

## **Westport Light State Park – Westport Golf LLC Proposal Comments**

*May 2, 2023 – June 5, 2023*

State Parks should not be planning for this project at all. This is public land, to be used and enjoyed by everyone. Taking some of the land for a narrow use by a golf course is not in keeping with the purposes of state parks. I have concerns about the loss of access to nature, loss of habitat and the lack of equity of this project.

Loss of access to nature.

The proposal appears to claim that this will provide access to nature. The most pure and positive value would be access to an unrestricted and fully natural area. Access to nature will be diminished greatly by creating an artificial golf course area. Also, access, period, will be diminished because of the restrictive nature of a golf course. For example, for safety reasons (getting hit by a golf ball) people are typically not allowed on golf courses. So one would need to pay to have 'access' to the golf course area, which is not truly public, open access.

Equity concerns with access to this ocean front site and nature.

This project would require that people pay to access the golf facility. Those who cannot afford to pay to play golf will have lost this public asset. They will no longer have as much access and this is dividing out people who can and cannot pay to access public land.

Destruction of nature habitat for plants and animals.

This area has been damaged in the past in some parts. This does not mean that it is lost forever. Restoration is possible and the area would be returned to the values that it provides for migratory birds and resident birds and animals. This loss of habitat should not be discounted. Other parts of the shoreline have been degraded and destroyed for development. Preserving and restoring what remains is important for the overall ecosystem. Giving over land for non-natural use is essentially destroying the habitat values that exist.<sup>1</sup>

Insecticides and rodenticides

Insect populations have declined 75%. The reasons include global warming, habitat loss and degradation and pesticides. Other reasons remain elusive. You can see the article "More than 75 percent decline over 27 years in total flying insect biomass in protected areas" October, 2017 here: <https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0185809>

Bees are fascinating insects. They are the best pollinators we have because they literally roll around in pollen. They are considered a "Keystone Species" which is defined as: A species that exerts a large, stabilizing influence throughout an ecological community. Some ecosystems might not be able to adapt to environmental changes if their keystone species disappeared. It is important, according to David Jennings, president of the Washington Native Bee Society, that we avoid using products that include neonicotinoids. This insecticide wreaks havoc on pollinators even if it doesn't kill them outright. Plants sold that advertise 'aphid resistance' are products that include neonicotinoids. Many seed varieties have neonicotinoid aspects. <https://www.wanativebeesociety.org/>

Neonicotinoids are a class of neuro-active insecticides chemically similar to nicotine, developed by scientists at Shell and Bayer in the 1980s. Neonicotinoid use has been studied in relation to adverse ecological effects, including honey-bee colony collapse disorder (CCD), and declining populations of insecteating birds. In 2018 the EU banned the three main neonicotinoids (clothianidin, imidacloprid and thiamethoxam) for all outdoor uses. Several US states have restricted neonicotinoids out of concern for pollinators and bees.

Rodenticides have developed a new lethal product. First-generation anticoagulants, which are sold in stores and marketed to the general public, are not as effective or dangerous to wildlife as the second-generation type. The EPA restricts sales of second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides (SGARs) to bulk purchases, but the products are easily available and not prohibitively expensive.

Read the article: "Bald eagle dies in CT from poison used on rodents as advocates push for ban"  
<https://www.ctinsider.com/news/article/bald-eagle-dies-ctrodenticide-sgars-17861803.php>

This study, done by Tufts University studied birds of prey admitted to a wildlife clinic in Massachusetts, revealing widespread exposure to second-generation anticoagulant rodenticies (SGARs) amoang red-tailed hawks. All the birds in the study eventually died.

The pesticides are widely used, as shown by tests in Connecticut and Massachusetts. A 2020 study by veterinary scientist Maureen Murray at Tufts University found chemicals from second-generation anticoagulants in all 43 red-tailed hawks tested. The birds had been admitted to the university's wildlife clinic but did not survive.

Rats and mice that ingest anti-coagulants do not die immediately, but they become easy prey for birds and mammals. Cummings has been testing sick raptors for more than a year. In almost all cases, the birds did not appear to suffer from any other injuries, she said. Poisoned birds try to remain stoic and show no signs of illness so they don't become prey to other animals, Cummings said, but inevitably the toxins overwhelm them. Of 43 birds tested so far, 36 had ingested one or or more ingredients in SGARs, she said.

See the report: Continued Anticoagulant Rodenticide Exposure of Red-tailed Hawks (*Buteo jamaicensis*) in the Northeastern United States with an Evaluation of Serum for Biomonitoring  
<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/33405327/>

Whatever the management practices of a golf course, at some point it may simply become a wildlife desert and a poisoning field for the park and the flora and fauna that inhabit it.

Insecticides, herbicides, and pesticides are all anathema to our wild systems. I encourage you to deny the request for a golf course, keep this rich and fragile park as it is. We need to learn to coexist with our planet and the tourists to Westport and the park will support that position. <sup>2</sup>

Kittitas Audubon Society Statement  
Against Golf Course at Westport Light State Park

City of Westport, Washington  
Washington State Parks Commissioners  
Environmental Impact Statement Comments for the MOU regarding a Scottish-style golf course

installation in Westport Light State Park

The Kittitas Audubon Society is a non-profit organization with members in Kittitas County, Washington. It is affiliated with Audubon Washington and the National Audubon Society.

#### Wetlands

Since the water table at the park connects all the wetlands in a mosaic, impacting parts of those wetlands will affect all of them. From the Wetland Assessment Report, the large Category I wetland has a habitat score of 'high' and is very large at 386 acres. According to a variety of current wetland laws in the State, the buffer required around this wetland alone is 225-300 feet. This expands the 386 acres dramatically to essentially include the entire park. There are reasons for buffer laws, and mitigation elsewhere isn't a reasonable alternative, although is often available.

See the report: Wetland Assessment Report 8-6-21

<https://www.parks.wa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/19961/Wetland-Assessment-Report-8-6-21>

Interdunal wetlands are unique and rare. These wetlands at the park represent the second largest expanse of such wetlands in Washington. The functions that these wetlands play in the ecosystem is not well understood or studied, but this large wetland has been determined to provide critical habitat functions in this ecosystem.

#### Construction

Development of the golf course will involve clearing approximately 230 acres of the 600 acre project site. The current design involves stringing the course along the entire western and northern shoreline edges of the park. The report indicates an "undetermined percentage" of this area will be graded, filled, or excavated to create the playing surfaces. The course varies in width from about 400 to 700 feet. It will directly impact most of the periphery of Wetland A and most of the individual wetlands in the northern half of the park.

The construction will fragment the habitat of the park, having long-term adverse effects on wildlife. Interior trails proposed would disrupt hydrologic and habitat connectivity within the large wetland mosaic. The additional noise and human use would negatively impact the habitat value of the wetlands.

#### Golf Course Management

Irrigation is anticipated to range from 400,000 to 600,000 gallons per day. With respect to water quality impacts, surface runoff and infiltration of chemical fertilizers and pesticides into the water table could have potential long-term detrimental effects on the wetland ecosystem. Leaching of chemicals will go somewhere, whether it is the wetlands or the ocean or Grays Harbor.

The Hydrologic Report explains there are 89.25 acres of fairways and greens that will require fertilizer. Every 1000 square feet of greens will receive 8 lbs of nitrogen, 4 lbs of phosphorus and 6 lbs of potassium per year. The report does not explain how much fertilizer is required by the fairways, but if we assume the same amount, that would require 86,000 lbs of fertilizer per year. These amounts don't include the use of fungicides or pesticides. AECOM's study, funded by the state, has shown this fertilizer could reach Westport's North Well Field.

See the report: Hydrologic Report 9-22-21

[https://www.parks.wa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/19964/Hydrologic-Report\\_20220407](https://www.parks.wa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/19964/Hydrologic-Report_20220407)

#### City of Westport Shoreline Management Act proposed amendments

American golf courses are by their nature water hungry turf sustained through the use of various chemicals. Any type of 'Best Management Practices' language (BMPs in the proposed City amendment to the SMA April, 2023) gives the impression this golf course will somehow 'manage' the chemical hazards to the surrounding wetlands, Pacific Ocean, Grays Harbor and Westport drinking wells, but this is not a reasonable expectation.

In researching 'best management practices for chemical use on golf courses' a list of suggestions include: Chemicals should be applied by trained, licensed professionals; Maintain MSDS for each chemical; Follow label directions; Apply only when / where necessary; Treat under proper weather conditions; Eliminate runoff by avoiding applications during high winds or prior to heavy rains. None of these 'Best Management Practices' provide any meaningful reduction in chemicals to the park, the wetlands, or the neighboring community wells or bodies of water.

Golf courses in the nation are routinely adopting 'Best Management Practices' language and marketing materials to try to control an industry image. How these actions actually change the outcome of leaching is not documented. Until there are third-party studies indicating the success of 'Best Management Practices' course management, this type of umbrella term should not be included as a permanent amendment to the Shoreline Management Act for the City.

In developing amendments to the Shoreline Management Act which will add 'golf courses' and 'BMPs' language, the City of Westport may be ensuring that they will forever alter the state of the park and the region.

#### State of the birds

More than half of U.S. birds are in decline, according to North American Bird Conservation Initiative State of the Birds 2022 report. This report shows plummeting bird populations across almost all habitats. Species include the Rufous Hummingbird, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Whimbrel, and Lesser Yellow-legs, all of which are Birds of Conservation Concern in the park. All of these birds have lost half their populations in the past 50 years.

See the report: North American Bird Conservation Initiative State of the Birds 2022 report: <https://www.stateofthebirds.org/2022/>

The U.S. NABCI Committee facilitates collaborative partnerships that advance biological, social, and scientific priorities for North American bird conservation. Established in 1999, the U.S. NABCI Committee is a coalition of state and federal government agencies, private organizations, and bird initiatives in the United States working to ensure the long-term health of North America's native bird populations. The U.S. NABCI Committee creates a unique forum for federal and state agencies and non-governmental organizations to address shared bird conservation challenges and priorities.

Well-studied and found in nearly every habitat, birds are excellent biodiversity indicators and biodiversity helps protect all life which is increasingly important in the face of a changing climate.

There are a total of 269 migratory nongame bird species that, without additional conservation actions, are likely to become candidates for listing under the Endangered Species Act. 70 species have lost two-thirds of their populations in the past 50 years. One-third of shorebirds are species with cumulative population losses exceeding 70% since 1980.

In recent years, extreme and widespread drought has affected many populations of waterfowl and wetland birds in areas where they were previously flourishing. Although many bird species have evolved strategies to withstand short-term droughts, climate projections are for drought to become more severe and frequent. Recent years of extreme drought offer a glimpse at a drier future and highlight the need for more robust and resilient water supplies.

#### Conclusions and alternatives

Protecting the fragile environment in the park will preserve the habitat and help secure resilient climate planning. Human recreation along the beaches and the dune trail is the extent to which this park should be developed. Adding a golf course and trails will cause these habitats to become fragmented and human intrusion will cause stress to wildlife and birds.

There are good camping parks in the Grayland area for additional recreation activities.

More than 45 million Americans call themselves birders. Appealing to the naturalists who yearn to find

the lonely windswept dune and beach will bring sustainable tourism to the community. These tourists want to not only view and walk in beautiful places, they want to protect them.

Currently 60 percent of all leisure travelers in the U.S. are sustainable travelers. When destinations solely focus on attracting more visitors and neglect long-term sustainability, it can lead to their ultimate deterioration and decline. After all, overused beaches, unwelcoming communities, extinct species, and packed trails aren't what people typically travel to see. When done right, tourism can create local jobs, protect sensitive ecosystems, revitalize cultural traditions, and boost resident satisfaction.

Imagine Westport Light State Park, Westport and the Midway Beach area, becoming a destination for sustainable travel. The fishing community, chartering, seafood processing, and tourist food service, provide the background and support for this type of tourist. People who come to Westport want to avoid Ocean Shores and Longbeach as these locations are now developed beyond repair.

Washington State Parks has a binding covenant with all the people of the State, now and in perpetuity. That covenant includes public access and recreation. It also mandates planning for the climate crisis and protecting habitat for the nurturance and sustainability of all ecosystem functions and wildlife in all the public lands Washington State Parks manage.

Please deny the application for a golf course. Don't add more trails to the interior of the park. Don't alter the City of Westport Shoreline Management Act to include 'golf course' and 'Best Management Practices' language. <sup>3</sup>

My wife and I have been property owners in the Westport By The Sea condominium development for over 5 years. We are against the development of the State park by allowing a privately held golf course within the park.

The development of a golf course under the current plan will GREATLY alter the living conditions of many owners at the condominiums, specifically owners in Building 9 and the north end of Building 8. The proposed hole 15 and 16 locations are almost literally right in the backyard of these buildings. Building 8 would experience golfers hitting towards the hole 15 flag directly at the north end of Building 8. Hole 16 would tee off directly in front of the balconies of Building 9. This would change the current beautiful and natural views of the ocean and dunes into a almost exclusively golf centered view. Add in the sound of golf balls being hit and loud golfers that have likely had a few by the 16th tee, and you loose the serenity that was once enjoyed. If the golf course does become a reality, the developers should relocate holes 15 and 16 farther north, to create a larger buffer between golf activities and the condominiums (as well as beach goers using the ocean access).

Visitors to this area come to the beach to enjoy the ocean and the trail that leads through the natural dune area. They do not come to the beach for commercial activities. A golf course right on the beach would be enjoyed by only a very minor percentage of beach visitors and would not be considered beneficial to their visit. There are many commercial activities available already near the docks in Westport and in town (commercial fishing, harbor tours, dining and shopping, as well as bike, surfboard and kayak rentals). A golf course closer to the commercial center of Westport would be a much better choice if feasible. <sup>4</sup>

Greetings:

Any type of 'Best Management Practics' (BMPs) language used to give the impression this golf course will somehow 'manage' the chemical hazards to the surrounding wetlands, Pacific Ocean, Grays Harbor and Westport drinking wells, is not a reasonable expectation. In researching "Best Management Practices", this document "Best Management Practices Planning Guide and Template for Washington Golf Courses" (see references below) indicates a possible authority. It was prepared for the Western Washington and the Inland Empire Golf Course Superintendents. It includes a disclaimer on the title pages:

DISCLAIMER: The information contained in this document is provided on an "as is" basis with no guarantees of completeness, accuracy, usefulness, or timeliness, and is solely at the discretion of and/or the opinion of the author." I'm not sure a disclaimer of this type gives credence to the document.

Under the table of contents titled "Plant Nutrition" it indicates the major nutrients required for turf grass health are nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium all of which the golf course has described in their planning. This document encourages management to include a realistic plan for nitrogen requirements; adjusting the plan based on in-season soil or plant testing; and to manage irrigation efficiently to prevent leaching and runoff. They should employ trained and licensed people to administer chemistry, and follow a plan to fertilize under proper weather conditions. These are essentially "installation instructions" for all chemistry, indicating BMPs offer little to no impact.

Golf courses in the nation are routinely adopting 'BMPs' language and marketing materials to try to control an industry image. This particular document is from a site which has a "Best Management Practices" plan for every state in the nation.

In developing amendments to the Shoreline Management Plan which will add 'golf courses' and 'BMPs' language, the City of Westport may be ensuring that they will forever alter the state of the park and the region with an umbrella term that allows golf course management to do whatever they wish.

The current memo reads:

3) SMP Section 5.13.02 [Recreational Development] Regulations: Subsection (D) to be revised as follows:

D. Applicant shall submit plans that demonstrate the BMPs [Best Management Practices] and methods to be used to prevent chemical applications and resultant leachate from entering adjacent waterbodies.

1. Golf courses, playfields and other turf grass areas that require the use of fertilizers, pesticides, or other chemicals shall demonstrate best management practices and methods to prevent these chemical applications and resultant leachate from entering adjacent water bodies.

All compliance will be resting with the golf course management. The questions about how these BMPs will be determined and managed are too numerous to itemize. Instead, the statement itself offers validation for any BMPs the golf course wishes to provide.

Including the language the BMPs will "prevent these chemical applications and resultant leachate from entering adjacent water bodies" is simply the City wishing to allow the development to proceed without oversight.

The Coastal, Habitat, Hydrologic, Restoration, Vegetation Surveys and Wetland Reports all indicate the details of the impacts of installing a golf course. While mitigations can be 'discovered' it doesn't mean this park, the peninsula flora and fauna and neighboring waters, won't be irreparably harmed.

A recent golf industry publication Links Magazine touts "Cooperative or Signature Sanctuary" designations for 786 U.S. golf courses.

"To date 786 U.S. courses have received a Cooperative or Signature Sanctuary designation from Audubon International. At the top of that list are the following, chosen by LINKS as the 10 Most Eco-Friendly Courses in America."

The problem is that Audubon International is not affiliated with the Audubon Society. This organizations main site states "Global Leader in Environmental Sustainability Certifications". Audubon International caters to golf courses and businesses seeking 'green certifications'.

Most of the funding for the organization comes from golf courses and businesses, who each pay thousands of dollars to become certified. Turf and irrigation businesses are also sponsoring this site.

Is a "Signature Sanctuary" certification anything but greenwashing with no significant environmental meaning? Where are the peer-reviewed scientific studies? Instead, this organization is allowed to flood the market with certifications and awards which could essentially mean nothing. Producing marketing materials for golf courses that use words like "Eco-Management" and "Best Management Practices" while simply deploying typical installation instructions for chemistry are misleading.

Protecting the fragile environment in the park will preserve the habitat and help secure resilient climate planning. Human recreation along the beaches and the dune trail is the extent to which this park should be developed. Further fragmenting and human intrusion will cause stress to wildlife and birds. There are good camping parks in the Grayland area for more recreation. Recreations come here for the resources and pristine beach and dune environments.

Westport Light is the only location in the region where the beach surface is not designated as highway. Vehicles on the beach cause stress to humans and wildlife. This park is the only place, that is readily accessible for most people, where vehicles don't travel at 30 mph and park on the beach surface. The aesthetics and enjoyment of beach-going is negatively impacted by vehicles on the beach.

Now, State Parks, the City of Westport and the developer want to add the hazard of errant golf balls. Beach-goers and strollers on the dune trail will also now have to decide if they want to risk being struck with a projectile traveling 120 miles an hour with no warning.

The SMP amendment the City of Westport is proposing is not in the best interest of Westport residents. Allowing the golf course management to do whatever it chooses by determining what "Best Management Practices" are is essentially allowing an industry the freedom to determine a BMP plan developed by anyone.

The facts are that this park isn't owned by the City of Westport or Washington State Parks. The people of Washington own it, State Parks manages it.

I would remind Commissioners of this fact and suggest their legacy of this single decision will be the defining moment of their service.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Best Management Practices for Washington Golf Courses:

[https://www.gcsaa.org/docs/default-source/environment/washington-bmps.pdf?sfvrsn=34fff23e\\_0](https://www.gcsaa.org/docs/default-source/environment/washington-bmps.pdf?sfvrsn=34fff23e_0)

Links Magazine "The 10 Most Eco-Friendly Courses in the U.S."

[https://linksmagazine.com/a\\_simpler\\_game\\_the\\_10\\_most\\_eco\\_friendly\\_courses\\_in\\_the\\_u\\_s/](https://linksmagazine.com/a_simpler_game_the_10_most_eco_friendly_courses_in_the_u_s/)

Audubon International:

[auduboninternational.org](http://auduboninternational.org)<sup>5</sup>

NO GOLF COURSE. I would rather see the wildlife and natural view we have on our daily walks. The State of Washington has no business being in the golf course business. Westport does Not need a golf course, and do not need a reason to bring more outlanders to our great little town.

It seems like the federal government has no regard for our country by spending a blank check on Ukraines borders...but lets our border go to hell. Our state government can take away our constitutional rights at will. Our educational system is failing our kids. And now you want to add to the squaller and detriment to our Westports own citizens. Sure some want this thing...but anyone I talk to does not want this course at all.

If I wanted to golf...I would have stayed in Tucson, AZ. They made 17 golf courses there...imagine the wasted water...you do realize ITS THE DESSERT! They destroyed the water system...and raised taxes so everyone paid the price to have those abominations. The main reason we left.

Keep Westport like it is! Current residents do not want it, business people do...so let them move to a place that has them. I'm no wanting to move!<sup>6</sup>

Office of Governor Inslee June 2023

Greetings Governor Inslee:

I'm writing about proposed changes to the Westport Light State Park in Westport. The Washington State Parks Commissioners has entered into an MOU with a golf course developer and are working up an Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Scottish-style golf course.

I hope you will reject this proposal for Westport Light State Park and allow it to remain as it currently is—wild. In doing so, I hope you will also consider revoking the Parks Commission Real Estate Updates of 2015.

Following are some further details that support why I ask you to review this proposal.

This fragile park is a treasure of wildness and the only beach in the area without vehicular travel on the sand. It's highly

accessible to all residents, which is unusual: People with disabilities can access the dune trail easily.

The Wetlands Discipline Report Study describes a Main Links 18-hole, Par-3, and Practice course of over 200 acres. The Westport Golf Links development will potentially affect up to 53.3 acres of interdunal wetlands and 111 acres of wetland buffers. See the course plan and wetlands plan following.

Irrigation is estimated to average 500,000 gallons per day. The golf course will use 18 pounds of fertilizer per 1000 square feet, totalling over 156,816 pounds annually.

Westport gets 70-80 inches of rain each year and the water table is at the surface much of the time. Not only is this much rain not conducive to a golf course, but the water table creates issues with chemistry becoming part of the water systems in the area.

Grays Harbor is a shallow bay where oyster farming and crabbing occurs. The Hydrologic Report indicates all waters from this park migrate to the ocean and Grays Harbor.

The Hydrologic, Wetland, Coastal, Habitat, and Restoration Feasibility Studies available on the planning site, all indicate reasons why this park, containing the 2nd largest interdunal wetlands in the state, should not be developed at all. The wetlands mapping indicate almost the entire site is covered in wetlands and wetland buffers.

The City of Westport is acting as the SEPA lead agency for this proposal and has already proposed an amendment to their Shoreline Management Plan. The proposed amendment reads: "Golf courses, playfields and other turf grass areas that require the use of fertilizers, pesticides, or other chemicals shall demonstrate best management practices and methods to prevent these chemical applications and resultant leachate from entering adjacent water bodies."

Golf courses in the nation are routinely adopting umbrella terms like Best Management Practices (BMPs) which are industry produced documents that seem more like marketing materials attempting to control an industry image. I don't believe it is reasonable to claim that BMPs will prevent leaching of chemicals, rather that these BMP plans simply legitimize standard installation instructions for all chemistry.

The economic impact study done by the proponent indicates tens of millions will be accrued from this project to the region.

However, Chambers Bay in University Place near Tacoma, hasn't make a profit since it's opening in 2008, even though the course was created by a lauded golf designer, hosts championship games, and is in the region of South Puget Sound containing over 4 million residents. It remains subsidized by the public and the sewer utility while Pierce County foots the bill for security when there is a championship event.

Finally, the Washington State Parks real estate amendments of 2015 are the catalyst for the commercialization of the parks that the Commissioners now pursue. Parks selected for possible private development are now known as Recreation Concession Areas (RCAs).

In reading these documents, it is clear to me that this update policy is not in the best interests of the residents of Washington or the public lands stewarded by the Commissioners. I would suggest that these amendments need to be revoked.

We must carefully plan based on big issues, as we are faced with dire evidence of environmental loss: Insect populations have declined 75%; Shorebirds have lost from 50-75% of their

populations; and all monitored populations of vertebrates (mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles and fish) have seen a devastating 69% drop on average since 1970. Monitored freshwater populations have declined by an average of 83% since 1970 representing the largest decline of any other species groups.

State parks are the most important representations of what wildness is for most residents. The beaches at this location and also at Long Beach and Ocean Shores are all state highways where vehicles travel both directions, and park anywhere, all day. The beaches at this park are vehicle-free. Our public lands are so very important—for humans, wildlife, and all interconnected environmental systems. Washingtonians deserve equitable access and low-impact recreation without commercialization. Thank you for considering my comments and your important work.<sup>7</sup>

Dear Commissioners,

Please do not go forward with plans to develop Westport Light State Park into a golf course. Instead, protect the precious wetlands from fertilizer and a host of other contamination that will inevitably occur. Do not be taken in by “greenwashing” claims of the developer!

Please keep the State Park in its natural state as a preserve that attracts many visitors every year, because of its rare and environmentally vital role as a complex ecosystem.

Thank you,<sup>8</sup>

(I realize this is late, I just learned about the project) No, no and NO! Golf courses are environmental disasters with their monoculture grass that requires using millions of gallons of water, tons of fertilizer and fossil fuels to mow it. The fertilizers will enter the shallow water table and make the water unusable for domestic purposes.

Insects that feed birds and small mammals will lose even more habitat. People like me enjoy having a beach where there are no vehicles driving along it (that is a practice that should be banned) and this is it.). We don't want any kind of development. I donate to the State Parks, but won't if this is the direction they are headed. Parks should be places we can get away from development and enjoy nature.

Sincerely<sup>9</sup>

I recently heard about the Westport Light Golf Links proposal at a Washington State Parks area. This plan concerns me greatly due to the large amount of water, acreage use and fertilizer. My understanding is given the water table, fertilizers can enter the groundwater and wetlands. It is a beautiful area to be able to walk and enjoy family activities, and very popular. It is environmentally a poor decision. Please stop the efforts on the proposal!

Sincerely,<sup>10</sup>

I would like to go on record in opposition to the Westport Light Golf Links proposal. I am a Washington taxpayer and supporter of state parks and am appalled by the deal being brokered on Washington State Parks lands.

Westport Light State Park contains the second largest intertidal wetlands in the state. The proposed golf course will use 18 pounds of fertilizer per 1,000 square feet. If the course encompasses 110 acres, that means that over 86,000 pounds of fertilizer will be applied annually. The park's exceptionally high water table mean that fertilizers can easily enter the groundwater

and wetlands.

In addition, Westport Light State Park is the only location without vehicular travel on the beach. Clearly, given the fact that it receives over a half million visitors each year speaks to the public good the park currently represents.

Washington State Parks can and must do better for the people of Washington state.

I ask you to halt the Westport Light Golf Links proposal now.

Sincerely, <sup>11</sup>

As a Washington state taxpayer, I want to signal my strong objection to the Westport Light Golf Links proposal being brokered on Washington State Parks lands. This proposed deal represents a giant step backwards for land, habitat, and water conservation as well as the provision of recreational opportunities that would be decimated by the golf course intrusion,

The proposed golf course will use 500,000 gallons of water a day. It will use 18 pounds of fertilizer per 1,000 square feet. If the course encompasses 110 acres, that means that over 86,000 pounds of fertilizer will be applied annually. Those large amount are not environmentally responsible. Westport Light State Park has the second largest interdunal wetlands in the state. It has an exceptionally high water table, meaning fertilizers can easily enter the groundwater and wetlands. The proposed "Best Management Practices" seem nothing more than standard chemistry installation instructions. This park is the only location without vehicular travel on the beach. Humans need beaches without vehicles and development. It has over 500,000 visitors each year.

Washington State Parks can and must do better for the people of Washington state. This is a short-sighted, ill-conceived plan. I urge you to halt the Westport Light Golf Links proposal now. <sup>12</sup>

As a Washington taxpayer, I want to signal my strong objection to the Westport Light Golf Links proposal being brokered on Washington State Parks lands. This proposed deal represents a giant step backwards for land, habitat, and water conservation. The proposed golf course will use 500,000 gallons of water a day. It will use 18 pounds of fertilizer per 1,000 square feet. If the course encompasses 110 acres, that means that over 86,000 pounds of fertilizer will be applied annually.

Westport Light State Park has the second largest interdunal wetlands in the state. It has an exceptionally high water table, meaning fertilizers can easily enter the groundwater and wetlands. The proposed "Best Management Practices" seem nothing more than standard chemistry installation instructions.

This park is the only location without vehicular travel on the beach. Humans need beaches without vehicles and development. It has over 500,000 visitors each year.

Washington State Parks can and must do better for the people of Washington state. This is a short-sighted, ill-conceived plan. I urge you to halt the Westport Light Golf Links proposal now.

Sincerely <sup>13</sup>

I am a Washington taxpayer, and I strongly object to the Westport Light Golf Links proposal being brokered on Washington State Parks lands. This proposed deal will hurt the environment and is a giant step backwards for land, habitat, and water conservation. <sup>14</sup>

My companion and I love to visit the Westport beach. It is our favorite beach town in our state - quiet with no vehicles on the beach and a town that is comfortable and welcoming.

As a Washington taxpayer, I strongly support parks that allow

and welcome nature. Golf courses are not natural landscapes and have a negative effect on land and water. The proposed deal to add a golf course in this area would be a grave mistake.. Washington State Parks can and must do better for the people of Washington state. This is a short-sighted, ill-conceived plan. I urge you to halt the Westport Light Golf Links proposal now. Thanks for considering the value of natural landscapes for everyone to enjoy. <sup>15</sup>

As a Washington taxpayer, I want to signal my strong objection to the Westport Light Golf Links proposal being brokered on Washington State Parks lands. This proposed deal represents a giant step backwards for land, habitat, and water conservation. The proposed golf course will use 500,000 gallons of water a day. It will use 18 pounds of fertilizer per 1,000 square feet. If the course encompasses 110 acres, that means that over 86,000 pounds of fertilizer will be applied annually. Westport Light State Park has the second largest interdunal wetlands in the state. It has an exceptionally high water table, meaning fertilizers can easily enter the groundwater and wetlands. The proposed "Best Management Practices" seem nothing more than standard chemistry installation instructions. This park is the only location without vehicular travel on the beach. Humans need beaches without vehicles and development. It has over 500,000 visitors each year. Washington State Parks can and must do better for the people of Washington state. This is a short-sighted, ill-conceived plan. I urge you to halt the Westport Light Golf Links proposal now. Sincerely, <sup>16</sup>

As a Washington taxpayer, I want to signal my strong objection to the Westport Light Golf Links proposal being brokered on Washington State Parks lands. This proposed deal represents a giant step backwards for land, habitat, and water conservation. The proposed golf course will use 500,000 gallons of water a day. It will use 18 pounds of fertilizer per 1,000 square feet. If the course encompasses 110 acres, that means that over 86,000 pounds of fertilizer will be applied annually. Westport Light State Park has the second largest interdunal wetlands in the state. It has an exceptionally high water table, meaning fertilizers can easily enter the groundwater and wetlands. The proposed "Best Management Practices" seem nothing more than standard chemistry installation instructions. This park is the only location without vehicular travel on the beach. Humans need beaches without vehicles and development. It has over 500,000 visitors each year. Vehicles do not watch for birds, dogs and walkers. The drivers think they are regular roads and are very dangerous. Washington State Parks can and must do better for the people of Washington state. This is a short-sighted, ill-conceived plan. I urge you to halt the Westport Light Golf Links proposal now. <sup>17</sup>

Dear Parks Commissioners: I strongly oppose the planned development of Westport Light State Park as a golf course. Building and maintaining a golf course at Westport Light State Park will inevitably cause the loss of unique beach and dune habitat. Use of the park lands as a golf course directly conflicts with the quiet enjoyment of the site and trails by all park visitors. A golf course also conflicts with the purpose and mission of the State Parks Commission to provide access to all residents to our natural landscapes for their enjoyment. Finally, I am confident that the Commission does not have the

legal authority to covert state parks into privately run enterprises. The Commission faces potential lengthy and costly litigation on issues similar to the case it recently lost in Thurston Superior court regarding military training in state parks. Please preserve Westport State Parks in its current state and avoid litigation by suspending plans for a golf course.  
best regards,<sup>18</sup>

I am a local resident and appreciate the work state parks has done to make Westport Light fit well into the natural landscape of vehicle free beaches, dunes and high value interdunal wetlands system. This setting already attracts thousands of visitors due the special undeveloped natural surroundings. A links golf course is not needed nor is it a compatible use with the current park setting and how it is used by thousands of our citizen. I appreciate the EIS and the clear assessment of impacts a golf course will have. It shows harm will come to the very things we value in the park. Construction and maintenance of a golf course will harm the wetlands and require constant monitoring and mitigation of impacts. It will pollute groundwater, bring invasive weeds and use too much of precious salt free groundwater. All these things say No to having a golf course. Add in sea level rise and increasing storm surges and one can see a golf course is not a durable investment nor appropriate use in that location. Please use the information of the EIS to guide you and say No to the private investment firm that's proposing a golf course in our park.<sup>19</sup>

I am opposed to a golf course at Westport Light State Park. A project like that would ruin the second largest interdunal wetlands in this state and alter the beautiful dune trail forever. The golf course would use 500,000 gallons of water a day and 86,000 pounds of fertilizer would be applied annually, which is bad for pollinators like bees and butterflies. Many people visit this beautiful place each year, it should be preserved and protected for people and wildlife.  
Thank you,<sup>20</sup>

Developing a golf course on these Washington State Park lands is inconsistent with the goals of our State Park system. The broader ecological and social benefits currently existing would be diminished by the development of a golf course for a select few (and wealthy) residents of the state. Please do not approve this development.<sup>21</sup>