

RIVERSIDE CAMP PUBLIC MEETING COMMENTS SPOKANE, 1/31 & 2/1 2018

HERITAGE AREA, CLARK BARNES & SPOKANE HOUSE INTERPRETIVE CENTER

- Spokane needs a place for environmental education. Nature center places for people to visit, students + teachers.
- “Reprogram” Spokane house.
- I love this area. They do a great fur trade re-creation. The kids love it and we all learn a lot. Something could be done to do more here and increase visitation.

LOCATION OF PARK ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS

- HQ – expand existing area – GOOD IDEA. EXPAND/ADD uses to existing building at Interpretive Center and the Clark Barnes. GOOD IDEA.
- I support keeping HQ in the same area as it is in now.
- Use current area & improve.
- Don’t like idea of HQ at Little Spokane House area. Do like present location – new maps will let public know where HQ is located. Probably update present building (and I know that can be painful).
- Admin. Heritage areas already “beat up”.
- Develop current old fire house into bigger administrative offices.
- -Heritage Area. -Clark Barnes. -Spokane House Interpretive Center.
- Loved the encampment days at the Spokane House. Good to explore more uses for the museum + to keep land/area safe + undeveloped.
- Interpretive Center -put your new admin offices there. Land is choice & so underutilized.

CENTENNIAL TRAIL LINK WITH MOUNT SPOKANE

- I love this idea and this would decrease the desire to pave other areas. ☺
- Like the idea of Trail To Mt Spokane seems difficult.
- Love the idea of backway to Mt. Spokane w/ improvements to current roads. i.e. making a shoulder on Elk Chattaroy Rd.
- Making a safe bike trail to Mt. Spokane: EXCELLENT IDEA
- I really feel there is a need for the centennial trail to go to Mt. Spokane. It’s such a dangerous road now + it’s such a beautiful viewpoint that would be used a lot more if biking access was safer.
- Considering what funding exists now + likely in the future, the only viable bicycle route to Mt. Spokane is to widen State Hwy. 206 plus the summit road with a bike lane on the uphill side of the road. Also, the Columbia Plateau Trail and the John Wayne Trail should be paved before some of the schemes that were presented.
- Phenomenal! What about mountain bike connection between Newman Lake & Mt. Spokane?
- Fisk Property keep natural. Bike trail -Yes! To Mt. Spokane. We need to keep some replacement trees.
- Like this idea a lot.
- Sun Rd. Mt. Spokane bike trail good idea.
- Mt. Spokane → Riverside via COSun trail. Yes! Makes fiscal & recreational sense.
- C of S bike trail parallels new COS 395 Hwy. Trail to Mt. Spokane yes. Build it sequentially ie., so it can be used as it is built -not a trail to nowhere.

- No thank you on the bike trail from Mt. Spokane to Riverside St. Pk. It wouldn't get used much, too long + hill, too expensive. Yes, I love to ride my bike.

RIVERSIDE CAMPING DEVELOPMENTS

- Just add more camping somewhere, preferably w/ swimming.
- -Need to expand camping opportunity. -Like the plan presented.
- For additional camping, why not use the area north of Sontag Park between Hedin + Tormey Roads? Since the extension of the Centennial Trail also goes through this area, the campers could use the trail to walk or cycle.
- Is there a possibility of adding camping near or at Plese Flats?
- Fisk Property -Camping -boating, good idea. Sontag to Nine Mile School -Good idea.
- Not interested in increases in 9 Mile Falls campground area; improvements ok but not larger, not more campsites, not a bigger land area.
- Where do people park by the Indian paintings if the land is rezoned?
- DNR (Knight's Lake) -seems like a good idea to add camping.
- Agree to have more campsites + boating campsites.
- Who pays for all the "developing"? Like on DNR lands or Fisk property.
- If the Fisk property were to become an area to launch a boat, what are the fees involved in a State Park in addition to the Discover Pass?
- Stop charging us Discover Pass to park and be in our own community. You don't pay for city parks to park – really?
- Great idea! Camping geared toward specific user groups.
- DNR land (Knights Lake) No! Traffic, noise, garbage, destroy McClellan needs to stay natural.
- Fisk – good swimming access boating + camping 700 acres. Or DNR also.
- Camping. Yes more on Lake Spokane. Yes camping on ORV area for ORV users. Yes camping on Fisk.
- Fisk – not RV. Limit to tent. Include boat launch + docks.
- I support development and camping on the Fisk property.
- I support development of a camping area in the DNR area next to McClellan.

RECREATION ALTERNATIVE LAND CLASSIFICATION

- Edburg area. Knothead. -Think expanding resource rec. area is better. The natural area.
- Knothead trail area -okay to change to resource rec. -Could you add a parking lot?
- Change Edburg Bess to Resource Rec = Excellent IDEA. Sontag Perk proposal to give Ballfield/Tennis Court to school district: GOOD IDEA. Camping in ORV area: I'd defer to Park staff recommendation.
 - Another comment "I second this".
- Keep the Fisk Area a Natural Area! (most important). Just like the Little Spokane River Natural Area.
- Leave Fisk Alone! Natural -No beach -Non motorized -No camping.
- Re: the area of S.O.S. concern -I think resource rec. is better than natural area designation.
- -More swimming -More canoe launches.
- Keep ALL of Little Spokane Natural area as it is a Natural area. No dogs. No Mt bikes

- It's imperative that people still be able to walk dogs in the SOS area. I'd love to see a kiosk with info about the old dairy farm, etc... at the trailhead at the top.
- What about traffic on Charles Road? Or to any of these additional camping opportunity.
- Has WDFW land along Little Spokane been nominated/considered for County Conservation futures?
- Little Spokane is a unique treasure – Do whatever it takes to preserve access/use. Are there property tax benefits available to landowners for putting a Conservation designation to land.
- I don't think I am a fan of changing the agreement with Avista; I don't want the hunting to cease.
- Ok to rezone Little Spokane uplands area to not natural area.
- How safe would the homes be (save our switchbacks) if easements allowed across private property.
- Ok to dispose of Sontag park ballfield, tennis court with restrictions.
- Fisk. -no boat launch -no camping.
- Leave hunting on Avista Prop.
- Knights Lake -DNR. -boat launch -camping here.

RECREATION ALTERNATIVE LONG-TERM BOUNDARY

- Yes to camping in ORV.
- Fully develop Fisk area with a boat launch.
 - X2
- Expand access to the entire park with additional camping throughout. Especially along 7-mile Rd.
- Dispose of land at 9 mile Falls to school district.
 - X2
- Acquire land along Little Spokane river (switchbacks) and make resource recreation.
- I would love to see the long-term boundary include the land to and including the Fish = Wildlife land on Waikiki Springs. Folds need to be able to continue walking dogs there. No paving should happen on that trail. It's incredible wildlife habitat! I'd love to see an access pt. off Hazard Rd. as well.
- Having the area near the Little Spokane (SOS area) kept for public use is imperative. There are very few areas as beautiful and needed to save for our future generations as well as current residents. Save the area so it isn't more urban sprawl.
- Ok to change parking lot to State Park + charge → require Discover Pass (Sontag Park).
- No to Discover Pass at Sontag Park.
- I think it's important to let people know The school dist. Supplies all water for Sontag and will continue to supply the water.
- I have been hunting the late muzzleloader season on the Avista property for the past 17 years. Huntible property for the late season is very limited. How is Fish & Game going to be able to manage the deer population when even more land is made off limits to hunting?

NATURAL ALTERNATIVE LONG-TERM BOUNDARY

- Okay to reclassify to Rec. above the Little Spokane. Good multiple use.
- School take over Sontag Park. Disappointed if parking requires Discover Pass to use that property.
- Expand park influence up Little Spokane.

NATURAL ALTERNATIVE LAND CLASSIFICATION

- Please keep Little Spokane natural as possible but have some access like kayaking (passive recreational use).
- The properties along the river including Avista, Fisk and the DNR are extremely important winter range for deer and moose. Have you met with regional biologists to determine migration pathways and done any prioritization of wildlife sensitive areas?
- Expansion/land class Lake Spokane Nat. Against losing hunt ability on the lake. No to Avista giving up management. No more boat launches.
- No changes to Sontag Park -use deed restrictions so that the park will stay public.
- Better to focus new boat launch improvements down lake (Fisk) -wak and erosion issues in narrow upper lake to Ebbow, and increased boat traffic problematic.
- Expansion along the Little Spokane would only be for hikers. How is managing that land cost wise going to affect everyone else besides hikers? What additional costs are the people going to have to bear that use the rest of the park for biking, horseback riding, camping, and boat access? Developing the fish and game property would help to offset additional mgt costs. Reclassification of part of the upper area of the conservation land would be beneficial for opening up to multiple use. Disposing of Sontag park would be good. Connecting Riverside to Palisades? Is that still a possibility?
- Little Spokane. Fairwood neighborhood. Resource recreation. Public but protected. Reclassify areas.
- Please rezone Knothead Trail area for recreation (address inadequate parking at Painted Rocks).
- Little Spokane. Yes – continue allowing access on trails + little Spokane for kayaking canoeing.
- Sontag has dog shows, car shows, Easter egg hunts, family picnics need to continue current activities. I do not like requiring Discovery pass for park activity mentioned above.
- Little Spokane. Is that the dairy property on Wakiki? Definitely great property. 5 siblings do not agree on future for property. Do you know that the property is available? Sontag -tennis courts are important and need improvement. Dividing Sontag doesn't seem a good idea. Public would have to deal with two entities for reservations.

TRAIL MAPPING MASTER PLAN

- Glad to hear that trails are being reviewed + mapped + changed... looking forward to the new maps! And trail markers! Would like to know when input from public re: trails.
- Will need good public input. Lots of social trails in park.
- Yes! Thank you!
- Trails. Nice!
- Good idea!
- Riverside Trail Mapping. Yes! Please get control on the trails so they are easier to follow (better marked) Maps 😊 markers. Trail names.

OTHER

- Motorized Boat Launch no more at Nine Mile Falls. Can't regulate or supervise what they have. Haven't pulled bouys this year. Prior camp host 2016 stated it was worst place he ever volunteered. Why was that?
- Sontag Park to managed by School Dist. Yes! Sounds good.

- Fisk Property. More water access. 1. Lake is already saturated on weekends + not enough resources for enforcement. What you going to do about that? 2. Charles Rd. Are you going to upgrade + maintain. Would put undue traffic pressure.
- DNR Property. Charles Rd. Road USE again improvements.
- Increased boat traffic from Nine Mile area without solving the weed issue is not a good idea. Need to put more boat launches/access at the other end of the lake (Fisk property) as the “channel” thru Suncrest is typically choked with weeds by mid July.
- Trail problem: Dogs off leash. Have had them run up + bite ankles. Owners don’t pick up poop often.
- Hunting yes. Camping. Yes.
- Hunting on Avista property. Eliminate hunting Ok – I don’t care.
- Not sure that having schools in the “Park” business is a good idea -should explore other alternatives for Sontag.
- Yes use interpretive center for more activities.
- No addition power boat launching at 9 Mile. Boat traffic is too great in narrow part of lake.
- Acquire DNR land and other land on peninsula for camping and boat launch. -Leave Fisk as much alone as possible. -Minimize 9 Mile launch + swimming expansion. -Write limits into Sontag so it’s not verbal agreements.
- DNR land adjacent to Melellan – trails would be a good addition. Now it is unsafe due to shooting.
- For new development, consider more trailheads w/ less vehicle access. Bike/walk/horse has less impact, less trash.
- Leave Sontag Park alone. The school district can’t maintain the existing facilities – request the county do their job instead of passing it to others.
- Thank you for looking at fire management.
- I support the transfer of Sontag park to the school district.
- Sontag Park. Change ownership/management to 9 Mile Falls S.D. How big is Sontag Park. Hunting on Avista -yes.
- No more expansion keep as is. -No more access keep natural!! -Keep Little Spokane available to canoers, kayakers etc. -manage the ‘new options’. -Acquire fish + wildlife is good idea!! -Always love the trails to keep as much as possible-don’t lose what we have.
- I think the School District should have the Sontag Park property. Park pass on the parking area is a good idea.
- NMF boat launch =you must improve the channel. -currently unsafe.
- If more boating & camping there are enforcement problems on the water. ½ Spokane County ½ Stevens County. No additional resources to control speed, noise, drinking, violate private property trespassing. You can’t provide more access & ignore lack of county \$ to patrol & enforce. WAKE BOARDS are ruining waterfront.
 - Spokane House -what would you do w/ the museum if you used as classroom.
 - I support expanding the use of the Spokane House to a broader educational use venue.
 - Clark Barns. Don’t know where/what these are.
 - Spokane House Interpretive Ctr. Yes, use this place -keep the museum, but use also as welcome center? or administrative center? I’d like to see this open more.
 - Environmental ed center incorporated with Spokane House – environmental ed & cultural heritage ed are not mutually exclusive and would complement one another well.

- Heritage Area. Clark Barns. Spokane House. Interpretive Center. Plans for development of significant historical/heritage. Look to Heritage area for central headquarters. Spokane House or Clark Barns already pretty beat up -Enhance historical/heritage. OPEN the Gates. Volunteers Friends of Spokane House.
- Could there be camping and water access at the Interpretive Center area?

- If it's zoned resource rec, what efforts will be made to monitor how it's being used? What rules & guidelines will be provided AND enforced for appropriate use? I think Fish & Wildlife's management is not enough. I want more active management.
- Keep Wakiki Springs open to public. Combo of recreation and conservation. No development by private land owners. Work together w/ State Parks & Dept of Fish & Wildlife. Parking for access needs to be increased.
- From what was presented, it seems to make sense for the land to be transferred to State Parks. I like the idea of a kayak river corridor and it would be great to have an extended walking path. I echo the concern about very limited parking at the access point just last of Bozath.
- Transition to Parks. Improve "park feature" garbage (etc.). Separate/protect private property ownership.
- My family and friend use the Waikiki Springs land & trail weekly for running, walking, geocaching, kayaking, and yet see it underdeveloped not kept as well as it could. We pack out trash, attend the historical walks from the family members that lived at Graves Mansion, and have helped w/ SOS work parties. We would love to see the property expand, trails developed, & area patrolled. Let me know how I can help. I'd love to see biking & hiking/running trails expand & I'd be happy to help!
- Is the development of a river trail dependent of access from the private land owners?
- If a law is being broken on any public land, isn't it appropriate to call the sheriff?
- Inland Northwest Nature Connection is still interested in partnering with State Parks to operate a nature education center. We recognize that this would be a more intense use, and isn't suited to the more remote and environmentally sensitive areas. Good job with the CAMP; keep in touch!
- The Switchbacks have ZERO monitoring. There should be random daily monitoring in order to protect the land, those utilizing the trails and landowners alike. Needs to be good for ALL people.
- Want as many: public access trails and areas available to the public, need more parking areas for the area, out house + trash receptacles avail., ? guided wildlife tours.
- Is there a "conservation easement" for access from the switchbacks to the bridge across the river? From the bottom of the switchbacks to the north public land access?
- 1) Access is my main concern. Only one public access and that's a gravel road. 2) Affect on existing neighbors both at the top switch backs and down below. 3) How property is managed – who is enforcing litter abatement – parties after dark.

- Preserve area:
 - Bald Eagles Nest
 - Moose
 - Mtn. Lion
 - Bears
 - Wild Turkeys
 - Fox
 - Deer
- Being able to hike in this area is extremely important to me. I use it in every season and have taken new hikers there many times. We often park up by the Zip Trip & walk to the switchbacks.
- Natural habitat – as much as possible. Good area for hiking – more trails. Swimming in the bridge area. Fishing in the river. Paddle board, kayak or canoe in river.
- 1) Preserve the area – protection of the wildlife & vegetation. 2) Public access maintained for hiking & swimming/non-motorized boating. I think the surrounding community would be willing to help maintain the area. Our family enjoys hiking, swimming, picnicking & the beauty of nature at least once a week in this area. We hope to be able to continue to do this.
- If Parks “manages” Waikiki Springs will clean up the area of trash and other detritus? Eg. Damaged dairy structures.
- WDFW has not maintained, policed, nor effectively managed the parcel. Who will do it if the parcel is managed by State Parks? Parks Ranger? Sheriff?
- How are the tribes involved? What do they feel about these lands becoming a park? It would be great for Waikiki Springs to become a connected part of Riverside Park so the lands may be better managed. If the lands were to become part of Riverside, how could public access be improved without invading local homes/property and the natural habitat?
- 1) Love this area – used 15-20 times in the past year. 2) Did trail work last fall with granddaughter. Great teaching moment. 3) (Unfortunately) Have picked up trash on several occasions. 4) Parking is a challenge during peak use. 5) Unclear on boundaries/trails on the north side of Little Spokane. 6) Wish to remain dog-friendly.

- What I want it to be:

- A place where birdwatchers can see birds
- Where we can swim and hike
- No fishing

What I want saved:

- Eagle area
- Hiking trail
- And Kayaking

- This trail is used a lot. I run there as does my team (Mead Girls XC). Lots of other teams too. I also use Riverside to run. Please leave it as is. Dirt/rugged etc. I was recently @ Zion National Park – all paved, 1000's of people → awful.
- How would rangers patrol the land? Switchback road only access currently on Fish & Wildlife land and vehicles not allowed on it. Like the idea but I know home owners along the river who do not want more people in that area. Footbridge does not allow vehicle access either. Would it be widened for park government vehicles?
- Can SP & WDFW co-mingle their funds to manage this area? Or will that be a sticking point?
- The long term vision of connecting the Waikiki Springs area to Riverside State Park is extremely exciting. Especially in terms of the establishment of a wildlife corridor. In my opinion, zoning that prioritizes conservation is the correct approach. The ability to establish a natural area corridor in an increasingly urban area is a unique opportunity that should be seized. Preserving the natural character of the Waikiki Springs area and any subsequent properties that are acquired is of the greatest importance. I advocate for zoning as a natural area, even if this results in limiting access.
- It is important to me that the park have a :
 - Parking solution
 - Trail along the river
 - It remains for resource (illegible)
 - Respectful of neighboring property owners
- I think it would be an improvement for the Parks dept. to take over management IF it means that the users of the Waikiki Springs are monitored to make sure the property & its neighbors are safe, protected, & preserved. (Leash laws, usage hours, parking, litter, etc.)

- What is the life of the management plan. Is noxious weed management in plan – what is mitigation for nox weeds. What is in mgmt. plan to address fire/flood events. What is protection of actual springs in plan.
- How are the threatened, endangered or sensitive species & their management addressed in plan.
- Our extended family values the public access for recreation and conservation. It sounds like WDFW would like to partner with Parks: good. It would be positive to canoe/kayak Waikiki Springs to Spokane River – both long haul to get on. Kalispel Tribe and hatchery/water rights/Spokane Tribe: good. The Spokane Rathdrum aquifer re-surfaces at Waikiki Springs. Thank you for coming.
- If the Waikiki Springs area is made more public, there has got to be more parking available at the top of the switchbacks trail + there has got to be maintenance of the trail to keep it from further erosion.
- In my opinion there's already too much use of this area. Since it has been "discovered" the trail has badly deteriorated – lots of trash, etc. has spoiled the whole area. It's a real shame.
- Is there any other habitats that are special to these areas other than water? Do we need to protect these areas because of those habitat types? Can we have more access to the long lake ie. boat launches open year round.

From
Subject
Date
To

Ways in which my family utilize and love this park!

1. Refuge on the northside where kids and family can get out and be active (hike, walk, and run) in nature
2. Public space to view wildlife- have recently spotted eagle, moose, deer
3. one of the few public hiking areas where you can enjoy the river and all its serenity
4. A cool spot to walk in the summer months when many other hiking areas are too exposed

Thanks for fighting to keep this a public park!

[REDACTED]

[Redacted]

Over the past 20 years I have treasured time in the River Valley for trail running, nature walks with my children and rambling 'talk and walks' with friends and family. It has been a magnet for me when I need quietude and a place to recharge. The setting is probably unrivaled in our area for its accessibility: people of all ages, backgrounds, and walks of life can very quickly be transported from the surrounding neighborhood/urban environs to a natural world with all the benefits that confers. Please do not sell this place that is essentially invaluable, inextricably woven as it is into the fabric of this community, its history and its future.

Sincerely,

[Redacted]

12-15-2018

S.O.S

Re: Middle of the Little Spokane

Please let's preserve this river valley refuge for our children, grandchildren and all others who value its natural beauty, quiet magnificence that cannot be rivaled for its wildlife habitat and innocence. Down there, you could hardly guess freeways, apartment buildings and all the other signs of growth abound. Let's keep it that way! We will all be better for it.

[REDACTED]

P.S. I Love to walk, look and listen for these past twenty years in this area.

Michael Hankinson, Parks Planner
Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission
PO Box 42650, Olympia WA 98504
Phone: (360) 902-8671

Re: 115 Acres of WDFW riverfront at Waikiki Springs along the Middle of the Little Spokane River

Dear Sir:

I'm writing in favor of preserving for public access the switchback trail down to the Little Spokane River Valley from Fairwood Dr., Spokane WA.

It is my favorite place to walk and bike. My wife [REDACTED] and I often walk there as well.

When my daughter's family returned from years of service in Africa to Spokane, we took Amy and her little children down to the Little Spokane right beside the bridge that the trail leads to. It was a pleasant summer day. Sitting right there close to the water, she remembered why she loved this area and moved her family back here. Such precious memories which were possible because the Fish and Game Department was overseeing the area for public use.

As our grandchildren grow, our number two grandson [REDACTED] especially loves this river valley with all of its wonderful places to explore, fish, swim, see historic relics, etc. A great boy's area. Several times [REDACTED] and I have gone down exploring together in incomparable Grandpa Grandson memory making journeys, never to be forgotten. He's now old enough to go there with friends his age.

Our older grandson [REDACTED] was running cross-country with the nearby Mead High School team last fall. One of the places they were led to practice their running was down this trail into the valley.

We love to take visiting family members from out of town on this walk.

The Bozarth Mansion, owned by Gonzaga University, often has events for school children and college students, many of whom walk down into the canyon on this trail.

I could go on and on about all the people we know who appreciate this wonderful (mostly undeveloped) land being open to public use.

We covet similar experiences for generations of visitors to this wonderful part of the Little Spokane River Valley, which will only be possible if the land is set aside for public use.

Those of us in the next door neighborhood home owners associations, Fairwood and Fairwood Park II, have invested in preserving the switchback road-trails, keeping them clean and in good order. Together with our family, the Associations ask you to save these switchback trails and preserve this area for public use.

Sincerely yours,

[REDACTED]

Feb 15, 2018

From



My printer just died, so I am hoping you will accept a hand-written letter.

My husband and I have lived just north of Fairwood Homes for 12 years. During spring, summer and fall, we walk the switchbacks below Bozarth Mansion at least weekly. It is a place we often take guests for a walk.

This is a beautiful and serene area, that is greatly enjoyed by people of all ages. There are lots of young families spending time together, and getting fresh air and exercise.

The switchbacks and adjoining land along the Little Spokane River are a resource that needs to be protected and managed for the public good.

I urge the state to do just that -- protect and manage it for those who use it today and for future generations.



I am writing to add my support and encouragement to the concept of the Washington State Parks Department taking ownership of the current Fish and Wildlife property along the Little Spokane River north of the Fairwood Park subdivision and managing it as a part of Riverside State Park.

I have lived in Fairwood Park for 27 years and have hiked and explored the area in and around the above mentioned property. It was a great place to instill a sense of respect for nature in my three children and help them understand the history of the area. Even though my kids are all grown and gone we still make it a point to take a walk "down the hill" whenever they come home. I have often said that if we ever move from Fairwood one of the things that I would miss the most is being able to walk out my door and have this natural area in "my backyard".

But these are selfish and self-serving reasons for wanting the property to remain undeveloped. A more important reason is the preservation of some prime habitat (including the adjacent undeveloped lands) for a variety of animals. In my walks through the area I have seen many white tail deer, wild turkeys, an occasional coyote and the tracks of moose and signs of beaver activity. There are many types of birds that use this area including ducks and Canada geese. And there is even a nesting pair of bald eagles on an adjacent parcel that has been returning year after year to raise a couple of young. We check on them numerous times the spring, summer and fall.

One point I would like to make is that if the State Parks Dept does take over the property is that it will need some supervision and patrolling. In recent years the area has been discovered by local youth who are, let's say, less than respectful of the area. A lot of litter (including beer and liquor bottles) gets left behind and the river bank is suffering erosion as they create impromptu beaches. They also take shortcuts down the switchbacks leading down to the property causing erosion along the trail as well. I have discovered campfire circles in several locations. That, of course, is of great concern since a fire could easily streak across the grassy fields in the valley and then up the heavily treed hills toward our subdivision.

I really know this area and its history quite well and would be very willing to take any of the Riverside State Park employees on a tour of the area to give them a feel of what a wonderful place this is to walk, recreate and "get away from it all" for a couple of hours.

Thanks,

██

████████████████████

Feb.14, 2018

Re: Save our Switchbacks

I have been asked to put in writing my feelings on this subject.

First let me say I use to really enjoy the trail down to the Little Spokane, that is before it became a Discovery Trail. Now there are over night campers, drugs, garbage, camp fires, and kids screaming Until 4:00 AM. There is not enough parking for the trail, and no policing of those that do park in the Discovery area. We have had garbage in our landscaping, broken shrubs, sprinkler heads, light fixtures and kids using our shrubs for lavatory purposes. The lack of parking causes people to park either in our driveway or on Fairwood which is a no parking area. People who use this Discovery Trail use it also for a dumping ground. I have paid kids to go over the bank and pick up garbage. I get tired of looking out my window and seeing bags of garbage on the banks. Mead HS track team even helped us clean up the trail one year. I haven't even mentioned the abuse the trail has taken.

There would have to be a lot of changes before I would be in favor of extending SOS. There isn't room for more people at this trail head. Fish & Game isn't taking care of what they have now.

[REDACTED]

would have to be a lot of changes before I would be in favor of extending SOS. There isn't room for more people at this trail head. Fish & Game isn't taking care of what they have now.

[REDACTED]

February 15, 2018

To the Washington State Parks Commission:

My name is [REDACTED] and my family has lived in Fairwood Park for 28 years. I am submitting this letter in support of the addition of the middle Spokane River area that includes the switchbacks currently administered by the Dept. of Fish and Wildlife. We have hiked the area for all 28 years. The natural area was a part of the attraction of living in this neighborhood. We have seen eagles, herons, snakes and watched the seasons change the beauty of the trees in the area. Our children, now adults, walked the trails and developed a deep appreciation of the natural area as well. They used the area as their natural playground.

It is important to us to see the area maintained. In the last few years the erosion has become worse along the switchbacks. This past fall we volunteered to help with some trail maintenance with the group Save Our Switchbacks. We are eager to continue to help preserve the integrity of the natural area.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Main Street Switchback Park Proposal

Currently the Main Street/Mead High School area have no parks or walking areas other than the nature preserve. This area is well used. My husband and I use daily during the spring, summer and fall seasons. There are many of us that this is our daily routine. Additionally, there are many families, folks with dogs, runners and just nature lovers frequenting the area. It is well used.

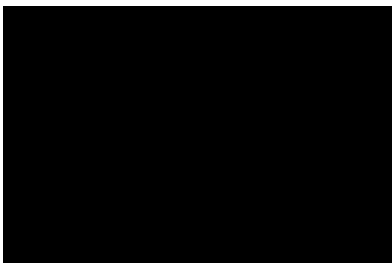
The area is generally well maintained, as there are several of us that pick-up trash daily. This is an attempt to ensure that the area maintains it reserve condition. However, having trash cans strategically placed (at least at the front entrance and lower entrance) would help maintain the pristine condition. Additionally, a doggie pot would help as well. Yes, there are some individuals that come and are less than cooperative, but isn't that true of any park? The fact that it has been self-maintained for years is a testament to the current users.

In some areas, the boundaries are not clearly understood. With minimal fencing and signage this can be minimize property owner's frustrations. Additionally, park rules such as reminder of leash laws, etc. would help to ensure that it is treated as a "park area" with all the rules and requirements that this entails.

This area is beautiful. Watching the changing seasons, wildlife movement, upper river is one of more breathtaking views in the Spokane region. It would be wonderful to maintain and improve on this truly wonderful location.

Feel free to contact either of us with any questions or concerns.

Regards,



February 15, 2018

Washington State Park Commission, Dept of Fish & Wildlife

RE: Save our Switchbacks
Waikiki Springs

The first public park was created in 1634 in Boston. The first national park was created in 1872, Yellowstone. Since before the USA was country, value was placed on having parks within a community.

The northside of Spokane is limited in its recreation areas/parks. The northern part of the county of Spokane has expanded with businesses, schools, shopping areas, housing developments and a few parks as mandated by county development boards.

The "Switchbacks" are a vital recreation area for so many living nearby. How do you put economic value on a natural piece of land that brings a sense of well-being to its citizens, both young and old? A sense of well-being makes for a citizen less prone to violence, misuse of drugs, a concern for the world around them, kindness for others as well as a productive, involved citizen.

Please keep the "Switchbacks" open to the public and maintained as a conservation area. The Discovery Pass is required to park in their lot. Please use that money to allow the "Switchbacks" to continue as a natural area where local citizens can find a sense of well-being. And walk their dogs. Enjoy with friends.

Sincerely,

Connect to Riverside St. Park.
Recreation and Conservation.

Resource Recreation = no bldg
of large
structures!

Partner w/ St. Parks,
NO Development.

"Rarely will the money to be made by protecting nature match the money to be made by destroying it. Nature offers low rates of return by comparison to other investments. If we allow the discussion to shift from values to value – from love to greed – we cede the natural world to the forces wrecking it." George Monbiot

"One source of hope comes from the growing realization that nature is essential for economic development. The message is clear: without nature the economy is nothing."

"There are of course ecological values (like beauty and the very fact that things exist) that sometimes cannot be assigned financial values, and should be protected by the law, policy and public backing rather than through markets." Tony Juniper

February 14, 2018

Dear State Park Staff and Commissioners:

As Spokane natives, my husband and I both grew up spending most of our time outside enjoying nature. As the population around us grew and Spokane urbanized, the natural spaces we loved started shrinking and disappearing. We spent many years surrounded by brick and cement. When we started our family, we felt so blessed to find a home so near such an amazing natural space. Our girls have spent their early lives hiking on the trails, exploring the banks and "eye spying" the abundant wildlife.

We didn't know that such treasure existed so close to the city but, since moving here, have run into dozens and dozens of others in all other areas of life who grew up hiking in this area. We toured the historic dairy farm sites, learned about the vegetation and had lessons on ecosystems and the important part this area plays in the Little Spokane Watershed ecosystem. One of things that draws people to Spokane is the outdoor recreation. The switchback trail system and Little Spokane Watershed area is a unique and important space that needs to be preserved for future generations. We have a community that is willing rally to help maintain this area if we know that its preservation is a possibility. I hope that you will consider the value that this area has to our family and so many others. I appreciate you taking the time to accept public input about this issue.

Sincerely,

A solid black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

Michael Hankinson:
Washington State Parks

From:

As [REDACTED], I can confidently say that our members consider the 115 acre Washington Fish and Wildlife property adjacent to our community to be a priceless community resource.

Since the 1970s when our subdivision was established, generations of families have been hiking the trails which run along the Little Spokane River and experiencing the very essence of nature just outside our doors.

Bald Eagles, Moose, Deer, Coyotes, several species of fish and other wildlife make this series of nature trails an outdoor classroom for our families.

We urge you to consider placing this priceless property under state parks department management to give it the oversight it deserves.

Our community, lead by active members at the Fairwood Farmers Market and neighboring homeowner associations, has already begun offering citizen cooperation in the cleanup and preservation of the area. But we need your help and authority to develop a sustainable long-term plan.

It would be shame to see this property fall back into the hands of developers and to have public access lost forever.

I propose a three-step solution.

1. Get WDFW land under government parks management, county or state;
2. Acquire the adjacent 99 acres of Severn property that is immediately downstream of the site for the same use;
3. Adopt a long-term legacy plan to acquire over generations public trail easements along the river all the way downstream to the confluence with the Spokane River at Lake Spokane. Options for that strategy are outlined in the "Middle of the Little" scoping study commissioned by the Fairwood Farmers Market last year – a copy of which is in your record of this meeting.