

Westport Light State Park

April 1, 2022 to March 22, 2022

<p>Based on what I've been told, I'm very much looking forward to the golf course being built here in Westport. I walk over 2 thousand miles per year here with my ((leashed) dog. I've been told that the golf course will be open to the public and that there will be trails throughout the course for people to walk their dogs. My dog has been attacked many times by off-leash dogs. I fear that unless there are very strict rules and penalties for off leash dogs that there will be problems with dog attacks. There are over 10 thousand dog attacks every day in the United states. There is no turning back the clock when an attack occurs and it can happen anytime and anywhere. Please make Westport safe, do everything you can to ensure safety for people living in and visiting Westport.</p> <p>Dog attack statistics --- https://www.dogsbite.org/dog-bite-statistics-fatalities.php?gclid=Cj0KCQjw_4-SBhCgARIsAAlegrWp77oKrH-gVeO7DLJyyKPMvjZdKzuCg85JhhgBdPEj4ox1Vo8Jel8aAqDAEALw_wcB ¹</p>
<p>As a resident of Westport since 2005, I believe that this Golf course is the highest and best use of the light house property, and it will benefit our community to help it grow and create new jobs, housing, and help provide the revenues badly needed for the city infrastructure.</p> <p>This golf proposal is not only wanted, but needed.</p> <p>Thank you' ²</p>
<p>As a resident of Tokeland I support this project. ³</p>
<p>I think this is a beautiful idea. I come to Westport often because it is so peaceful and undeveloped. A development like this that will be largely green, natural, allow trails and easy access, would be so nice for the area. Also, a small inn that is at a bit of a higher level of service is very welcomed in the area too. I hope so very much that this beautiful land will be kept free of homes and buildings. A golf course and nature trails would provide natural access and a way to enjoy the beauty without ugly human development.⁴</p>
<p>Approving the concession for the golf course to move forward is a very positive thing. It opens up land to the public for not only golfing, but for hiking, biking, and general use. In addition, it adds to the local tax base in both real/personal property, but the use taxes paid from the public.</p>
<p>I fully support the development.⁵</p>
<p>As a long time business in Westport we support the golf course. ⁶</p>
<p>I am all in favor of the proposed Scottish Style Links Golf Course proposed for the Westport Light Concession Area. ⁷</p>
<p>I would like to voice my support for a Westport golf course.</p> <p>My husband, Dan and I are the owners of the Willapa Harbor Golf Course in nearby Raymond, Washington. We are in the process of restoring our golf course as the previous owners had allowed it to fall into disrepair.</p> <p>It has been exciting for me to see the level of community interest and support for our golf course renovation. People love having a gathering spot close to their homes where they can gather, strengthen friendships, enjoy nature and pursue a sport that they love.</p> <p>I have also seen enthusiasm from the schools as having a golf course provides opportunities for the kids to be on golf teams and in organized golf clubs. Having a nearby golf course provides opportunities for disadvantaged kids to learn and participate in a sport that they would not have likely been able to pursue without the opportunities available through the schools.</p> <p>Additionally, My husband and I have a 24 unit hospitality property located in Grayland, WA, a sister city to Westport. We have numerous guests coming to the area looking for fun ways to explore the area. A Westport Golf Course and trail system would be a great draw to these guests and would help bring additional revenue into the area.</p> <p>It is our hope that the Westport Golf Course and trail project will be approved! ⁸</p>

<p>Good day-</p> <p>My wife and I purchased a home and several parcels of land in Westport in 2019. We plan to retire there in the next few years. The idea of the golf course and trails was on-and-off over the years. We were always in favor of the development and remain so.</p> <p>Westport is quaint, but needs exactly this type of amenity to boost the local economy.</p> <p>Paula and I fully support the development and hope you will green light the project.⁹</p>
<p>I am in favor of the Westport Light RCA and believe it would benefit the entire community.¹⁰</p>
<p>We are really looking forward to this coming to our Community! Westport needs this!¹¹</p>
<p>I would like to voice my strong support for the Westport Light State Park Golf Links. As a current city of Westport homeowner since 2010 and prior to that having family owned property in North Cove since the early 1970's, I have enjoyed the many spoils of this amazing seaside environment. I believe if done correctly in a low-impact manner, the proposed golf course would enhance previously degraded areas, help to preserve and possibly expand existing species of native plants and provide a much needed economic boost to Westport and the surrounding communities. My only request would be assure there is clear understanding and consideration of "local" socio-economic factors and make allowances that provide affordable access to the golf course for local residents.-¹²</p>
<p>We are writing very much in support of the proposed Scottish links golf course and recreational trails. We would use and enjoy these features so much! I think they will enhance and help support our community.¹³</p>
<p>I support the public-private partnership to open a Scottish links style golf course. The town will benefit economically from it directly and indirectly. My wife and I own a unit at Westport by the Sea condos.¹⁴</p>
<p>I have lived in this community my entire life (35 years) I think this proposed golf course will do wonders for our community and small businesses. This style of golf course will fit in wonderfully with our area, bring in many needed jobs and tourists to our community. I hope this will go through and actually happen this go around.¹⁵</p>
<p>Putting a golf course in the Light Park would destroy the habitat for the diverse animal population that lives in these trees not to mention the wet lands that are in the same area. I walk the paved trail between Lighthouse State Park and Westhaven State Park almost daily and enjoy the sounds of the ocean and nature. Putting a golf course and hotel on this land would take that away for instead of watching for wildlife I'd instead be having to watch for errant golf balls hitting me. As a home owner I understand that this could raise my property value but as a recent homeowner the peace of living here is priceless. My other concern is what happens to this development if this business fails! Now a beautiful piece of public land has been desecrated and we have nothing except abandoned buildings and ruined habitat!¹⁶</p>
<p>I have lived in this community my entire life (35 years) I think this proposed golf course will do wonders for our community and small businesses. This style of golf course will fit in wonderfully with our area, bring in many needed jobs and tourists to our community. I hope this will go through and actually happen this go around.¹⁷</p>
<p>Does Westport want to stay in the dark ages and die on the vine as a fishing village or open up to change and survive? I for one look forward to an aggressive approach to change.</p> <p>A golf course is only one avenue of progress. Some people think that a golf course would eliminate wildlife, which is far from being correct.</p> <p>I say build the golf course and let the players and tourist come.¹⁸</p>
<p>Thank you for posting the You-Tube video of the presentation. Please also post the power points used by the presenters. It's hard to see the details of the maps, etc in the rather blurry video clips. As neighbors of the affected state park, we are trying to see how close to our property the golf course and it's amenities might be. As mentioned a couple years ago, a buffer zone between private residential properties and the commercial golf course would be greatly appreciated.¹⁹</p>
<p>I have been walking my dogs daily in this area since 1986. It is a beautiful place to enjoy nature, the idea of it being spoiled disturbs me. There are wetlands all through this area that should not be</p>

<p>disturbed. It is home to owls, eagles, porcupines, deer, bears, coyotes and many other wild life and waterfowl. It would be better for the community if the people who go to the parks use the amenities that are already here instead of defiling an area that is perfect just the way it is. ²⁰</p>
<p>Please leave this beautiful piece. Of nature alone. The only purpose is for the enjoyment of people and profit. People come to the beach for the beach and to fish, leave the rest to nature, PLEASE! ²¹</p>
<p>As a Captain of a Charterboat here in Westport and have seen boats leave this port, businesses close and no effort from our city officials to help grow this city. I am excited to see the state coming in and producing a project that would bring in tourist and have the ability for more business to come to Westport and open. I am all for this project and hope it is developed. ²²</p>
<p>I am very much in support of the proposal by Westport Golf INC without reservation ²³</p>
<p>I live in Westport and it a good idea. ²⁴</p>
<p>We urge you to approve this project. It will be both an economic and beautiful improvement for our community and its visitors. ²⁵</p>
<p>Totally in favor of the links golf course. Westport needs new attractions to bring life back to the town. ²⁶</p>
<p>Please consider climate change in your project. State parks currently has parks that are experiencing impacts from climate change among the coast. All environmental reviews should include analysis of sea level rise, coastal erosion and impacts from loss of natural habitat. Rather than pursuing this project please use the funds to address parks along the coast that are at risk of being closed due to climate change impacts.</p> <p>A golf course is not consistent with the current aesthetic and use of Westhaven Park. People travel from all over the state to surf, fish and recreate and a golf course will negatively impact the current use.</p> <p>A golf course is not concisent with wa state parks mission statement. Please reconsider building a golf course in unique shoreline habitat and find ways to reconnect people with nature through additional beach access, surfing, fishing and hiking opportunities instead. ²⁷</p>
<p>This is an excellent idea! Please approve this project. Economic development, increased land value, increased visibility all bonuses. ²⁸</p>
<p>Our state parks should remain natural! Don't let corporate interests and high maintenance costs (financially and environmentally) destroy our state parks! These areas should remain for all to enjoy, not a select few. ²⁹</p>
<p>Westport and the surrounding areas currently allow access to natural resources to diverse socio-economic groups. People can access the beach for a day trip for free, or stay overnight in a variety of accomodations. What will the economic impact to locals and tourists for whom westport is currently an accessible place? As this community has transitioned from that of working class to primarily second and vacation homes...what evidence is in this place that kind of development has benefited the land and the people already hear. Golf is an expensive spot will bring that here make westport and its natural resources out of reach for our lower income vistors? Is that in line with equitably providing acvess to nature experiences? With more people coming to visit, there are not more undeveloped areas being preserved. There is not less trash and reduced impact on wildlife. all the city systems like water and sewere are currently overtaxed. How will this be impacted by additonal hotels and the high volume of guests the golf course anticipates bringing to the south beach? .its not just the easily visible impacts that need to be considered in protecting and providing access so all peoole can have experiences in naturalistic settings. Its the impact of exponentially increasing the human traffic in this place.</p>

Is that really what's best for the state parks here? Is the experience of a day at the beach the same if there are thousands of other people here crowding what was once an empty beach? Will the golf course push quantity over quality in a way that irrevocably damages the natural resources of this area and puts them out of reach for people in less affluent demographics?³⁰

I'd like to express my strong support for creating a golf recreation facility at Westport Light State Park. I think it's a great idea to provide this kind of activity in our state parks, and believe this will be a jewel in the park system. I've enjoyed the park on many occasions in its current state... it's beautiful, but I feel that it is underutilized and doesn't live up to its potential. I've watched the recent online YouTube presentation, and the enhanced wildlife viewing trails, much better parking and access, and of course the golf activities will make the park an amazing place. I'm especially excited about the opportunities for families and youth to take advantage of the golf course. My wife and I own a lot in the City of Westport, and if the golf course is approved, we plan to build on our lot and move to the area. We are excited about the job opportunities and economic development that a golf course would bring to the city and region. The community would benefit immensely. Thanks for the opportunity to comment... I will try to make it for the public comment meeting in the summer as well!³¹

I feel that property should be used as a campground as demand for campgrounds are in record demand. Twin harbors and grayland cg are full all the time, it is needed. Benefit to westports economy would be huge. Being walking distance to downtown/waterfront, half moon bay and ocean beach. I feel this would include a much larger aspect of the public than a golf course.³²

I would like to see more parking and more walking trails for the public added. Since this project will be going to a business that will make money off the public land, I think it is appropriate that they give back some to the community by making it more accessible. West Haven parking fills on a nice day and most weekends. More parking is needed as more people use the parks in the area.³³

I support the current plans that Westport Golf has proposed. As a South Beach resident for more than 30 years I look forward to a World class Golf Course in our community. I am in my late 50's and just started golfing recently. I have found it to be a great way to exercise at my own pace. My husband who is a local fisherman has also started golfing. We are excited about the possibility of being able to golf in our own community. I especially like the par 3 additional course idea I heard in the presentation. It would give beginners like myself a chance to improve my skills.

The property as it is now is largely unusable to most people. It is full of invasive and non- native plants. The scotch broom is massive and needs to be eradicated. I would love to see it enhanced and have better trails and access for the public (even the non golfers). I believe we currently have the right people in place to finally make this happen. To have this world class Golf Course designer design a course in Westport is remarkable. This will be such an enhancement to our small community.

I look forward to watching the plans evolve and would be willing to participate in a citizens group if needed down the road. I appreciate the community having the opportunity to give public feedback and comments. The last time we had a proposed Golf Course it was tied up in litigation from an Environmental group and the community did not get the chance to participate.³⁴

Laura;

I am David Hunnicutt and I am a real estate appraiser/attorney based in Mill Creek but I have a Kirkland business address.

My area of specialized expertise is golf course valuation. I am very interested finding out more about the Westport development you are doing in partnership with the city of Westport.

Most recently I have been gathering data on land leases or sale transactions for golf courses, for a variety of reasons (tax appeals, land lease negotiations, sales/leases, etc) I won't go into a lengthy discourse on my specific background, but information is available on my website. I draw particular to the project in Washington DC known as The Langston Initiative, now being undertaken by the National Links Trust, and Marshallia Ranch, involving about 1,050 acres at Vandenburg AFB in California, where Mike Keiser (Bandon Dunes) will develop three golf courses over the next 20 years.

Beyond that I appraise about 15-18 golf properties in any given year. I am a Board member of the Society of Golf Appraisers (SGA), but I've also appraised several projects for WSP&R over the years with Ken Graham, the most recent being Young Island in the San Juans.

Three items I'd be very interested in are:

The land lease or sale agreement with the city of Westport if such exists

The feasibility study that was completed on the course, if such an undertaking was done, and Costs/design features of the course, if the costs have been nailed down.

If these are just generally available as a courtesy of WSP&RC I'd appreciate any information you could provide, or if a FOIA request is necessary, what documents do I specifically need to request.

Thank you,
Warm regards ³⁵

My wife and I are considering purchasing a new home and land in the area. One of my main requirements is it needs to be on or very close to a good golf course. A couple friends already own homes near there and if a golf course gets built theres a good chance we'd buy a house there ³⁶

The last update published here stated there would be a public meeting on the Westport Light RCA Summer of 2022. Summer is here. Many citizens of the area are ready to see the glacial pace of this project speeded up! 3 years of planning and meetings is a very long time. ³⁷

Please be very careful in considering this major change to this beautiful little town. I have seen first hand how bringing a golf course changes the entire town forever and not in a positive way. Once you invite big money into your town it will forever change the town known as Westport. A small, quaint fishing village known for its kind and wonderful hardworking residents whom are salt of the earth type people. In will come huge homes and out will go the fishing business because it will just not fit with the demographic of people who will move in and push out the towns people. If you are building a million dollar home on the golf course you are not going to want to smell anything that might be fishy smelling. We all know that smell in Westport. It is the smell of all the little businesses that have supported the town for years. Trust me, they will be pushed out. Please do not let this happen. Don't let some investment group only interested in making money change this beautiful place. My family has been going to Westport now for thirty seven years. We come to Westport because it is a place to rest, relax and enjoy the beautiful beaches.

We gain peace and solace every time we are here. Please consider very carefully the repercussions this golf course will bring to beautiful little Westport.

Thank you,

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The Westport-Grayland COC has sponsored the Run Like the Wind running event, held the Sunday after 4th of July, for a few years now and the event has been growing in popularity. The 5K, 10K and half marathon courses utilize the waterfront portion of the Westport Light trail during the run which lasts about 4 hours. As race director, I'd like to continue providing a premier, "one of a kind" running event for Westport.

Looking forward, I'd like to see how the park planning might incorporate measured courses that utilize scenic paths around and/or through the proposed golf course for running or walking.

I'm willing to provide input. I live a few blocks from the park and lighthouse, have run the single track trails year round and wondered when changes will allow people to feel more welcomed.

Looking forward to Westport Light Park updates.

Thx ³⁹

I fully support the project and has been three years. I am Hoping a positive outcome will come soon ⁴⁰

why only a golf course as a concession? There are a few options . more family friendly and ecologically educational(one of the mission statements for use of public lands by the State Parks)Typically golf courses are not money makers but the surrounding real estate is I would really like for someone to explain the benefit the community of Westport would realize by the State Leasing public land to a private for profit exclusive entity who will not pay property tax ,rest assured every property owner in Westport and surrounding communities will because sky rocketing land values and multi million dollar real estate projects are being built. The "proposed" golf course being a major selling point for potentially out of town owners. So the local property and business owners are once again footing the bill for essentially a welfare check to an elite few. Will the golf course provide revenue for the local fire Authority? no, will they add revenue for the local schools? NO. How about local infrastructure @ water, Electricity, What about the increased sewage outflow into our bay due to an expansion of the treatment plant? What about the roads and streets Nope but access will be required. So who will be paying for all this opportunity ? people who generally can't even afford green fees or have no interest. A state of the art indoor surf wavepool/swimming pool.Community rec center, indoor sports basket ball, soccer, pickle ball.State of the art skate park, including a skating rink. Ecological interpretive center with hands on involvement for children. A hands on display of sea Life similar to the blue Zoo. Those are just a few so ask our new Golf course friends if they are interested in being involved with real family friendly facilities besides a golf course on State Park owned real estate, formally known as public lands! How about investing in the citizens and families of our Town Westport and the children our future. I am eager to see and hear an acceptable answer to these Questions ⁴¹

My wife and I totally support this project. And hope it is approved soon. Thanks ⁴²

What consideration is being given to the effects of sea level rise, tsunami danger and climate change on the proposed golf course and lodge? ⁴³

Dear Laura,

I write to you in regard to the development of a golf course on this, our state park land. This area is a wetlands; especially in the winter and spring rainy season. As I walk the trails in and where the proposed land is to be developed I have personally seen Black Bear, Black tail deer: by literally a herd this winter of 14 deer and counting.

I can take you too see deer off the entrance off the park, undisturbed deer, almost every evening. I have seen coyotes, rabbits, pheasants, song birds (many that are in decline in decline and being watched). Bald Eagles, Hawks,

Great Blue Herons (that surely are nesting in the trees) waterfowl, Woodpeckers (Northern Flickers) and you know

as well as me if this much wildlife one man has seen on casual walks ... how much more avian, mammalian and reptilian life will be affected by a destructive golf course. If you question this being a wetlands, open your windows

and shut your car off one evening at this time of year and listen to the frogs. One of the condo workers found cougar

tracks in the proposed area and north of the condos. This is a wildlife haven and corridor every much; if not more than Damon Point directly across the other side of Grays Harbor.

We are too far out of the way to sustain a viable golf course that can profit the state park system. This only Benefits

a few hotel, really motel owners. This is right in the middle of a bird migration flyway.

My major is Environmental Science and I am disabled Veteran. Please do not allow the destruction of such a beautiful environment and brings so much peace of mind to the citizens and visitors of this great State of Washington. Of course many of the homeowners of the condos of which my wife and I live at "Westport by the Sea" would love to see it come in only because by far most do not live here and they rent them as VACASA rentals.

Of course their condo value goes up and most could care less about the wildlife and estuary about to be destroyed.

Once gone it is never coming back and more destructive land will follow ⁴⁴

Hi Laura - I received the small 3x5 card regarding the planning and that the page had been updated so if we would like to review, we could go online to do so. I believe that this is the first card that we have received, unless my husband thought it was advertisement...

I have just spent the last three hours on the computer, reading and printing pages trying to decide if the golf course is good for Westport or not. We live on North Forrest, which is one of the two roads into Westport. During our fishing season, the traffic is terrible on North Forrest as not many people actually go the speed limit, so we have cars pulling boats speeding down our road. It is a residential area, and we do have children that live and play there. Has this issue been addressed on what the additional traffic in Westport with only the two roads coming and going into Westport is going to do to our community? All of the additional wear and tear on the roads, also, has installing speed bumps being considered on the roads to prevent this.

I can walk from my house about three blocks and be on the beach in Westport off of Ocean Ave. Will everyone still have all of the beach access as we have now?

Taxes - I could not find anything on how this will increase our taxes, speaking as someone that does not golf, we do not want to pay higher taxes for golfers to come to Westport. As a resident of Westport, what will this do to the surrounding property values as well? If it will impact our property taxes, is there a way for the golf course to pay an additional surcharge to the County so that the taxes of the residents of the South Beach will not be increased due to the gold course?

On the maps that I could find, I couldn't find a final map with the outline of how the property will lay out? Is there a final map available showing this? If so, can you please email it to me?

What is this going to do to the wildlife that we currently have living there? I know that they City of Aberdeen about 10-15 years ago, decided to build a soccer field on Highway 105 just as you are leaving Aberdeen going to Westport. The wild geese stopped there every year. As an insurance broker, I received a telephone call from a man wanting to get insurance to satisfy the State of WA to kill/scare the geese from stopping there on the now "soccer property" as they were stopping and leaving "goose droppings" and the kids did not want to step in it. As residents, we were not told about hiring people to kill and/or scare the geese away. We do not want this happening to the wildlife in Westport.

What about the flood zone areas? Are we going to ignore the flood zones regulations?

And finally do the citizens of Westport get to vote on this? I understand that we need progress, but this is a small town and community, and people move here for a reason to get away from the large population areas, traffic and high costs of land. I would hope that all of these issues are included in the discussion so that the residents of Westport are not fooled by the overall picture and the smaller important issues to the residents of Westport are not taken into consideration.

Thank you for your time –⁴⁵

Leasing land to a golf course is a terrible idea. It would change the social fabric of the town, cause environmental problems, and rapidly facilitate gentrification not needed in this community. Westport is an important seaport. Tourism infrastructure of this nature could create an explosion of wealthy people coming in and running this incredible resource. Westport is NOT ocean shores or Long Beach and that's its #1 appeal point. It's one of the few truly "Washington" places left where subsistence fishing and way of life exists. Please do not allow a for-profit corporation

that caters to the wealthy to destroy this town's character.⁴⁶