

Lord Hill Stakeholder November 2021 Speaking Points

Opening Remarks

- Thank you all for coming tonight, I really appreciate you taking the time.
- I think we've all met, but in case we haven't, my name is Emily Griffith and I am a Senior Park Planner with Snohomish County Parks and I am leading the Preferred Plan process.
- Before we dive in tonight, I just want to say I know there are a lot of concerns about Lord Hill Park, and everyone here cares deeply about this special place. I really appreciate you sticking with this process and I look forward to hearing your thoughts on how we solve these concerns as we move forward towards finalizing the Preferred Plan so we can begin implementing these solutions.

Role of the Stakeholder Group

- There have been questions about the process, so wanted to clarify this piece as well
- The stakeholder group is a very valuable piece of the puzzle in our process and we really appreciate all of your thought and care over the past five years and your continued effort as we work towards finalizing the plan.
- This process wouldn't be the same without your input contributing to the larger feedback from the public.
- Moving forward, your feedback will still be an important voice at the table, but we are moving into a more technical phase of the process with the consultant team, and it will not be feasible to dive into every detail, however we will share out the conclusions with the stakeholders and the public to ensure we are meeting our goals for Lord Hill Park. I'll cover what those next steps look like in more detail towards the end of the presentation.

The proposed mountain bike and equestrian designated trails will give users a more enjoyable experience, make the trail system safer for all users, and significantly reduce Emergency Agency responses by establishing a trail use system with waypoints and signage. This may make the park more attractive to additional user, but the available parking options will dictate the carrying capacity of the park, and a designated trail system will expand options for all users while reducing contact between types of use.

LHRP is anticipated to get an additional 20,000 annual users by 2035 in its current state, based on average annual user counts and the county's population forecast.

1988 Notes

- The general public and the Lord Hill Advisory Committee expressed the desire that this park site be protected for future generations because of its unique environmental and recreational opportunities
 - o Also expressed was the wish that the park should provide a wilderness/interpretive/educational experience
- Low-impact park with parking near the edges and circulation throughout the park limited to hiking, horseback riding and other non-motorized trail uses

- Preserve wetlands and critical areas by limiting access and creating viewing platforms/viewpoints
- Originally planned for 13-1/2 miles of trail
- Lord Hill is an island of wilderness embedded in the urban fabric of Snohomish County
- LH offers visitors a semi-wilderness experience – 1200 acres of second growth and successional growth timber, wetlands, ponds, and magnificent vistas
- Original goals from the 1988 Master Plan
 - o Maintain and develop the natural areas of the park so that it will provide a wilderness/interpretive/educational experience to visitors
 - o Prevent incompatible uses, overcrowding, and deterioration of natural and manmade resources
 - o Offer recreation experiences not presently available or experiences where demand currently exceeds supply
- A regional park is designated to serve a multi-county population with a wide range of recreation activities associated with the natural environment
- 1987 census was 393,600 (2020 census was 820,000)
- Specific Objectives
 - o Preserve the natural, undeveloped character of Lord Hill and protect wildlife and their associated habitats. Discourage development in the interior of the site; develop areas such as the park headquarters near the property line at the park entrance
 - o Create a series of circulation routes throughout the park to provide opportunities for hiking, horseback riding and other non-motorized trail uses. Provide for handicapped accessibility
 - o Provide observation opportunities at the wetlands and ponds but restrict the number of access points. Protect the wetland edges by constructing viewing platforms. Discourage off-trail use and prohibit horses in the wetlands areas
 - o Create educational experiences for all ages
 - o Develop park to be a year-round recreational facility, open only during daylight hours
 - o Provide for an on-site ranger residence near the park entrance

1996 Notes:

- Phase 1 – officially opened to the public in October 1995
 - o New park entrance access road
 - o Parking lot
 - o 10 mile multi-use trail system for hikers, horses, and mountain bikers