining walls and extensive fencing on the slopes. There would be significant impacts to habitat, wildlife, and user experience. I want trails to be protective of habitat and to maximize the user's natural forest experience.

A paved trail would severely degrade the park and cost unnecessary tax dollars initially and for maintenance into the future.

**Name:** Scott Blymyer

#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below

North Kitsap Heritage Park needs to remain a possibility for the Sound to Olympics Trail to go through it. This is a critical Corridor to get from Kingston to the Hood Canal Bridge. Please don't allow any language in this document to restrict the possibility of this future Trail going through this property. Myself and other folks donated money to help acquire and maintain this property in anticipation that the STO would eventually go through here.

**Name:** none entered

#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below

I have a house near Heritage Park and enjoy the outdoor opportunities that it provides, especially biking. It is a great activity that I can do as a family with my 6, 8, 10, 13-year-old kids. I am very concerned the language in the draft plan does include a trail plan for biking. In fact I think the writers' envision a future for the park where there are few to no bikers. That is just wrong. A section in the plan needs added that addresses the future of biking in the park. It is a great trail system, with access for all types of nonmotorized use that will encourage youth to be more active and be stewards of the land.

**Name:** Quentin Vaira

## North Kitsap Heritage Park

### Draft Stewardship Plan Appendix-- Public Comments

#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below

I fully support the North Kitsap Heritage Park Stewardship plan as drafted. I DO NOT support North Kitsap Trail Association efforts for a Sound to Olympics trail through the North Kitsap Heritage Park. Again, I support NKHP plan as drafted.

**Name:** Kim Greenwood

#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below

I live and work here and use the heritage trails for walking and running. Being in the woods in a natural setting is important to me. Being off the pavement is essential for this peace of mind. I would only want concrete or asphalt trails or roadways in the park if erosion were such a huge problem that graveling or other solutions could not keep up with it. No paving the heritage trails please.

**Name:** none entered

#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below

As one of the authors of the NKHP Stewardship Plan, I support the Plan and the science on which it is based. The well-documented, ongoing extinction event (involving, especially, insects, birds, Salmond fishes and amphibians) has a variety of very local causes including habitat alteration/destruction affecting endemic species that are critical, functional components of NW ecosystems. We have the opportunity here to preserve a declining community of species representative of the groups in greatest danger, with no impact on public access and near-zero cost to Kitsap County. Please, accept out plan, as written, and know that posterity will judge you well. Respectfully, Tom Doty, Emeritus Professor of Biology at Roger Williams University.

**Name:** Tom Doty

#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below

I am not in favor of any plan which included paving surfaces within the park. Paths can be made safe without paving.

**Name:** David Mcilvena

#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below

NKHP is one of the best parks in Kitsap County and it is also uniquely a pro-environmental park for the wildlife inhabitants and for users of the park to enjoy. NKHP should NOT have any paved trails or other concrete or hardscape infrastructure that would ruin this pristine and most natural park in the north Kitsap area.

I recommend that Kitsap commissioners VETO any plans that would ruin the habitat and trails with concrete or asphalt paths 10 feet wide as it will cause undue harm to the habitat. Nor should Kitsap

## North Kitsap Heritage Park

### Draft Stewardship Plan Appendix-- Public Comments

commissioners allow any federal design standards to grossly and negligently impact the wildlife and their habitat. Most visitors and walkers do enjoy the beautiful trails of NKHP as they are today. Many users of the park like myself enjoy hours of quiet, solitude and peaceful scenery. Many users of the park have discovered that walking on the many trails of NKHP is both peaceful and invigorating. Perhaps for many a place to walk and contemplate. It should not be considered for uses such as STO due to heavy dependence of the necessity to have wide concrete or asphalt paths. Also please consider the disruptive environment for the critter who live in NKHP, their home.

I support the stewards plan to protect the wetlands, the forest habitat, and the rejuvenating experiences one usually finds within the forest of NKHP.

I am most emphatically in favor of the stewards' plan.

**Name:** Laurie Yamamura

#### **What District Are You From?**

North Kitsap

#### **Please leave your comment below**

I fully support the North Kitsap Heritage Park Stewardship Plan. Having a wide paved trail through the park would degrade the experience I have in the park. I will be much less likely to walk or run in the park with a paved trail and associated infrastructure. I think another route can be found for the STO.

**Name:** Bill Agnew

#### **What District Are You From?**

North Kitsap

#### **Please leave your comment below**

Since the stewards' Plan protects the wetlands and forest habitat and keeps the natural soft-tread trails, I see no reason to not approve the plant. We do not need a paved trail or other development infrastructure in the park.

**Name:** Anna Null

#### **What District Are You From?**

North Kitsap

#### **Please leave your comment below**

Please support the north Kitsap heritage park stewardship plan. We need this natural resource kept natural in our community.

**Name:** Julie O NEAL

#### **What District Are You From?**

North Kitsap

#### **Please leave your comment below**

I do not support making changes to the current walking trails at NCHP.

**Name:** JOHN KOZLESKI

#### **What District Are You From?**

North Kitsap

#### **Please leave your comment below**

I have been part of the stewardship group at the NKHP since the park first opened to the public. I also participated in most of the meetings which produced this draft master plan update. Although I may not agree with every word in the document, I fully support the plan and in particular, the overlay of the land

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classifications which the restrictive language which will characterize the park as a natural oasis in the ever-spreading urbanization of the Puget Sound region. Less development is more for this park. Personally, the active-use trails are all I need. Surveys that the stewards have done over the years reflect that most park visitors use the park to hike, run, walk their dogs and bike, and in this way derive health and recreation benefits. For those lobbying for more active recreation, I want to note the potential of acquiring the sand mining site (Arness sand pit) in the future for active recreation fields and their associated parking needs. This area has already been disturbed and could be sculpted for these uses This property is bounded by NKHP on two sides and would be a great way to address unmet needs in the park's long-term future.

Finally, I want to state that although ten years ago I supported the idea of a paved trail through the park, real-life experience maintaining the park has shifted my thinking. Many parts of NKHP are shady and/or north facing and therefore not suitable for paving: I have seen bikers and runners slip and fall on mossy pavement on the adjacent White Horse paved trail. Additionally, the park does need surfaces that encourage speed. Porous surfaces are best for this park.

**Name:** Carolina Veenstra

#### **What District Are You From?**

North Kitsap

#### **Please leave your comment below**

I have another comment about the Six (6?) Stewards of NKHP Plan and their myopic view of that Park and iterated in their Stewardship Plan. They also fail to recognize the fire danger of their plan and what they have tried to stop Parks from doing currently with Forest Restoration in the Park and the damage that their Plan will ultimately do to the Park and those that live around it. They fail to see that the Park is an old Tree Farm and consequently the trees are not in their natural formation and that 100 years of tree farm management needs to be managed back to a thriving old growth forest. Leaving it up to mother nature has been catastrophic in other places in this State and around the West and the once wet western side of the Cascades is changing to be more dry and prone to wildfire. The whole forest needs to be manually thinned so there isn't all the dry fuel on the ground in places and when it comes to wildlife enhancement it needs to be thinned to get light back on the forest floor to grow shrubs and berry bushes to feed and hide wildlife. Right now the forest floor in most places in NKHP is a desert and there is no wildlife under the canopy to speak of. The soil is dry, there are no ground plants and very little life. The Stewards seem to not understand what other scientist and foresters have figured out after so many failures and wildfires; mother nature could care less about you or wildlife if let to it's own means. MN will burn everything in its path if it has a chance and the recovery, as we have seen all over the state, will take forever and will not help wildlife. Also, something I have argued with the USFS for decades (I worked for them in the 70s) and turned out to be true, when you have a logged forest and you want to get it back to a more natural state you need roads and trails to access the land you want to restore. USFS demolished

many access/logging roads in the 90s and 2000 and when the huge fires came they could not access the forest quickly to stop the spread of wildfires, which in some cases took out 100s of thousands of acres of forests, scab-lands, houses and business, killed people and destroyed most all the wildlife. I have personally fought some of these fires close to my house in the Methow not long ago and if we did not have the big community trails/roads that we developed in the 80s and early 90s we would have lost the town of Mazama from a fire that started in the Park and was moving quickly into the houses on the valley floor. So, The Forest management Plan for NKHP needs to include more forest restoration (Arno Knows how to do this if he is given the green light) and Community Trails are a proven tool for restoration and protection, so that the thinning can proceed and fire suppression/prevention can be

## North Kitsap Heritage Park

### Draft Stewardship Plan Appendix-- Public Comments

quick and easy to do (spend money on the front end and you save money on the back end). Community Trails and forest roads are good here, if done with insight and concern for habitat, and will help us restore and preserve the forest and its wildlife and for generations to come.

**Name:** none entered

#### **What District Are You From?**

North Kitsap

#### **Please leave your comment below**

The primary trail/corridor in the park MUST BE PAVED in order to 1.) provide access to this resource for people of ALL AGES AND ABILITIES as required both legally (per ADA/ADAAG) and morally, and 2.) to allow access for emergency vehicles. These are standard requirements/mandates in virtually every public-owned and managed conservation resource area, and can be accomplished with minimal impacts on the resource if done properly.

When we plan facilities and programs to accommodate the needs of ALL individuals, we improve the experience and comfort for everyone.

**Name:** Terry Reckord

#### **What District Are You From?**

North Kitsap

#### **Please leave your comment below**

Throughout North Kitsap the ongoing conversion of forest communities to accommodate new housing, roads, and commercial centers is permanently eliminating or fragmenting the remaining large blocks of privately-owned forest habitat. As a result, publicly-owned areas of protected habitat such as NKHP are becoming increasingly important not only as habitat for native wildlife but also as areas where the public has access to recreate among a variety of forest communities and view streams and wetlands undisturbed by residential or commercial development.

The draft plan currently under review has the foresight to identify activities and define future infrastructure and trail development designs and materials that would be incongruous or environmentally harmful in a park where a primary goal is to protect and conserve its biological heritage. We support maintaining NKHP as a public space that preserves its wildlife habitat communities while providing access for low impact recreational activities and urge County Parks staff and our County Commissioners to approve the draft Stewardship Plan without revisions.

**Name:** Ron and Peggy Vanbianchi

#### **What District Are You From?**

North Kitsap

#### **Please leave your comment below**

I do not support the proposed bike path through the North Kitsap Heritage Park. Please consider alternate routes that follow roadways - separated bike lanes, etc. Thank you, Reed

**Name:** Reed Blanchard

#### **What District Are You From?**

North Kitsap

#### **Please leave your comment below**

I approve the Plan and I don't want a paved trail or other development infrastructure in the park.

**Name:** Jerrine Gabrio

## North Kitsap Heritage Park

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#### What District Are You From?

Central Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below

Anything that can be done to help preserve and protect this beautiful park has to be a good thing! Not just for the enjoyment of visitors, but especially to safeguard the natural ecosystem for years to come.

**Name:** none entered

#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below

We support the stewardship plan to preserve North Kitsap Heritage Park without any further development Protecting this park is a top priority

Please vote for acceptance to this stewardship plan

**Name:** Patty and Mike Harris

#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below

As a resident of Indianola who lives and works in North Kitsap, I have reviewed the Heritage Park Stewardship Plan and support the provisions therein. Most notably, I ask that you not allow any development on the protected lands within the Park, banning any water towers, septic fields, concrete paths, or other development.

Thank you for helping us to keep some portion of area lands wild and protected.

**Name:** Dionne Deschenne

#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below

We urge you to approve the North Kitsap Heritage Park Stewardship Plan AS WRITTEN!

The Trail Development and 25 Year Vision section on pages 23-24 specifies that future trails or route modifications should generally be "Natural Surface Trails" consisting of minimum widths and PERVIOUS SURFACES to minimize impacts to the Natural Resources. This means that paved trails should not be allowed. Neither should a retention pond for "purple water."

Thank you for carefully considering the comments of those of us who are concerned with the welfare of the North Kitsap Heritage Park.

**Name:** Paula Brooke

#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below

Thank you to all who have put so much time into this Stewardship Plan. Please...please...please!!! Do not have any paved trails in the park. This would ruin the ambience. Also I feel that there should be no major construction projects allowed.

Thank you for your consideration.

**Name:** Michael Schroer

## North Kitsap Heritage Park

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#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below

Hikers will still treasure the NKHP if it DOESN'T have a paved 10 ft. wide "trail" and a water system that supports the golf course. The park is special because it's natural. Hikers and bikers can still enjoy it if there's no pavement (in fact, they'll appreciate it more!) Please leave the NKHP the way it is today!

**Name:** none entered

#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below

The NK Heritage Park Stewardship Plan is based on years of experience in managing and developing the park. It seems comprehensive, inclusive of appropriate types of recreational use that most would desire. It includes ideas for possible increase in park size to protect habitats and lower habitat fragmentation. One concern I have of the plan is that it seems to be dependent solely on volunteer stewards to patrol and monitor the park; is there a more specific plan for expanding and providing education for that essential group?

In general it is a valuable plan that should be supported and implemented.

**Name:** Linda Marcuse

#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below

While I do support the idea of safe bike travel, putting a paved path through sensitive bird habitat is not the answer. Can we get back to bike lanes on Miller Bay Rd please.

**Name:** Marcy Trueman

#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below

I urge you to adopt the Stewardship Plan to protect these lands from toxic pavement, septic facilities, and water storage towers. Protecting this treasure is an absolute priority.

**Name:** Neva Welton

#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below

My bottom-line reaction to the Stewardship Plan is that I would be pleased if it were adopted as-is because it does a great job of laying out a vision and associated guidelines for the future of North Kitsap Heritage Park. I do realize that there is a broad spectrum of outdoor interests in this county, and that one park or one plan cannot satisfy all of them. I believe this plan does a great job of maximizing what this particular park has to offer, providing both the community and the wildlife with a sizable oasis, free of most of the kinds of development that will occur around the park in coming decades. We are fortunate to have a Comprehensive Plan that recognizes the value of the bits of natural environment that we have managed to retain here in Kitsap: "These heritage parks...are large enough to remain

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primarily undeveloped natural areas, with trails and environmentally sensitive areas preserved or enhanced.” (COMP page 6-69) That mindfulness of the value of a healthy environment is echoed in the PROS Plan: “The 2016 Kitsap County Comprehensive Plan (COMP) clearly outlines restoration and protection of the natural environment... This plan takes environmental protection very seriously, including the idea of the environment as an asset. The County, through the plan, promotes environmentally sound development methods, such as low-impact landscaping, rain gardens, and permeable pavement.” (PROS page 24) We, as a society, are finally beginning to grasp both the large scope and local impacts of the environmental damage caused by a myriad of unintended consequences of well-intended development over the last two centuries. Now we have a special responsibility to future generations to learn from those mistakes. One key lesson is that no matter how much we continue to learn, there will always be unintended consequences. And in order to preserve our few remaining undeveloped, or lightly impacted, areas such as North Kitsap Heritage Park, we should err on the side of conservation. If we are wrong in our assessment of the park’s future, and if we have been too conservative, it will be relatively easy to add development later. This type of reassessment was clearly spelled out in the PROS plan: “Periodically review and update Heritage Park Forest Stewardship Plans including Newberry Hill, North Kitsap, and Port Gamble Forest.” (PROS page 29) However, if years down the road we find that we have allowed too much development, it will not be as easy, if even possible, to undo the damage. I would also like to call attention to Sections 5 and 6 of the North Kitsap Heritage Park Stewardship Plan.

Section 5 explicitly lists education, user surveys, and inhabitant monitoring as Management Objectives. These are all part of the adaptive management that is necessary as we recognize that our current knowledge of these ecosystems and habitats is far too limited.

Section 6 recognizes that water is a very important part of our environment, especially here on the Kitsap Peninsula where there is no snowpack to rely on for water. The Management Objectives outlined in this section address ways in which our water, wetlands, and other water-related parts of the park’s ecosystem can be kept healthy.

**Name:** John Williams

#### **What District Are You From?**

North Kitsap

#### **Please leave your comment below**

I would ask that the original purpose intended for the park not be rewritten. In 2004, Kitsap County acquired 433 acres for a public park for outdoor recreation and a limited conservation area. Ten years later an additional 366 acres were added to the park to complete the Sound to Olympics Trail. The STO has been adopted into the planning by Kitsap County. Please complete this plan by doing a feasibility study to ensure the best route for the disabled, the biker, the hikers, the families with strollers that use the trail system which safely connects our towns to one another gets completed. The STO would take up a minimal portion of this vast 800 acre public park and provide the maximum usage for the public. Thank you.

**Name:** Caroline Perisho

## North Kitsap Heritage Park

### Draft Stewardship Plan Appendix-- Public Comments

#### What District Are You From?

North Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below:

The vision for NKHP was for a park and trail system created by the community to connect towns for the enjoyment of hikers, bikers with accessibility for all. This vision was enhanced by grants for this park deemed "large enough to accommodate a wide range of uses and trails". Do not overlook this vision. Preserve all possible routing options for the STO trail. The park is over 800 acres. Please complete a feasibility study for the best route for the STO, before excluding it. The completion of the STO is something the community has been working for many years. Do not deny access to our parks.

**Name:** Caroline Perisho

#### What District Are You From?

Central Kitsap

#### Please leave your comment below

I am writing today to express my concern regarding certain limitations and exclusions in the NKHP's draft Master Plan pertaining to the proposed route of the Sound to Olympics (STO) trail through NKHP. The STO has been included in several area trail plans; The Mosquito Fleet Trail Master Plan (prepared 2001), Kitsap County Bicycle Facilities Plan (prepared 2001), Kitsap County Greenways Plan (1996) and, most significantly, the North Kitsap String of Pearls Trails Plan (County adopted 2011). The rationale behind the exclusion of the STO through NKHP has been presented in a manner based on misinformation and construed as something that does not align with the NKHP's Draft Master Plan's stated goals. NKHP was never intended to be a biological preserve and the construction of the STO would not be in conflict with that even if it had been the original intent of the park's construction. One carefully designed and built, shared-use paved trail (less than 1% of the total park's acreage) through nearly 800 acres of park, originally designated as a mixed-use park to include passive and active use, will not adversely affect wildlife, biologically sensitive areas or the serenity of the park. It will provide connectivity to the Cross-State trail and the Olympic Discovery Trail and will ultimately close the "gap" across Kitsap County with the Great American Rails Trail stretching from Washington DC to the Washington State coast. The completion of the STO through NKHP will also provide much needed accessibility to users of all ages and abilities to be able to enjoy the beauty, serenity and educational opportunities now only accessible by individuals who are not restricted by physical limitations. The STO would provide an ADA compliant shared-use path, available for all to use. An amendment to Item 2-Guiding Principles (Page 5) should be done to address this: "A goal is to engage and educate visitors of all ages so that they may learn about and experience the natural environment and recharge their wellbeing" to read "A goal is to engage and educate visitors of all ages AND ABILITIES so that they may learn about and experience the natural environment and recharge their wellbeing." The NKHP Master Plan should not be allowed to block a future regional trail, block handicap accessibility, potentially exclude future events (especially those associated with the adjacent schools) and arbitrarily declare a public park a "biological reserve with visitor privileges". The park was funded with a variety of grant and county funding sources to include both active and passive use of the park. Less than 1/4 of the park's purchase utilized urban wildlife or habitat focused funding, and all the grant strategies planned for a regional trail to pass through the park. Careful editing pertaining to limitations on trail surfaces, fences and guardrails (draft wording that overrides existing County Policy) and stating that the park is a "biological reserve with visitor privileges" should be done prior to the approval of this trail plan. NKHP's Master Plan should not exclude the possibility of routing the STO through the park, especially before a feasibility study for the STO has been completed.

In short, I am committed to working toward the completion of the STO to ensure a quality, regional

## North Kitsap Heritage Park

### Draft Stewardship Plan Appendix-- Public Comments

shared-use trail that will enhance the quality of life for all who seek opportunities to spend time in nature and desire safe non-motorized connectivity to communities throughout North Kitsap, the region and the state. And while I appreciate the hard work and dedication of the NKHP stewards, it is not their place to include misinformation and arbitrarily change the original intent of the park in this NKHP Master Plan. Thank you.

**Name:** Patricia Bryan

## North Kitsap Heritage Park

### Draft Stewardship Plan Appendix-- Public Comments

#### Comments/Concerns from County Public Works and Department of Community Development:

##### General Areas of Concern:

1. Park Acquisition Funding Source Intentions: The Park is the result of several funding grants for parkland acquisition. The concern is that the Plan should distinguish variable-use standards based on the funding sources and deed restrictions, as not all the parcels share the same restrictions/encumbrances.
2. Justification of Resource Protection Limits: Resource protection measures (buffer distances, prohibiting trails, and allowable materials for trail construction) may exceed the County's Critical Areas Ordinance (Wetlands and Fish & Wildlife Habitat), which allows for trails in critical areas and resource buffer areas.
3. Trail Restrictions and Recognition of County's Regional Trail Direction: The Land Classification for Natural Areas designation which directs those areas as "off-limits" to the public, may conflict with the County's Comprehensive Plan, the Non-Motorized Facilities Plan, and North Kitsap String of Pearls Trails Plan, all which intend in concept and policy to direct significant public access and regional trail development within the park's existing boundary.
4. County-wide Park ADA Access Priority: Emphasis is needed for support of the Americans with Disability Act (ADA) supporting access and park use.

--End of Comments Submitted--