

July 25, 2006

Linda Oestreich  
Olympia Parks, Arts and Recreational Department  
City of Olympia  
P.O. Box 1967  
Olympia, WA 98501

Dear Ms. Oestreich:

As the President of the Northwest Olympia Neighborhood Association (NWONA), I wish to lend our full support for the two Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation (IAC) grants, a Water Access grant and an Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account grant, that your Department is pursuing to further valuable restoration and foster outdoor recreational enjoyment of the new West Bay Parklands.

As evident in our public Interim Statement of 4/20/06 on the West Bay Parklands (WBP) which we gave to a Department associate at a public workshop, NWONA concurs with the direction and intent of IAC's grants in supporting "the purchase, improvement, or protection of aquatic lands for public purposes, and for providing and improving access to such lands." Mindful that these future parklands are intimately tied to a renewed future of the impaired waters of Budd Inlet and the impoverish runs of regionally listed salmon, NWONA is motivated to contribute. Thus in direct agreement with IAC's grant goals, our Interim Statement strongly promotes as well the restoration of the park's crucial saltwater marshes and riparian areas, while encouraging environmental education and passive recreational opportunities. It should also be noted that similar goals were also overwhelming publicly voiced at a recent public workshop on proposed interim WBP plans.

Over the years, the Board and neighborhood members have donated hundreds of hours of volunteer labor to repair and enrich the community's natural resources in the City's Garfield Nature Trail Park. Since Garfield Nature Trail Park is immediately upslope and ecologically connected to WBP, the Board and neighborhood members envision continued participation and collaboration in the success of WBP as a community resource and asset. Also, on reviewing the interim park design illustrations, I am encouraged to learn that the City's proposed park plans include shoreline habitat preservation and restoration, removal of excess (roadbed) asphalt, a boat launch site and the initiation of a West Bay Trail. Furthermore, the City's proposed park plans work cohesively with NWONA's goals and those stated by IAC, namely, the "re-establishment of naturally self-sustaining ecological functions related to aquatic lands ... and increasing public awareness of aquatic lands as a finite natural resource and irreplaceable public heritage." Therefore, we look forward to working with the City of Olympia in creating a new city park which may well become a regional model of sustainability and community collaboration.

If there are any additional questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me either by email ([tconnor@turbotek.net](mailto:tconnor@turbotek.net)) or by phone at 754-3965.

Sincerely,

Tom Connor  
President, Northwest Olympia Neighborhood Association