

Lake Lawrence Community Club

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360.894.0592

January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Jennifer Davis  
Community Planning Manager  
Thurston County Community Planning & Economic Development  
2000 Lakeridge Dr S.W., Building 1, Top Floor  
Olympia, WA 98502

Ms. Davis,

The Lake Lawrence Community Club is extremely concerned about the proposed redesignation of our 5+ acre community park, commonly referred to as "Goat Island" LLA-8. This island has been undesignated since it was made an island in the late 1960's when the developer cut a canal through the west side of their property forming the island to enhance development, provide a recreational opportunity and an oasis for our 300+ community members to enjoy noise and traffic free hiking. The DRAFT Shoreline Master Program shows it is recommended to be redesignated "Natural". The most extreme and restrictive designations possible.

A walking and vehicle bridge were built in the late 1960's for our members to access the island and to help maintain it. Both bridges were removed several years ago for safety reasons. The locations for these bridges can be seen on the attached google earth map (red marks). The walking bridge was located between parcels 58560000900 and 58560000800 and the association maintains that easement for this walking path and bridge. The vehicle bridge was built on our community owned parcel at 45880100000 and the bridge abutments are still in place on both sides of the canal. The association has plans to reconstruct this bridge when funds are available and maintains the parcel, with a new fence around the entire parcel. Let me be clear, the vehicle bridge is not for privately owned vehicles it is for maintenance equipment like mowers and brush hogs to maintain the trails and pasture. This is currently done by ferrying equipment to the island.

The association has spent considerable funds over the years to maintain the island and the nearly 2+ miles of trails, most of which can be seen on the attached google earth map. We have work parties several times a year to maintain the trails and clear scotch broom, yellow flag iris, purple loosestrife and tansy from the property. All of these invasive plants are recognized by the County as requiring control or eradication.

Currently our community members visit the park via boat and kayak, walk the trails enjoying the tranquility and beauty of the park and during August enjoy picking blackberries. This park is visited not only by our members, but anyone who comes to the lake. It is not off-limits to the general public.

In digging the canal back in the 1960's the dirt removed was placed on the island. In subsequent years, when dredging to maintain the canal has occurred the very rich soil and compost from the canal has been placed on the island. This would be the natural place to deposit it since it comes from the sides of the canal, the decomposing aquatic weeds and leaves from the trees each year. Dredging does not increase the depth or width of the canal, merely removes the composted materials to keep the canal accessible.

We feel that a designation of Natural is inappropriate for at least the largest portion of the island. We have outlined the area (purple line) on the east side of the island that is "wetland" and inaccessible. There are no trails in this area. The lighter and darker intermittent areas around the edges of the island, to the east, are large groups of "cow lily". We would not be opposed to designating the area circled in purple as Natural, but it needs to be understood early in this process that we intend to maintain the island as we have for the past 60 years. That includes reconstructing the bridges when funds come available and maintenance dredging the canal as necessary to keep it open and available to not only our members, but the public at large. Since we own the property, including the ground under the canal we would not expect that either the County or the State would have issue with this or impose conditions, restrictions, permits other than hydraulic permit for doing what is naturally in the best interest of the island and the community/public. If this is going to be an issue, we need to know that now so we can take appropriate action to ensure our community property rights and that of our members is preserved.

As the representative of the Lake Lawrence Community Club, I appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to hearing from you soon.



Best Regards,  
Jim Crandall  
President  
Lake Lawrence Community Club  
360-894-2418

1 Attachments: Google Earth Map of Goat Island

Copy Provided:

Gary Edwards, Commissioner, District 2

Andrew Deffobis, Associate Planner

John Woodford, Chair, Thurston County Shoreline Stakeholders Coalition

Barry Halverson, Lake Lawrence Lake Management District Steering Committee Representative to the  
Thurston County Shoreline Stakeholders Coalition



Map of the City of Chicago

Lake Michigan

Lawrence Street

