

Westport Light State Park – Westport Golf LLC Proposal Comments

Nov 18 2022 – December 19, 2022

We own the land on the northwest corner of Sprague and Hoquim, bordering the State Park to our west and the City of Westport land to our north. We were promised this development would not adversely impact our property. Yet, we see a large "community related area" planned for the northwest corner of our land, and a "neighborhood connection" planned for the northeast corner of our land. Both are absolutely unacceptable, and directly counter to what we were promised. We protest this plan in the strongest terms possible. Please explain the drastic change of direction. ¹

I am Extremely concerned about the proposal to remove the several mile long stand of trees in Westhaven/ Westport Light State Park to put in the Scottish Links Golf Course. These trees have been on this site for well over 70 to 100 years and prevent erosion of our very volatile coast line. Our trees in the Westport area grow extremely slowly due to the extremely high winds here in the coast. These trees will not grow back quickly. In fact the city planted a few trees on the road adjacent to the Westport Light/ Westhaven State Park and in about 15 years since the trees were planted, many of the trees have died and needed replacement. Of the few trees that have survived, they have not grown more than a few feet from the original size when they were planted. I implore State Parks to be an advocate for our Natural Public Lands! It is shocking that this golf course is even a consideration in the face of global warming and environmental crisis! ²

Unfortunately I'll be out of town for the Dec 8 meeting. This has been a long time coming but am 100% in and so excited for this project to move forward. I lived in Westport from 1965 to 1974 and have now been a home owner and residing here again since 2013. This will be the best thing to happen in our community. I'm also glad to see First Tee could get involved. While working for Farmers Insurance - we took part in several volunteer opportunities at Jefferson Park on Beacon Hill. It's a great organization and who knew I'd learn to cut and regrip clubs! ³

Why not incorporate a multipurpose use for your proposal that likely would gain public support, and financial funding from state and federal sources? Build a large tsunami evacuation hill as your first link and clubhouse. Such a location could have emergency response equipment storage and allow emergency vehicles to drive upon in the event of a tsunami thus ensuring use afterward. The elevation (about 40') would give golfers a great overview, while also providing a life-saving location for people within 1.5 miles, which includes hundreds of possible tourists on the beach. To create structure you could incorporate GeoTube technology, filled with dredge, that would be liquefaction proof.

Your project could be a life saver and could help reduce environmentalists' resistance..⁴

I am opposed to development of a golf course on Westport Light State Park land. Precious coastal lands already designated as a park should be maintained in its natural form. A golf course will benefit few persons..it is an elitist game. We don't need more golf courses. The weather conditions greatly limit the number of days it can be used. I have camped at twin harbors, visited the town of Westport, and enjoyed fresh oysters. ⁵

Please add my voice in those against allowing a golf course to be built on State Park land. I am *against* this for a number of reasons:

1. The fact that a golf course will turn habitat into a dead zone.
2. The long-term negative impact that golf courses have on the environment: specifically their need for water (which is already an issue around here in the summer), their use of chemicals to keep their lawns green, and the fact that they transform *natural areas* into lawn.
3. The transition of *public land* into exclusive, private use, reducing natural areas for local residents and visitors to enjoy.

4. The precedent this will set, opening up more *public land* for private contractor use, impacting parks and the public across the state.

Please decline this and future proposals that ask to transform our public natural places into environmentally-degraded areas that exclude folks who are already financially challenged to visit our *public* lands. ⁶

Please reconsider the environmental impact to removing necessary dunes forests and grasses all to be able to put in a golf course that will further drain resources from this state park land. We have been enjoying the natural beauty of this state park for years as a family and would be heartbroken to see this beautiful beach area be destroyed for the sake of an unnecessary golf course in its place. ⁷

Please don't allow the destruction of our beautiful beaches and dunes with a golf course: ⁸

To the Westport Light State Park Planning

I realize the Parks are in great need of revenue but please not at the cost of the environment and our trees that keep the land from eroding.

I urge you to reconsider taking out valuable trees in our area that are vital in helping with land erosion. Golf courses are often one of our worst polluters & use plenty of our resources. There are much more environmentally friendly ways to increase funds and involve the public.

I would like to suggest Frisbee golf which would not require harvesting trees that keep our ever-flooding area in place. Frisbee Golf does not require fertilizers, water, and a lot of maintenance or capital to implement.

As opposed to Golf which will consume many resources, from water to fertilizers that will then pollute our water. maintenance, and money and strip existing resources.

Regardless, I am very concerned about altering the current environment and I sincerely hope you all have the wisdom to come up with another plan.

I have lived and loved this area for many decades and hope your decision considers the many decades and generations to come in this beautiful area. ⁹

I love Westport. It is my refuge. My sanctuary to get away from it all. It is quiet. Old fashioned. Not overpopulated. PLEASE do not develop it into what we have on the I5 corridor. Do you really need a golf course? Please do not start the overdevelopment ball rolling over there. It's perfect just the way it is. If people want more people and houses and cars and shopping and golf courses they can stay on I5 corridor. Let's preserve what we have left of our once pristine state of Washington. One last little bit to actually truly be able to get away from it all.

Thank you ¹⁰

Comments on the proposed Westport Lighthouse Golf Links

Greetings Washington State Parks Commissioners:

I am a homeowner in Grayland.

I don't think a Scottish style golf course should be part of Westport Lighthouse State Park. I watched the Nov 16, 2022 YouTube video of the parks meeting, thanks for providing that.

The developer feels this is the only place to install a golf course. Truly, a Scottish-style course can be installed on any land. Chambers Bay in University Place, WA was installed in a gravel pit. This was an ideal location as there was literally no natural habitat. It has a spectacular view and has lots of variation in elevations throughout the course. It isn't a level site like Westport, so a level site isn't necessarily a parameter.

The commercialization of a park for all Washingtonians seeking exercise and respite, surfing and

biking, just isn't the right choice. The golf course can go anywhere, on any land, leased or owned. It doesn't have to be this location. There are many thousands of acres of land in the county that would easily serve as a golf course, land that wouldn't contain categorized wetlands.

I haven't seen how the course will transition to the beach, but the plans indicate close proximity. On most courses, pedestrian paths, like the existing paved path, are not allowed to be used if they are within sight of the course, as this can distract the golfers. These paths are restricted for pedestrian use before and after golf course business hours. If the beach is within sight of the course, will use of the beach be restricted?

How will the course affect low-impact recreational uses—walking, biking, surfing— that exist now? These low-impact uses seem appropriate, given the prevalence of wetlands and the constantly shifting sands.

In the video on the proposal, a lot of attention is given to the regional economy. In that, there is the existing economy composition.

While I've heard the area described as 'impoverished', I am wondering if that is the truth. Grays Harbor County statistics from 2014-2018 are similar to Kittitas County. Grays Harbor has 15.9% population below federal poverty level, Kittitas County has 19%. Grays Harbor has 35.5% below 185% of poverty threshold; Kittitas County has 32.06%. You can view these statistics at <https://stories.livestories.com/statistics/hunger-in-washington/washington/grays-harbor-county-poverty-in-working-washington>

Two counties near Puget Sound are Pierce and Thurston. Their numbers are 11.2% and 11% poverty and 24% and 23% of poverty threshold.

Can we learn anything from these numbers? Yes, I think we can. Rural counties have higher poverty. One can deduce also that rural counties have less high-quality employment and opportunities. This makes sense.

I think it is important to not over-inflate an aspect, like resident poverty. Describing a region generally as an impoverished area, to me seems plainly exploitative, if the facts don't bear out. These kinds of issues are complex, which leads me to my next point.

So, what about housing? The Grays Harbor County Housing authority, has a 2-4 year wait list. They are also mandated that 75% of their residents be in 'Extreme' poverty, as opposed to 'High' poverty, the two categories listed on their website here: <https://www.housinggraysharbor.org>

A 2-4 year wait list, a mandate to require 75% applicants be extremely in need, makes clear that there is not enough affordable housing in Grays Harbor County.

Which brings me to my next point.

It is probable that a "World Class" golf course will cause gentrification.

Gentrification will raise costs of all housing, rents and taxes. This will force out low income residents. Currently, Grays Harbor County is allowing short-term rentals in all areas. Short-term rentals rob the shelter inventory of permanent housing. These two factors, gentrification and short-term rentals, exacerbates the affordable housing crisis.

What kind of employment will be available with the golf course? Service employment including housekeeping, food service and retail come to mind. This type of employment is notoriously low wage.

Since the County can't provide enough affordable housing now, and it is unclear their plans for future

housing expansion, where will the service employees live?

The city / county will apparently get \$3M in taxes. This money will not directly benefit residents. It will not give them a paycheck. This isn't Alaska where residents get a paycheck from oil revenues for merely being a resident. What exactly does this tax revenue do for Westport? I'm not sure, and the economic analysis presentation didn't delve into details.

I empathize with the community in that it has been severely impacted by the loss of fishing and the charter business. This is a tragedy of the loss of vital systems that we must work to restore. All park properties play a vital role in understanding and facilitating these restoration efforts. I don't believe the golf course is the answer this community, or WA State parks, seeks. The County and City can work to attract better employment opportunities for their residents, with living-wage jobs.

Washington state is embarking on bold climate action in the Climate Commitment Act. Besides reducing our emissions to net zero by 2050, the Act is rife with mandates for equity. Equity and environmental justice go hand in hand with climate action. I bring this to your attention because with gentrification, lack of affordable housing, and poor quality employment, I don't believe this project brings equity or justice to the region.

Climate change, the entire site in wetlands, also seems a giant sign waving "Nope" to me. Golf courses use chemistry to maintain their landscapes. Pesticides will be used to control rodents. And, of course, there must be some water use. Add on to this list construction and fill materials in this sensitive environment and it all seems like an astonishingly poor choice for Washingtonians and our park service.

The beauty of this park is entirely unique and highly accessible already. Those on foot can find solitude. The paved path provides accessibility for the disabled. Park goers can walk an ocean beach and trail and transport themselves into a wilderness setting. This is not a wilderness park—but it feels like it.

I am not an expert in scientific or economic fields. I do my best to research so that I can advocate for issues I feel are important. I'll continue to watch for more information. I'm hoping you will carefully consider all aspects of a golf course at this park. Expectations are high in the community, and it can be easy to be swept up in the enthusiasm. Sometimes decisions are not welcome ones, and therein adds to the pressure to facilitate and expedite.

Golf courses are beautiful, highly manipulated landscapes. They can enhance the beauty and function of a place. But I think another place, not this one. Our public lands are so very important—for humans, wildlife, and the interconnected environmental systems that tie everything together. All Washingtonians deserve equitable access and low-impact recreation without commercialization.

I thank you for considering these comments and your important work. ¹¹

In my opinion, the economic benefits of the golf course do not outweigh the biological conservation deficit that will be created upon its development. Many of the investors of this golf course have strived to publicly educate this community on climate change issues, yet still, fund this project. In my opinion, this shows a lack of attention to conservation by the board. This golf course has the capacity to add plastic compounds and other pollutants into the water column that can bioaccumulate within aquatic species. If the lawn is made of real turf, this means that fertilizers and/or herbicides may be implemented to maintain the lawn's appearance. Fertilizers can induce excess nutrients to the water and cause poor water quality conditions for aquatic animals and vegetative inhabitants. This can add to the effects of continued population declines of key capture fisheries species that members of the Westport community rely on such as salmon. As populations that are key to capture fisheries decline, fishermen will lose business. I am sure that this is a trend that a majority of the town does not want to

<p>see as a majority of tourism relies on fish resources at the moment. There should be an extensive conservation management plan that this golf course should be required to follow if the golf course is put in. ¹²</p>
<p>This golf course is stealing a beautiful public area that is accessible for all and turning it into a private for-pay area. It is horrible to think about the damage to the dunes, the wildlife and the community of people who use the area every day. I am so sad that this is even being seriously considered. ¹³</p>
<p>I'm very impressed with all of the impact studies that have gone into this project and look forward to seeing the plan come to our town. ¹⁴</p>
<p>It's a gift to the town I'm all for it Thanks ¹⁵</p>
<p>I looked at the proposed plan for where the golf course will be here in Westport, it looks like a large portion of it will run parallel to the paved trail running along the beach. It seems to me that this will be dangerous for anyone walking, if a gold ball were to hit someone, it could do much damage. ¹⁶</p>
<p>Planning Director and Staff: Hello. My background is a WS resident for 80+ years with long ties to our Washington Coastal regions and the former Director of Redmond Parks for 32+ years. I reviewed the power point presentation, and you are to be commended for the environmental, recreation, and economic work done to date on this project. I see similarities to Ocean Shores, Chambers Bay and Brandon Dunes. So often recreation planners avoid taking on projects such as this one due to the potential backlash from die hard environmentalist. What I see here is a significant balance of preserving and protecting wetlands, wildlife, and natural areas at the same time offering needed outdoor recreational activities. This is a major step forward for State Parks. Hopefully, one of these days I can play a round or walk a trail. I also like the link to nearby State Park Campgrounds, hotels, motels, and resorts for over-night stays. I support this project. Best wishes. ¹⁷</p>
<p>My understanding is that the proposal includes removing the current pathway and replacing it with one that is gravel. I have not read the details of this portion of the proposal but am concerned that a gravel pathway will not be in compliance with ADA regulations. The current pathway allows folks with disabilities to experience the wonders offered in this state park. Altering that access is not the spirit of the ADA guidelines ¹⁸</p>
<p>Planning Director and Staff: Hello. My background is a WS resident for 80+ years with long ties to our Washington Coastal regions and the former Director of Redmond Parks for 32+ years. I reviewed the power point presentation, and you are to be commended for the environmental, recreation, and economic work done to date on this project. I see similarities to Ocean Shores, Chambers Bay and Brandon Dunes. So often recreation planners avoid taking on projects such as this one due to the potential backlash from die hard environmentalist. What I see here is a significant balance of preserving and protecting wetlands, wildlife, and natural areas at the same time offering needed outdoor recreational activities. This is a major step forward for State Parks. Hopefully, one of these days I can play a round or walk a trail. I also like the link to nearby State Park Campgrounds, hotels, motels, and resorts for over-night stays. I support this project. Best wishes. ¹⁹</p>
<p>The following quote is from the Washington State Parks website:</p>

The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission is committed to our mission and vision by expanding access and opportunity for everyone to experience the outdoors. We are committed to assessing and revising our policies through an equity lens to eliminate barriers and address inequities. We want to ensure that the practices and programs that we have in place are not perpetuating racism and other disparities. The iconic print of The Westport Lighthouse Park pictures a couple walking the cement trail. Under activities the first thing listed for the park is :

:
ACTIVITIES
TRAILS

ADA accessible 1.3-mile hiking trail
Local senior residents meet regularly to walk and get their exercise, residents with pets walk their dogs on the ADA path regularly. Many tourists also walk the trail because it's safe to walk there, unlike many Westport streets that don't have sidewalks. Parents with children in strollers or in bike carriers search parks that are ADA COMPLIANT. Disabled veterans, kids on roller blades, kids on skateboards, runners, walkers enjoy the beach on this cement paved trail. Removing, and or changing this path removes access to this beautiful park for many. Removing and or changing this cement paved trail contradicts the state parks mission. For those who lack the voice to be heard, I say no to removing the trail and installing a golf course that will be used mostly by a small segment of our local population, and will reduce the number of families looking for ADA compliant trails.²⁰

The proposed wetland impacts are to a unique wetland of high conservation value as identified by WA State Dept of Natural Resources. Per WA State Dept. of Ecology, this is a Category 1 rating, which is the highest. This wetland is one of the largest interdunal wetlands in the United States.

The resource/permitting agencies would not allow for significant impacts to these wetlands. Projects are required by local, state, and federal laws to avoid and minimize impacts to wetlands to the maximum extent. A 50+ acre impact to these wetlands would be one of the largest wetland impact projects in the United States. Not something you would expect from WA State Parks.

The location for this proposed golf course resort is not appropriate, nor would it be permissible by the local, state, and federal regulations.²¹

First, that the entire park, except for dunes and beaches, is designated as categorized wetlands. The commenter who presented the slides said something like "even if mitigation is possible" regarding wetlands. They also indicated they were 'high-quality' wetlands with few invasive species and that the wetlands were in 'good health'.

What this means is that if anyone builds in a wetland area, they must mitigate that use. If the entire site is wetland, there is no opportunity for mitigation on site. Hundreds of acres filled for a golf course is not abiding our state laws on wetlands. Attempting to overcome these laws or provide a variance for the state shoreline plan is plain wrong.

They use chemistry, must keep rodents out with pesticides and traps. None of this is good for the sensitive wetlands upon which this course would be built.

This is a fantastic park as it is. The low-impact recreation uses are perfect. I am so dismayed that the parks entered into an MOU with this developer, or any developer. Keep commercial activities out of our parks, period. If you need more money, raise camping fees and the Discover Pass costs.

These are public lands, purchased with dollars that represented the park as it currently is. To change that now, seems a compromise of duty and trust.

Please do not approve this poor choice for Westport Lighthouse Park ²²

I live on Ocean Avenue in Westport. I am hearing competing information about the project and I am

hoping you can clarify for me. Many of us who use the paved beach path daily are wondering: How

will this project impact the path?

Can you please clarify whether or not park users will continue to be able to utilize this path: paved/concrete, free of flying golf balls, and with views of the ocean along the entire distance?

The reason for this question is that it is being repeated over coffee that state parks standards are driving a potential change to crushed gravel or other construction. In the public meeting on 12/8, Ryan Day seemed to say (hard to hear exactly) that the path would be augmented by meandering trails and that it was too early to discuss construction details.

What makes this path desirable to our community is that it is fully paved, and we can see the ocean

as we walk along it. The existing length is a perfect approximate 5k round trip (depending on where

you park) lighthouse to jetty and back. We would appreciate a clear answer on what the intent for

our path is with this proposal. ²³

I want to provide comment on the paved path that goes from W Ocean drive (the condos) to downtown Westport WA and the proposed Scottish golf course.

Having a paved path is essential. Just in our family we have so many uses.

-stroller with infant

-bike with other children

-walking experience with ocean view and flat path

-disabled mom and she is able to be with the family (gravel is not accessible)

-individual runs

-I work for individuals with disabilities and the paved path is essential in access for wheelchairs.

Taking this paved path away is not good for the community, families, and public access for Westport.

Replacing it with gravel will not give the same access no matter how much you cite ADA.

It is essential to so many people in their abilities, access to recreation, and ocean experience. ²⁴

Please do not replace the paved Westport Light walkway with a gravel path. The current path makes the ocean accessible to anyone who cannot get down to the beach and walk in the sand.

Many people use it because they don't have to be hikers meandering through a park on small, wet, muddy, potentially poorly maintained trails through the park. Trails are lovely, but please don't take away access!!

Is there really room for golf greens between the ocean and the current path (will there be in 10 years or 20 if the erosion rate continues)?

Or push the paved path out closer to the ocean and keep all of the golf on the east side of it. ²⁵

Greetings WA State Park Commissioners:

In reading the Restoration Feasibility Study for the Westport Lighthouse State Park and proposed golf links I offer these observations.

On page 19 of the report it states that:

“Together, the mosaic and individual wetlands cover 70% of the park. This suite of wetlands is the second largest expanse of interdunal wetlands in Washington (AECOM 2021a).”

What this means is that the ecology is unique. Then, the “Constraints on restoration and golf course design” on

page 44 indicate 3 constraints of note.

First, State Parks own Critical Areas Policy mandates a preference to minimize filling of wetlands. Mapped wetlands cover 70% of the site. Areas to construct a golf course are therefore “highly restricted.”

Second, 18 holes of golf is an economic necessity as anything less is not profitable.

And the third constraint noted is that year-round play is necessary for the same economic reason, profitability. The outcome of the third aspect is that birds would be impacted during every season. Bird nesting, migration and feeding would preclude this area being accessible for birds. Birds avoid areas of human activity on the scale of a golf course open year-round.

And on page 66 regarding resilience to climate change the report states:

“Thus, any golf course constructed within several hundred feet of the shoreline is likely to have a relatively short life expectancy, and even activities considerably further inland would be heavily impacted as the entire dune system moves eastward [due to storms and climate change modeling].”

And finally on climate change:

“Therefore, we conclude that permanently-positioned features of any sort, from roads and parking lots to campgrounds and golf courses, especially located in close proximity to the Westport shoreline, are problematic over the long-term as the physical and biological landscape at Westport continues to change in the coming decades.”

Beyond any approval by the park commissioners, who would possibly agree to finance a development that is not permanent? I don't believe any reasonable person, or group, or bank, would agree to finance such a venture.

How could a project like this be insured? Any reputable project would be insured before, during and after construction.

All these aspects of feasibility should make a golf course, or any use other than what is currently allowed, as not feasible.

Please don't allow the golf course proposal to go forward, it will only waste more time and money.²⁶

I'm excited to see a golf course added to our community. But, I have heard there is a possibility that the paved trail would be changed to gravel for this project, and that causes concerns. When assisting a wheelchair-bound friend I found navigating a gravel trail to be quite challenging. This would limit access to the most vulnerable.²⁷

I want to add my voice to those calling for preservation / expansion of the paved trail that already exists in Westport Light State Park.

My husband and I live at the base of the trail on Ocean Avenue. We walk up this trail several times a day with our dog and watch the sunset from a bench at the top of the hill almost every night. We observe on a daily basis the people who use this trail:

families on tricycles and bicycles, elderly folks with walkers, people in wheelchairs, babies in strollers, toddlers learning to walk and run. I have a video of our daughter teaching our 2-year-old granddaughter to skip on this trail. Our 90-year-old neighbor walks the trail from Ocean Ave to the jetty several times a week. We've stood on the platforms staring up at the Milky Way, meteor showers, and passing comets. And we hope to continue to enjoy all that as our mobility wanes with age.

Replacing the mobility-friendly paved trail with crushed gravel would be the worst form of elitism: the hubris of the healthy and strong sweeping aside the needs of the very young, very old, and differently abled. Even if it provides the bare minimum for ADA compliance, the almost universal user-friendliness of the path would be destroyed.

We welcome the golf course development. We're glad for the jobs and opportunities that will come to Westport. But losing the paved path would be a terrible price to pay and, in our opinion, the wrong decision for the beautiful, accessible state park we cherish.²⁸

This proposal to turn state park land into a golf course should be stopped immediately.

This is insanity. I cannot believe the State of Washington would even consider handing over public property to become an exclusive golf course.

My family and I vacation in Westport multiple times every year, and that state park is the main reason why. If that becomes a golf course we will stop vacationing in Westport.²⁹

To destroy a large area of public land that is open for everyone to use to build a golf course for a small number of rich people to use seems like a very bad idea.

The area that would be developed is also habitat for a variety of wildlife. It is impossible to mitigate for for such a loss.

This project should be blocked.³⁰

The plan to take away state park lands which are accessible to all citizens of WA state and turn that into a golf course is completely wrong. These state lands are there to protect the wildlife, the dunes and the beach. How would a gulf course benefit these things?

My family comes to Westport many times a year to enjoy nature, walk the trails through the state park, watch the wildlife and have a peaceful time. Adding a golf course would completely change this area.

How many days would people be able to golf with the weather conditions at the state park? While it is gorgeous at the beach we have also be there in many big storms.

The dunes are already eroding with the rain and wind. How would a golf course protect the land? It wouldn't.

Please keep the state park a state park as it should be and do not approve this golf course³¹

Heather,

I received an email autoreply notice that I need to contact you instead of Laura Moxmam who is no

longer with state parks.

I was stunned to find out from King 5 news today that Washington State is considering this golf course proposal for Westport Light State Park.

I am 100% opposed to this proposal, and I cannot believe it's been in the works for almost 4 years

and I didn't hear about it until today. I have visited that park dozens of times over the last 20 years, I have hiked through that Westport Light forest many times with my daughters. I purchase a state parks pass and visit many state parks for hiking and camping every year. The public notice for this project has clearly failed and needs to start over. I am sad to say, if the state approves this golf course proposal I will donate money to file a lawsuit against the State of Washington to stop the project.
Please do not turn public land into a golf course. Period. ³²

have been a property owner in Westport WA for over 12 years. One of the very best features of the area is the asphalt/ paved path that runs along the ocean headlands from W. Ocean Avenue to the jetty then on to downtown Westport. The trail is usable regardless of the weather and enjoyed by more people than I could ever count. Included are people that are disabled (on scooters, in motorized wheelchairs), young parents with children in strollers and children and adults who ride bicycles on the trail. While I'm a walker myself and could navigate a gravel trail, such a trail would be unusable by many others. I believe that the golf course should be designed and built in such a way as to preserve the current asphalt/paved trail so that people other than golfers can enjoy Westport's outdoors and beauty. ³³

The State should not allow the golf course to move forward unless there is substantial benefit to the state. Demographically golf courses are used by wealthy/elite, predominantly white, older on average persons. There is not a substantial benefit to the State, or even to the local community. Golf is a low volume activity, 18 holes, 1-2 parties per hole when the course is full meaning possibly 120 +/- users on a busy day vs. the cost to the environment, the cost to infrastructure, etc. to benefit mostly rich white people from Seattle/Portland, with a very small positive economic benefit to Westport itself and a big cost to the environment. Inevitably the State is going to subsidize the hell out of this thing over the years and some 3rd party is going to reap a financial windfall from inflated greens fees and the clubhouse/bar sales (most of the money generated from this is going to flow into someone's pocket in Seattle/Portland... not to the taxpayers or locals). So the environmental cost, the cost to taxpayers vs. the small benefit to Westport... isn't worth it. Do something else with the land. Restore it, remove the invasives. This is not a site for economic development, this is a site of beauty and about beach access for all residents of the state. If you want to create revenue the local residents there are other facilities that would generate more foot traffic, and be less environmentally impactful. You cannot maintain a golf course without A) non-native grass species B) massive amounts of chemical fertilizers C) people tossing beer cans, wrappers, etc. all over the place. Please do not allow this really ill conceived project. If these developers want to do this .. let them acquire privately held parcels all up and down the coast there are 100s of other better suited sites. ³⁴

I wanted to voice support for the proposed golf course at Westport Lighthouse state park. As a disabled Washingtonian, I am not able to enjoy golf. But I enjoy golf courses, which are remarkably accessible and make

land more enjoyable for those with mobility issues. This is just one added benefit to this proposed state park land use, in addition to the beauty of the place and the intended sports and activities held there.

I also would like to voice support for the golf course plan as an environmental steward of the land. As a one time citizen of Scotland, I have seen links style courses like this become part of the landscape where native flora and fauna thrive. Golf is one of

the sports that is most environmentally friendly and forward thinking, and I think the use of this land will help remove invasive species, prevent erosion, and maintain a healthy ecosystem where state residents can enjoy it.

Lastly, a course of this size and design quality has major positive impacts to the state. While many of those impacts will be economic, I also feel that a course like this will attract tourism and international media, showing the beauty of Westport (a relatively hidden and lesser known region of our state) to the world.³⁵

I am a frequent user of Westport Light State Park. In particular, I love the paved ocean front path that goes from Ocean Avenue to the docks area. It is an integral part of the Westport experience for so many. It gives amazing access to the coastline for all, including those with limited mobility. I was alarmed to hear at the WA State Parks and Recreation Commission meeting at Chelan on November 16th, 2022 that consideration was being given to demolishing the path and replacing it with a gravel path following a different route. I also am not in favor of the golf course being built on the ocean side of the paved path. That is very sensitive land and I think it should be left in its natural state. I am not opposed to the golf course as such, but I do not like the idea of having to navigate golf greens and dodge flying golf balls when trying to use the ocean front path. It seems like the general public would feel they were intruding on the golfers.³⁶

To whom it may concern,

I am so against building a golf course at Westport. Everyday I read articles about the "great extinction" of animals caused by massive land use by humans. Surely vanishing bird species will be harmed. Animals have rights, please respect nature and leave in peace³⁷

This project will be a huge disruption to the local wildlife and ecology. Leave our nature how it is. Washingtonian already enjoy these places. And we are running out of wild area. The animals are loosing their homes so fast and then you kill them when they come into "neighborhoods". That was theirs first. This state is being destroyed by contractors. STOP IT!³⁸

Please do NOT alter the paved trail along the beach in Westport. It is so important to so many people. Changing it to crushed grave would eliminate it's accessibility for so many. Bicycles, scooters, skateboards, strollers, wheelchairs... Many use the trail to keep fit and enjoy the view, and that would not be accessible without it.³⁹

Love the idea of a golf course on the coast. However, please keep the Fitness trail adjacent to the beach accessible. This is a multi use trail that is invaluable to those with disabilities, the elderly, and families, especially those with strollers. It is a safe place and provides access for thousands that would otherwise not have the opportunity to use a beachside trail such a this. This trail promotes healthy lifestyles for those who live there and is a valuable asset to showcase the beach for tourists. Please do not take this away from the residents of Washington and those who

visit here. I've been a parks user for years and have always contributed to the Parks. I believe in what our parks provide for our community. Access to nature for all to enjoy for years to come. Again, the links style golf course sounds great, but not at the expense of losing our beloved fitness trail. Keep The Trail! ⁴⁰

I am not clear why State Parks sees golf course development as part of their mission. State Parks is charged with providing access to outdoors and nature for all of us who live in our state as well as visitors. Developing a private business on park land does not offer access to everyone and limits access to the surrounding Westport shoreline areas by the size and scale of the enclosed golf course area. State Parks should be creating situations where people can see and enjoy nature. This golf course proposal is creating an exclusive space on what should be open public land.

I think the reason people come to the ocean and the Westport area is to experience nature. Once the natural areas are enclosed or made un-natural, the attraction to the area is diminished. This specific space was a wetland and should be restored to that state. The previous effort to develop the property has introduced invasive species which can be removed and the land can be restored to a natural state. Walking paths, picnic areas and perhaps camping sites would be compatible in this area. The dunes are eroding and changing in this area. Any development would disrupt the natural course of the dunes and would be vulnerable to damage from storms. Would the local or state tax payers be asked to 'save' the golf course if it was damaged by storm waves?

I can understand the desire for local job creation and business development. What is attractive about this area is not necessarily having 'something to do' - it is the ocean and the natural environment. Once that is ruined, one could go anywhere to stay at a hotel, eat in restaurants and go shopping. The surrounding natural environment is a treasure that should not be given away by State Parks to the enrichment of private business and the exclusion of people who simply want to enjoy nature. ⁴¹

Do not develop our park. It is supposed to be enjoyed in its natural state. Washington state parks isnt supposed to be in the land development business. This is absolutely absurd. Leave the land alone. Thank you ⁴²

Dear Laura Moxham,

Today I became aware of the proposed Westport Golf Links development through an article that popped up in my news feed. I can't convey to you how much my heart broke as I read the details of the proposed golf course.

My husband and I live in eastern Washington, we drive 8 hours to vacation in Westport because we absolutely love the wild habitat that still exists around Westport with its large pieces of undeveloped land and beach access. We love the small town of Westport precisely because it ISN'T a large resort town. It has its own unique charm that is likely to disappear within 10 years of such a resort being built through the process of gentrification. If it becomes the internationally renowned course that the creators hope it will be, the value of land and houses will quickly surpass that which a local earning minimum wage (or slightly above) will be able to afford. So do those 350 jobs it will create make as much sense when the locals needed to fill those jobs are pushed out of the area because all of the real estate is being bought up for second homes of people who are far wealthier?

There are plenty of golf courses in our state, I beg you to please keep the small coastal town of

Westport as it is, a magical little **fishing** town that families have been enjoying vacationing at for decades. Part of the reason families can enjoy it is because it is still an affordable place to spend a week at.

I know mine is simply one voice, but I hope that you have heard many such voices that beg you to keep Westport a fishing town, and not let others turn it into a golfing town.⁴³

To Whom It May Concern:

We have had a residence in Westport since 2005 and have always supported the golf course projects. We love Westport and believe this would be a positive addition to the community. We encourage you to preserve the Lighthouse Park paved path as it provides access from our condo to town as well as hours of exercise and enjoyment while enjoying wonderful views of the ocean and park not having it would limit the accessibility of Westport and require us to drive to the other end of the jetty or use the beach. Leaving the path would have the least environmental impact, reduce cost and ensure that the residents of Westport have access to the scenic path.⁴⁴

I am not in favor of this project.

It is disingenuous at best to say that it is being done because of the invasive species, when the golf course will be planted with many acres of non-native exotic species. The grass will require tons of fertilizer and herbicides and pesticides to maintain it.

When the \$1.9 million dollar grant was obtained to purchase the land between Westhaven State Park and Westport Light State Park, was there any mention of using that to build a golf course?

Did the grant allow for such a use?

There is a claim that it will "open up the land to the public." The area is completely open now, but putting a golf course in it will no longer allow currently allowed activities. Access will be restricted, and other limitations will be placed on use.

There are currently more than 15,000 golf courses in the US, and more than 2,000,000 acres set aside for golfing. We can't build more public access to the pacific coast once it is gone. Please reconsider converting this publicly owned coastal property into a publicly-owned failed golf course.⁴⁵

Will this have to make any body move that lives in the area like the kilohana resort in Westport?⁴⁶

As a frequent visitor of Westport Light State Park, I would be very sad to see this area developed as a golf course. I believe that development of this area as a golf course would result in decreased public access while benefitting only golfers, who are a shrinking, privileged, community that lacks diversity.

Currently in the area of the proposed development, a visitor to the park has a beautiful ada accessible trail and a quiet stretch of beach to seek solace along away from the cars that are allowed on the beach in neighboring areas. To access the restorative benefits of nature in this park all that is needed is mobility (wheel chair, ability to walk, bike, skateboard, or scooter, etc). All this for the cost of a Washington State Parks parking pass (\$10 for a single day). In contrast, development of this area as a golf course would result in a dramatically different landscape, with manicured land in place of natural trees and beach grass. Golf carts would disrupt the peaceful escape of the area, and the exclusivity of the golf community would be felt by the common visitor. From looking at comparable golf courses such as Bandon Dunes, the tee off fee for 36 holes is ~\$400 per person! And that's assuming you already have all the expensive gear needed to even consider

participating in this form of recreation.

In a brief review of the Washington State Parks 2021 visitation data, Westport Lighthouse State Park is the 18th most visited state park location of 164 areas with visitation numbers. In 2021 502,752 people visited the park. In contrast, when looking at what looks to be a comparable golf course to what is being proposed here, Chambers Bay, which is located in the much sunnier and more golf friendly weather of the south puget sound (also much closer to large population centers), the annual visitation is only 40,000 people. That is 8% of the visitation of the state park in it's current form!

This project would decrease access for the public and drive the common person away from what is a highly visited Washington State Park. THIS DOES NOT BENEFIT THE PUBLIC, BUT ONLY BENEFITS THE GREEDY DEVELOPERS AND A SMALL COMMUNITY OF AFFLUENT GOLFERS WHO CAN PAY ~\$400 FOR A COUPLE ROUNDS OF GOLF.

Please reject this project and help preserve our state park lands for the public and future generations!⁴⁷
