

Westport Light State Park – Westport Golf LLC Proposal Comments

January 31, 2023 – March 20, 2023

Please do not allow a golf course or any new commercial type development in the park. It is too valuable as a natural space. I have been coming to Westport since I was 6 months old and lived there for 11 years in the 80's. I still come at least once a year. I come for the natural beach. Please do not allow a golf course to be developed.
Thank you for listening. ¹

I find it appalling that the state is considering a golf course development at Westport Light. This is a precious natural area, with the only no-cars beach in the state. Moneyed interests drive far too many issues in Washington -- please don't let this be one of them! ²

Washington State needs to do more to provide free access to our coasts and protections for coastal habitats. Building a golf course on coastal public lands does nothing but remove access for the majority of the population that can't afford to play golf or who don't play golf to begin with. Golf as an industry has been declining with a slight temporary bump during the pandemic. Most households cannot afford a round of golf but they can afford to use free trails for walking and biking. I have played golf for years but as water becomes a more scarce resource worldwide, golf courses should not be something that we use state green space for. In addition, golf prices have continued to creep ever higher at courses causing me to divert my time and dollars spent to other outdoor activities. Cost to benefit ratio says that a golf course doesn't provide the best benefit of state land. ³

Westport Light State Park beaches could have sprung from a novel. Tall dune grasses whisper in the wind. Pathways snake along low bluffs down to sandy stretches of shore. Sunlight plays on the landscape (or storm clouds roll in) and birds cry in the distance.”
This park is itself unique and the only beach without vehicular travel on the sand.
I understand that the Parks Commissioners have a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with a developer that wants to install a Scottish-style golf course in this park. This will destroy habitat, create noise, and disrupt the animals and birds that call this park home. It will destroy what makes this park unique. As well, it will privatize a pristine beach and limit access to the entire area.
Golf courses are a climate nightmare. They use pesticides. They use motorized vehicles. They need a great deal of water to simply exist as a lavish misuse the land for the enjoyment of a few people involved in a dying sport.
Golf courses are also often the first step towards further development. They need a club house, a bar, an outside seating area--the list goes on. As well, houses are the next step, since the land has already been reshaped and plant with a huge unsustainable lawn.
Stop this proposed project the destroys land and access. It is a clear misuse of public land and goes against climate science in every possible way. It is a bad plan based on a bad idea of what public land should be used for. ⁴

I think the idea of a fancy golf course at Westport Lighthouse SP is a travesty. It's such a gorgeous area, and the impact of all the construction, then the pesticides, and water use to maintain the

place should not happen. We could build 50 new golf courses and people would want still more; we should not turn our public lands into golf courses.

Thanks for considering my words.⁵

The land in question at Westport was purchased with State Recreation and Conservation money. Recreation and Conservation. Taxpayer money, not private development funds. And then to consider turning the space into a golf course? Are these developers proposing an appropriate use for public coastal recreation? With public access to the shoreline vanishing is it appropriate to turn something rare into a private playground? With all that is known about the damaging environmental effects of golf courses there is no way the owners can guarantee protection of the water quality, any coastal wetlands, or migratory species from harm. Wild, open land does not have to be developed, especially not for an exclusive, expensive sport like golf.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.⁶

I am writing about the recent news about Westport Light State Park in Westport. I am appalled that developers want to build a golf course at this location. The Westport Light State Park is the only park without vehicle access on the beach. I have visited the park several years ago and found it to be a beautiful beach with outstanding sunset and sunset views of the ocean. I especially would like to save the park from development for its wilderness value for wildlife and wildlife connectivity.

I have concerns about erosion and sea level rise along the coast.

In watching your recorded meeting of December 8, 2022, it was mentioned that hydrologists were considering the impact of 100 year impacts of sea level rise and climate change. Recent research from NOAA and NASA using new satellite data and

climate models along with improved evaluations of historic data from tide gauges dating back more than 100 years indicates that Americans, on average, can expect sea levels on their coasts to climb 10 to 12 inches in the next thirty years and 2 feet by the end of the century. These are conservative estimates, according to the researchers. "A profound increase in coastal flooding with storms or heavy rainfall with high tide flooding" is to be expected, according to Nicole LeBoeuf, director of NOAA's National Ocean Service. Please see the report here:
<https://oceanservice.noaa.gov/hazards/sealevelrise/sealevelrisetech-report.html> Furthermore, along some coasts, natural features like dunes and marshes may be holding back the sea a bit, but once the sea rises about those berms, it can spread inland. Hydrologists need to consider the impact of 500 year sea level rise, as opposed to only 100 year level rises in considering the feasibility of this huge economic project. It would be devastating for the community of Westport to lose the parcel of land on which the proposed site stands.

Another of my concerns is related to the use of the golf course during winter months. I spent 3 years living in Long Beach, Washington and golfed regularly at a par 3 course on the peninsula. I agree that golfing was and is a great sport with many benefits; however, I would like to know how many golfers, especially women and minorities actually golf in rainy, cold, and wet winters along the coast. I rarely would golf during these times when I resided along the coast. I doubt that it would get much use during the November through March months.

The idea of erosion was introduced at the public meeting and the concern is valid. Taking out trees which may block golf shots will increase erosion and continued flooding during spring times.

Furthermore, the driftwood which is increasingly sparse along the

beach and dunes area creates habitat for species like sand fleas and other arthropods which are important food for fishes, cetaceans, shore birds, and shrimp. Removing driftwood impacts an entire ecosystem and should not be permitted.

The Golf Links project is a huge economic undertaking for the community which would be devastating if lost due to the aforementioned reasons. I strongly oppose the project and recommend permitting not be approved.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. ⁷

I am vehemently opposed to the proposed development of a golf course at Westport Lighthouse State Park! In this day and age, when our wild and pristine environments are rapidly disappearing, it seems absurd to consider commercial development of this publicly-owned park that is famous for its natural beauty. The maintenance of golf course greens requires the obvious environmental impacts of using valuable resources for watering, fertilizer and weed control chemicals which pollute nearby streams, and fumes from using lawn mowers with combustible engines. Please do not allow this commercial development. Washington State needs to preserve its beautiful natural spaces rather than destroy them. ⁸

Building an elite golf course in this area would be a travesty. I am sure the community of Westport would like to believe there will be all those job benefits and monetary benefits to their community but it sounds like a pipe dream to me and they are being sold a bill of goods to enable them to build a golf course for the rich and ruin a wonderful "public" piece of property. ⁹

We are in the middle of a dire Climate Crisis. The vast stretch of Natural Land proposed for development is Not what the planet needs! It is a fact that development and environmental degradation goes hand in hand as so many creatures have gone and are going extinct because of human development. Some jobs for humans but death to multiple flora and fauna that call the habitat of the land their home. Is that equitable? Will roads... more vehicles...more burning of fossil fuels...so much more with heavy construction equipment...asphalt replacing earth...useless grass that does zero to mitigate carbon and just need precious water to grow. It's all take and no give. Development as a road to preservation!? Not quite! Development is a road to money... Please think long and hard about what is truly important. Will obliteration of a vast tract of virgin Land for the "enjoyment" of golfers add to the cleanliness of the air, land, water and this extend the life of so many species or do the opposite?
Thank You, ¹⁰

Westport Lighthouse State Park is a terrible place to build a golf course and clubhouse. This area is very sensitive and rare habitat for many kinds of birds and plants. We have so little public land, as it is and this special, natural area should be left as it is, or improved for wildlife and wildlife viewing.

Golf courses can cause the following problems:

Pollution of ground water and surface water caused by the use of pesticides, fertilizers, and other contaminants

Poor stream water quality due to eroding shorelines

Withdrawal of large quantities of water for irrigation Degradation or loss of natural areas

Health hazards from chemical handling and applications

Negative impacts of chemical use on "non-target" wildlife

Unsound turf management driven by increasing and unrealistic golfer expectations and demands

Please do not use one of our beautiful State Parks for a golf course. ¹¹

Please consider the idea of developing a Scottish golf park in a Washington State Park to be absurd and totally inappropriate in an area that should be protected for its natural values. The shoreline and wetland resources in this park should not be compromised by such a development.
Thank you for considering (and hopefully saying no) this request. ¹²

I am opposed to the creation of any type of golf course anywhere in Westport Light State Park. This park is too valuable for wildlife to be given over to golf. Any money spent on this park should be used to restore the land and wetlands by following the recommendations (page 24) of the September 2021 Wildlife Habitat Assessment as prepared by JD Brooks, biologist and Glen Mejia, senior wildlife biologist. ¹³

Golf Courses are an antiquated activity that only serves a few. It is important to maintain a healthy vital State Park that provides a variety of natural activities meant for a diverse population giving people the opportunity to connect with nature. ¹⁴

Developing a golf course is a terrible idea. It is a natural area and should not be disturbed just so someone is greedy for more money. Put a stop to this idea of a Scottish-style golf course at the Westport Lighthouse area. The wave action in the cove area is a retreat for me, which I paint. Please keep the area in its natural state. There are other golf courses for the few who engage in golf. Also, I hear the number of golfers is dwindling. ¹⁵

We need more open spaces in this state, not gold courses.
Please do not allow a Scottish gold course at Westport. ¹⁶

As an avid birder of Washington state and one especially draw to our shorebirds and oceanic species I must speak out again the proposal of building a "Scottish style" golf course at the Westport Light state Park.
This area is an important coastline and wetland area important to resident and migrational birds. There is a strong draw to this area for birders as well, many of us making trips from other parts of the state to enjoy a rare stretch of public coastline in an otherwise privatized coastal state.
This area is also more readily accessible to a larger group of able bodied and monetarily constrained folks than other public land seen further up our coastline.
In addition to this well established birding area and public use space, the installation of a water hungry golf course is vastly in opposition to climate change adaptation goals our state should be striving towards. Now is the time to be protecting our wetlands and coasts to ensure a more robust response to our changing climate and the installation of a fresh water draw is a gross misuse of our resources.
in finality, please, consider the magnitude of import of this area beyond the prospect of a commercial option limiting use and benefit to those in ownership and with the privilege to access a paid "amenity" in our already wonderful public area. ¹⁷

No to the golf course!
Leave the land the way it is!
This is bad for birds and other creatures that live in this space.
People go to this beach for a reason...the quiet pristine wild beach.

Keep the golf course somewhere else! ¹⁸

Keep Westport Light SP wild, accessible and golf course free. Given the ongoing sea level rise, keeping the park intact would be more effective at mitigating the damage than a golf course that is periodically flooded. Thanks for your time. ¹⁹

I am opposed to the golf course.
This park is 80% wetland. That alone should be a red flag. This natural area is important habitat for many species and we have so little of that left. It's also a restorative place for humans - a place to wander, to discover, to breathe the sea air, to feel the wind on your face.
Golf courses are sterile places. They use a lot of water. They use a lot of fertilizers and herbicides.
They are also exclusive places. Only those who can afford to golf will be there. State parks should be available to the general public.
Thank you for taking my comment. ²⁰

I cannot think of a less desirable activity in a natural area, Scottish type or not, the maintenance and use of this beautiful area as a golf course is so conflicting. I don't object to the inn, yes help people become closer to nature but the golf course so counter. ²¹

Your comment form wouldn't take my "thumbs down" image. Consider it here. This is a really dumb and selfish idea. Even accommodating those who can't afford private clubs, this represents a very inefficient and inappropriate use of public funds.
My "Planning Project" entry is wrong. I have no idea what you call it. It's the proposed golf course. Hopefully that reference is sufficient, i.e., you don't have more than one.
Comment on your public outreach: Your form is absolutely unnecessary...from this side of the communication. A simple email address will do. Tell us what to put in the Subject field; we can take it from there.
The form may accommodate you; it does not accommodate us. You are listening, but please let people communicate the way they want to. Keep it simple, especially for us. We're not stupid, just a little lazy.
I apparently forgot something. When your system resupplied the form, all the correct data I had entered was gone.
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"We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit." -- Aristotle
"Don't tell me what you value. Show me your budget, and I'll tell you what you value." -- Joe Biden
"We are conditioned to believe, not to understand." -- Marcelina Cravat
"It's easier to fool people than it is to convince them that they have been fooled." -- Mark Twain
"With Isaac Asimov, Carl Sagan and Ralph Nader included in our mix of humanity, how could we have gone so wrong?" -- Walt Jorgensen
"You never change things by fighting the existing reality. To change something, build a new model that makes the existing model obsolete." — Buckminster Fuller ²²

First of all....why is it that the project search above doesn't even mention 'golf course'.
Are you trying to hide this one?
What the heck does Westport Light RCA have to do with this project, except it's in Westport?
Why would you not identify this so that people can actually find it

and leave their comments?

Next....Excuse me.

Since when do our State Parks become GOLF COURSES???

They belong to The People....remember us?

The Washingtonians, probably 95% or more of who do NOT play golf, nor have the money to do so??

I just continue to be so flummoxed by what this state considers appropriate....such as one recent fight we had, trying to keep the military from using our beaches for war exercises! Why would we even need to use our time and energy to comment on such a completely inappropriate idea?

Here we are again.

There are so many, many reasons, that this beautiful and wild wetland area should Of. Course. NOT. BE. TURNED. INTO. a golf course.

You know what they are.

Look at all your biology, feasibility and hydrology studies.

This is insane.

Just know that you will have quite the riot on your hands if you continue to entertain this developer, and this dumb idea.

NO GOLF COURSE ON A PRISTINE WESTPORT BEACH!!! ²³

I feel the idea of putting a golf course in the Westport Light State Park is a bad idea. the number of people who golf is decreasing; the shoreline involved is essential for migrating and resident birds; the footprint of this project is enormous; the weather in Westport would prevent golfing during much of the year; we need to preserve this park for everyone's use, not just those who can afford golf.

Please do not allow this development to occur. ²⁴

I heard about this development from a fellow member. The concept of a golf course in a beautiful wild place like Westport Light concerned me but I kept an open mind when reviewing the project proposal. But I know that much of our open wild land has been ruined through bad development ideas. There are many organizations, like the Audubon Society that spend countless hours reestablishing native landscapes and educating the public on these endeavors.

When I saw the scope of the golf course project I was shocked and felt sick to my stomach. Shocked at how anyone thinks this is a good idea for so many reasons and sick about its impact on wildlife and the impact this project has on the park, its caretakers and visitors. Westport area is beautiful and is open for all public to explore. If we lose this wild area for the sake of a golf course it would be more than a waste it could be unrecoverable. As you see, I expect that one day, when more people are enlightened about the benefits of wild areas there will be a push to restore the area at a big cost. Look at Nisqually, Capital Lake, Elwha to name just a few. Or take it further to the mess that Great Lakes has gone through. One mistake after another that damaged the land and water with a hefty financial cost and loss of wildlife.

It is like a bad ground hog day movie where we keep waking up and people are still doing the same stupid \$#%@ over and over. Take a look at history and please don't repeat what we know is a mistake just for the sake of money. Please. ²⁵

Golf courses are environmentally irresponsible, and adding one to this park would be detrimental for multiple reasons. In addition to the issues all golf courses have such as enormous use of water and chemicals for turf management, this particular location would disrupt important bird habitat.

The parks department should be focused on creating spaces where users can interact with nature, not spaces where nature is destroyed so rich white men can drink beer and drive small cars around. ²⁶

Westport Light Park is a public treasure that should not be exploited for private gain. Worst idea I've heard in quite a while. I'm actually astounded that anyone would consider building a golf course here. I strongly oppose this proposal. ²⁷

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the proposed conversion of public lands.

FOGH (Friends of Grays Harbor) is a broad-based 100% volunteer tax-exempt 501(c)(3) citizens group made up of crabbers, fishers, oyster growers and caring citizens. The mission of FOGH is to foster and promote the economic, biological, and social uniqueness of Washington's estuaries and ocean coastal environments. The goal of FOGH is to protect the natural environment, human health and safety in Grays Harbor and vicinity through science, advocacy, law, activism and empowerment. Below are some of the issues, objections and concerns FOGH has with reference to the proposed conversion of an important and rare interdunal wetland mosaic. These comments are preliminary and we will need to expand those once the SEPA process begins, as there is not adequate information about the layout and operation of the proposed course and amenities. We incorporate by reference comments made by Twin Harbors Waterkeeper, Citizens for a Clean Harbor, Grays Harbor Audubon, Surfrider Foundation.

- The project is proposed in an area threatened by coastal erosion. Millions of dollars have already been spent to repair a breach at the Jetty and northern tip of the proposed project. On the southern end of the ocean side of the project, Westport by the Sea Condominiums have also be allowed to "hardened" the shoreline in order to temporarily hold back the erosive forces.
- The Department of Ecology conducted the most recent study of coastal sand dunes in Washington in 1974. The Coastal Sand Dune study found that as of 1974 there remained only nine undeveloped sand dune areas in Washington. The sand dune area on the project site and extending to Westport Light State Park was among the largest. Ruef, Coastal Sand Dune Study, Pacific and Grays Harbor Counties, Washington, 1974, Washington Department of Ecology. The Sand Dune Study recognized how valuable and rare this ecosystem is. Of the 2,300 miles of saltwater shoreline in Washington, as of 1974 there remained only 12.5 miles of undeveloped dunal areas. Id. p. 22, 27. The Study found: ... within the total expanses of the dune masses only nine coherent areas of notable size were left in an undisturbed, pristine condition. ... However, continued pressure from adjacent new developments and rising demands from the private and public sectors are likely to reduce their integrity to a point beyond which these areas are no longer capable to maintain their natural structure and characteristics. Coastal Dune Study, at 21-22. Particular attentions should be paid to the remaining natural areas and their preservation. They constitute limited natural resources and only collectively these key areas are representative of the unequalled biophysical systems and aesthetics of the dune landscape. Coastal Dune Study, at 28. The Study recommended that "all responsible authorities coordinate their efforts and undertake appropriate steps to protect the previously identified natural areas to the

fullest extent possible. Until their status has been defined and suitable boundaries and management concepts have been formulated, local governments should place a moratorium on substantial development of and physical alteration in those areas." Id.

- The subject property is an Aquatic Resource of National Significance (ARNI) on a shoreline of statewide significance. The

project would destroy the largest undeveloped interdunal wetland system in the region. It is especially fragile because it is bordered by state parks and public recreation lands. While the wetlands to be impacted is an Aquatic Resource of National Significance (ARNI), the proposal is for a private non-water dependent use.

- There doesn't seem to be recognition of off-site connections between the mosaic of wetlands that characterize the interdunal wetlands. The applicant significantly undervalued and undercounted the wetlands that would be impacted. It did this by using incorrect delineation methodology, by delineated connected wetlands as separate, and by ignoring off-site connections between the wetlands.

- The wetland system's value is increased because the system at present is largely in public hands and because it provides an integral backdrop for State Parks.

- The previous golf proposal, known as "Links at Half Moon Bay" dug detention ponds which effectively and illegally de-watered nearby wetlands. How will this degradation be mitigated and/or restored?

- Fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides will be applied to certain areas of this mosaic, including the greens. Despite the fragile ecosystem there doesn't appear to be any treatment system. Runoff, containing pesticides, fertilizers, and herbicides will enter an extremely fragile portion of the Grays Harbor Estuary, and seep to the ocean shoreline.

- Visitation to Westhaven in the past was over 1 million annually, until the discovery pass requirement limited some public from utilizing this public resource. How will the further restrictions of privatization of public lands impact visitors?

- The introduction of the golf course into upland areas will limit if not prevent restoration opportunities to those areas, and the runoff of herbicides, pesticides and fertilizers may negatively impact adjacent wetland communities.

- The introduction of herbicides, pesticides, and fertilizers may impact ground water and carry these pollutants to the north and center wells.

- According to HUD 2019 LMI, as reported in the Washington Parks 2023 – 2025 Budget Request the City of Westport has a community with approximately 60% of the population having a low to moderate income level. With regard to equity, the budget proposal stated as follows: "Parks need to be accessible and welcoming to everyone, and the agency is committed to creating a hospitable, safe, and inclusive park environment.

- The pandemic events of 2020 highlight the importance of state park's role in supporting physical and mental wellbeing, regardless of race, identity, abilities, or socioeconomic status. All resource requests to pay for improving the park system would contribute to State Parks success. This includes ensuring that all visitors are welcome and have access to a well-run park system that meets their expectations." (State Parks and Recreation Commission Capital Project Request, page 443, item 11)

- According to a review of average golf caddie incomes

(https://www.zipppia.com/golf-caddie-jobs/salary/?survey_step=step7&survey=201&src=jobtitle-salary-minihero&skipQuestion=1%2C2&callout_location=average-salarychart#)

A professional caddie's average income in the state of Washington is \$31,127 or \$14.96 per hour. A recent listing of an assistant golf full-time professional was for \$500 a week, or \$26,000 per year.

• On page one of the Executive Summary "Coastal Study Report" prepared by AECOM Technical Service, it was reported • Our analysis of shoreline retreat due to SLR and dune erosion show that assets at the Park, including the paved path, parking lot, and restroom facilities, could be at risk after 2030 under the Moderate-Risk Scenario and this decade under the High-Risk Scenario. This means that there may be significant issues in as soon as 7 years, if the site were developed as of today. I hope that these preliminary comments will be helpful to the Commission in their decision-making process. We feel that conversion of this property to a golf course is a squandering of public resources and it is not in the public interest. Thank you for careful consideration.²⁸

Hi Heather,

It was called to my attention that the proposed golf course design in Westport, WA was to eliminate the paved jetty pathway along the beach. I strongly discourage and oppose this idea. I have a young son and for years we have used this pathway as safe place to bicycle, stroll or walk. It's also easy access for people with disabilities or the elderly, like my 82 year old father. They too can enjoy the ocean and nature without obstacles but without the pave pathway that goes away for them. It is a highlight for those visiting or living in Westport with constricted abilities.

I appreciate your time reading this email and consideration of my thoughts regarding this project.²⁹

I strongly oppose a golf course on the wetlands and beach at Westport. My children love the beach, and the wildlife. Please protect this for generations to come. It confuses me what our state will consider for its PUBLIC parks. Don't they belong to all The People? Thank you.³⁰

My husband and I love going to Westport. We oppose a regular golf course being built there. It will ruin the area. However, building a disc golf course through the trees there would be amazing! Disc golf is accessible to everyone. You don't need to cut the trees down. The animals could still have their home. Disc golf is becoming much more popular than traditional golf. It is family friendly and will leave the area mainly undisturbed.³¹

As an avid birder of Washington state and one especially draw to our shorebirds and oceanic species I must speak out again the proposal of building a "Scottish style" golf course at the Westport Light state Park.

This area is an important coastline and wetland area important to resident and migrational birds. There is a strong draw to this area for birders as well, many of us making trips from other parts of the state to enjoy a rare stretch of public coastline in an otherwise privatized coastal state.

This area is also more readily accessible to a larger group of able

bodied and monetarily constrained folks than other public land seen further up our coastline.

In addition to this well established birding area and public use space, the installation of a water hungry golf course is vastly in opposition to climate change adaptation goals our state should be striving towards. Now is the time to be protecting our wetlands and coasts to ensure a more robust response to our changing climate and the installation of a fresh water draw is a gross misuse of our resources.

in finality, please, consider the magnitude of import of this area beyond the prospect of a commercial option limiting use and benefit to those in ownership and with the privilege to access a paid "amenity" in our already wonderful public area.³²

Comments Re: Proposed golf course at Westport Light State Park
I would strongly encourage the city of Westport to abandon this plan to turn the park into a golf course. I travel from Olympia to Westport approximately monthly to walk and bird on the trails and beaches there, eat some great seafood in town, and take in the beauty of the park. From what I can see from the proposal, I think a golf course is likely to have a negative impact environmentally, and is unlikely to result in the forecasted economic benefits to the city of Westport. All references are listed below.

1) The golf course will further destroy important habitat for many species. This is the opposite of the opinion of the WA State Habitat report, which recommended improving and fostering native species habitats, with special attention on removing non-native vegetation to

better support the diversity of all the other species at the park. A golf course not only destroys what's there, it introduces additional new non-native grasses for fairways and putting greens, along with increased water, fertilizer and pesticides necessary to maintain them. While there is currently no legacy or old-growth forest, there is potential for those important and increasingly scarce forested habitats to develop - IF you don't cut down the trees for a golfcourse.

2) There are many many birds which use that habitat, even as it exists today, species which can't or won't reside near a golf course. The WA State Habitat study counted some 100+ bird species they observed in their limited sample. See the below list in the references for the eBird Species list for species observed since 2020 at this hotspot, which shows a likely species count closer to 200. This diversity of bird species will be reduced at this location, with likely impacts to their populations if you replace their current habitat with a golf course. As you probably know, loss of habitat is a primary cause of species loss, so maintaining habitat wherever possible is important to their survival.

3) A golf course will not be necessarily result in a 'net gain' of visitors/tourists to the area. The current visitors who come to this park, then shop & eat at Westport (like me) because it's not as commercial as Ocean Shores will simply go elsewhere. There is no real 'mixed use' scenario from a visitor point of view: Not only will non-golfing park visitors be excluded from that area of the park, even the paved trail on the ridge overlooking the beach is unlikely to be safe from errant golf balls for walkers and hikers (I know this because I am that kind of golfer, as well as a trail walker).

4) A Golf course may demand more municipal resources than you expect in day to day operations. Golf courses require a lot of fresh water – the State of WA hydrology estimate is 500,000 gallons per day during the dry season. The Hydrology report and the Wetlands report caution that the risks of pollution (fertilizer and pesticides) if the course is not designed, built and continuously monitored to

prevent impacts to water quality there could be a very significant degradation of habitat and risk to the water supply.

- Has the city of Westport thought about the added demand on local fresh water sources that a golf course will require, and how it's going to meet that demand (infrastructure)? In municipal volume terms, golf course monthly water use in the summer will be approximately 2,005,000 cubic feet.
- Have the developers committed to making sure the design and ongoing operations (monitoring water levels and quality) to meet all the state of WA hydrology recommendations which should reduce the risk of chemicals/nitrogen leaching into the wetlands and/or polluting the local water sources?
- Has the municipality made plans/budgets to take on the cost of monitoring/regular oversight to ensure those water monitoring commitments will be met going forward?
- Given that ongoing environmental monitoring demands and a private entity operating the golf course, does Westport have a risk management plan/insurance/financial commitments in place to deal with the environmental needs if the private operator goes bankrupt? I would think you'd want to ensure it's not 'déjà vu all over again'.

5) Finally, has the city of Westport closely reviewed the economic benefits forecast for this golf course project? This location is windy, frequently VERY windy, rainy and cold except in the summertime. Unless you are willing to golf wearing a parka and mittens, I'd expect that 6-7 months of the year the course is unlikely to be used by golfers. I recommend decision-makers carefully scrutinize these economic promises to see if they're really plausible in light of a limited 6 or 7-month golf season.

References:

Windspeed, Rainfall, Temperature:

- <https://weatherspark.com/h/y/349/2022/Historical-Weather-during-2022-in-Westport-Washington-United-States#Figures-WindSpeed>
- <https://weatherspark.com/y/349/Average-Weather-in-Westport-Washington-United-States-Year-Round#Figures-Rainfall>
- <https://weatherspark.com/y/349/Average-Weather-in-Westport-Washington-United-States-Year-Round#Figures-Temperature>

EBird species list: [https://ebird.org/hotspot/L1875831?yr=all&m=ebird hotspot Observations, Westhaven State Park, limited to 2023](https://ebird.org/hotspot/L1875831?yr=all&m=ebird%20hotspot%20Observations,%20Westhaven%20State%20Park,%20limited%20to%202023) forward as of 3/1/2023

Species Count Latest Obs. Date

Accipiter sp. 1 15-Nov-21

alcid sp. 4 27-Jun-22

American Coot 1 1-Jan-22

American Crow 5 25-Feb-23

American Goldfinch 2 21-Aug-22

American Kestrel 1 29-Jan-23

American Pipit 1 22-Apr-22

American Robin 4 25-Feb-23

American White Pelican 15 7-Aug-22

American Wigeon 1 1-Jan-23

Ancient Murrelet 4 1-Dec-21

Anna's Hummingbird 3 1-Jan-23

Aythya sp. 1 8-Jan-22

Bald Eagle 1 18-Feb-23

Band-tailed Pigeon 4 4-May-22

Barn Owl 1 12-Dec-21

Barn Swallow 2 22-Sep-22

Barred Owl 1 12-Nov-21

Belted Kingfisher 1 10-Jan-23

Bewick's Wren 1 1-Jan-23
 Black Oystercatcher 2 10-Jan-23
 Black Phoebe 1 19-Oct-21
 Black Scoter 1 6-Apr-22
 Black Turnstone 8 29-Jan-23
 Black-bellied Plover 1 29-Apr-22
 Black-capped Chickadee 1 25-Feb-23
 Black-headed Grosbeak 1 2-Aug-20
 Black-legged Kittiwake 2 4-Apr-22
 Black-throated Gray Warbler 1 4-Jul-22
 Blue-winged Teal 2 3-Jun-22
 Bonaparte's Gull 1 10-Jan-23
 Brandt's Cormorant 10 31-Jan-23
 Brant 11 3-May-22
 Brewer's Blackbird 2 19-Sep-22
 Brown Creeper 1 1-Jan-23
 Brown Pelican 3 3-Nov-22
 Brown-headed Cowbird 1 16-Aug-22
 Bufflehead 11 25-Feb-23
 Bushtit 2 29-Apr-22
 Cackling Goose 400 15-Oct-22
 Calidris sp. 1 25-Oct-21
 California Gull 1 14-Dec-22
 California Scrub-Jay 3 17-May-20
 Canada Goose 1 17-Feb-23
 Caspian Tern 3 31-Aug-22
 Cassin's Auklet 1 9-Nov-21
 Cedar Waxwing 1 20-Aug-22
 Chestnut-backed Chickadee 42 1-Jan-23
 Chipping Sparrow 1 19-Apr-22
 Cliff Swallow 2 20-Aug-21
 Common Goldeneye 1 15-Nov-21
 Common Loon 1 17-Feb-23
 Common Merganser 1 3-Oct-21
 Common Murre 30 10-Oct-22
 Common Nighthawk 1 5-Aug-22
 Common Raven 2 18-Feb-23
 Common Tern 150 13-May-22
 Common Yellowthroat 1 16-Aug-22
 Common/Red-breasted Merganser 1 1-Nov-21
 Cooper's Hawk 1 18-May-22
 cormorant sp. 10 10-Jan-23
 dabbling duck sp. 20 10-Oct-22
 Dark-eyed Junco 23 1-Jan-23
 Double-crested Cormorant 1 17-Feb-23
 Downy Woodpecker 1 1-Jan-23
 duck sp. 1 21-Jan-22
 Dunlin 6 17-Feb-23
 Eared Grebe 1 17-Aug-21
 Exotic: Escapee 1 13-Jan-23
 Exotic: Naturalized 10 25-Feb-23
 Exotic: Naturalized 3 10-Jan-23
 Exotic: Naturalized 4 1-Jan-23
 Exotic: Naturalized 2 22-Sep-22
 Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel 3 26-Oct-21
 Fox Sparrow 8 1-Jan-23
 Gadwall 7 3-Oct-21
 Glaucous Gull 1 7-Feb-22
 Glaucous-winged Gull 2 25-Feb-23

Glaucous-winged x Glaucous Gull (hybrid) 1 4-Apr-22
Golden-crowned Kinglet 6 12-Jan-23
Golden-crowned Sparrow 5 27-Oct-22
Great Blue Heron 6 19-Jun-22
Greater Scaup 1 17-Feb-23
Greater White-fronted Goose 20 26-Apr-22
Greater Yellowlegs 1 8-May-21
Greater/Lesser Scaup 3 6-Apr-22
Green-winged Teal 2 17-Feb-23
gull sp. 20 29-Jan-23
Hairy Woodpecker 2 19-Oct-21
Harlequin Duck 2 3-Nov-22
Heermann's Gull 20 27-Oct-22
Hermit Thrush 1 31-Dec-21
Herring Gull 1 19-Jan-23
Herring x Glaucous-winged Gull (hybrid) 20 5-Dec-21
Hooded Merganser 1 27-Oct-22
Horned Grebe 8 17-Feb-23
Horned Lark 11 19-Sep-21
House Finch 1 1-Jan-23
Hutton's Vireo 1 1-Jan-23
Iceland Gull 1 25-Feb-23
Killdeer 1 31-Jul-22
Lapland Longspur 1 7-Oct-21
Larus sp. 60 27-Oct-22
Leach's Storm-Petrel 1 10-Nov-21
Least Sandpiper 1 6-Oct-22
Lesser Scaup 3 25-Feb-23
Lincoln's Sparrow 1 25-Feb-23
Long-billed Curlew 1 10-Jan-21
loon sp. 10 22-Apr-22
Mallard 4 25-Feb-23
Marbled Godwit 400 13-Jan-21
Marbled Murrelet 2 4-Jul-22
Marsh Wren 1 17-Feb-23
Merlin 1 22-Sep-22
Mourning Dove 1 10-May-22
new world sparrow sp. 2 28-Jan-23
new world warbler sp. 1 4-Aug-21
Northern Flicker 1 25-Feb-23
Northern Fulmar 2 28-Oct-21
Northern Harrier 1 24-Feb-23
Northern Pintail 57 31-Aug-22
Northern Rough-winged Swallow 1 27-Aug-21
Northern Shoveler 1 17-Feb-23
Olive-sided Flycatcher 1 2-Jul-22
Orange-crowned Warbler 1 27-Jun-22
Osprey 2 2-Jul-22
Pacific Golden-Plover 1 26-Oct-21
Pacific Loon 2 28-Jan-23
Pacific Wren 3 1-Jan-23
Parasitic Jaeger 1 25-Oct-21
passerine sp. 1 5-Nov-20
peep sp. 6 18-Jan-22
Pelagic Cormorant 2 18-Feb-23
Peregrine Falcon 1 21-Aug-22
Pied-billed Grebe 1 24-Feb-23
Pigeon Guillemot 2 3-Nov-22
Pine Siskin 1 31-Oct-21

Purple Finch 2 4-May-20
Purple Martin 2 29-Apr-22
Red Crossbill 5 1-Jan-23
Red Phalarope 1 10-May-22
Red-breasted Merganser 1 4-Apr-22
Red-breasted Nuthatch 1 1-Jan-23
Red-necked Grebe 2 28-Jan-23
Red-necked Phalarope 2 19-May-22
Red-shouldered Hawk 1 7-Nov-21
Red-tailed Hawk 1 24-Mar-22
Red-throated Loon 2 25-Feb-23
Red-winged Blackbird 6 1-Jan-23
Rhinoceros Auklet 1 10-Oct-22
Ring-billed Gull 1 19-Sep-22
Ring-necked Duck 3 25-Feb-23
Rock Sandpiper 3 26-Oct-21
Rough-legged Hawk 1 10-Jan-22
Ruby-crowned Kinglet 1 17-Feb-23
Ruddy Turnstone 1 13-May-22
Ruffed Grouse 2 10-Jun-21
Rufous Hummingbird 1 25-May-21
Rusty Blackbird 1 5-Nov-20
Sabine's Gull 1 27-Oct-21
Sanderling 4 18-Feb-23
Savannah Sparrow 2 6-Oct-22
scoter sp. 1 31-Jul-22
Semipalmated Plover 12 1-Jan-23
Sharp-shinned Hawk 1 1-Nov-21
Sharp-shinned/Cooper's Hawk 1 29-Apr-22
shorebird sp. 40 16-Oct-21
Short-billed Dowitcher 4 13-May-22
Short-billed Gull 1 25-Feb-23
Snow Bunting 2 31-Oct-21
Snow Goose 20 31-Oct-21
Snowy Plover 1 10-Jan-23
Song Sparrow 3 25-Feb-23
Sooty Shearwater 12 10-Oct-22
Sooty/Short-tailed Shearwater 1 2-Sep-21
Spotted Sandpiper 1 18-May-22
Spotted Towhee 1 28-Jan-23
Steller's Jay 3 1-Jan-23
Surf Scoter 10 25-Feb-23
Surfbird 6 29-Jan-23
Swainson's Thrush 1 31-May-21
swallow sp. 1 5-Apr-22
Townsend's Warbler 4 1-Jan-23
Tree Swallow 2 27-Jun-22
Tree/Violet-green Swallow 2 23-Sep-21
Turkey Vulture 2 19-Sep-22
Varied Thrush 3 25-Feb-23
Varied Thrush/American Robin 1 1-Jan-22
Vaux's Swift 1 27-Jun-21
Violet-green Swallow 1 7-Aug-22
Wandering Tattler 1 31-Aug-22
Warbling Vireo 1 17-May-20
Western Grebe 5 17-Feb-23
Western Gull 10 25-Feb-23
Western Kingbird 1 16-Jun-21
Western Meadowlark 6 25-Feb-23

Western Sandpiper 1 1-Jan-23
Western Tanager 1 2-Jul-22
Western x Glaucous-winged Gull (hybrid) 130 25-Feb-23
Western/Clark's Grebe 59 30-Sep-21
Western/Glaucous-winged Gull 2 12-Jan-23
Whimbrel 7 13-May-22
White-crowned Sparrow 2 3-Oct-22
White-winged Scoter 1 3-Nov-22
Willow Flycatcher 1 31-Jul-22
Wilson's Snipe 1 24-Feb-23
Wilson's Warbler 1 17-May-20
wren sp. 1 11-Sep-20
Yellow Warbler 1 25-Aug-21
Yellow-rumped Warbler 1 20-May-22
Referenced documents from WA State:
https://www.parks.wa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/19964/Hydrologic-Report_20220407
https://www.parks.wa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/19963/Habitat-Report_9-22-21
<https://www.parks.wa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/19961/Wetland-Assessment-Report-8-6-21>
<https://www.parks.wa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/19962/Wetland-Discipline-Report-5-31-22>
City of Westport Utilities site:
https://www.ci.westport.wa.us/residents/utilities_information.php³³

Westport Light State Park seems an inappropriate place to put a golf course. I go there for peace and quiet. If the developers want to build a golf course, they can find their own land rather than take it from the people of Washington State.³⁴

I am writing as a resident of Grays Harbor County to oppose the proposed development of Westport Light State Park for a golf course.
This proposal is antithetical to the concept of state parks. These parks belong to the public and should not entertain such development.
Additionally, given the park's shoreline and wetland habitat, plenty of evidence exists to show why this golf course would have a negative impact on the environment. Various biology, hydrology and feasibility studies argue against this plan for that very reason. To be honest, I find it hard to believe this proposal is being considered at all. To replace beautiful and crucial shoreline habitat on public land with a golf course seems absurd.
I ask that you reject the proposed golf course at Westport Light State Park.
When I renew my car license tabs every year, I pay extra to donate to the state parks. If this proposed golf course is built, I will reconsider that donation. My money will not go toward supporting the building of golf courses on public land.
Thank you.³⁵

A golf course would be out of step with the natural beauty of this state park.
Can not believe it is even being considered.³⁶

Please no. Why would you take a beautiful and rare public access beach and wetland landscape and replace it with a pay-to-play and experience reserved for a small fraction of Washingtonians.
Just a terrible idea.³⁷

Dear Heather,

My name is - and I am a citizen of Westport. Since moving to Westport with my husband about 1.5 yrs ago we have become steadily more involved in the community and have begun to hear more about the proposed plans for the golf course and the both the potential positives and negatives it may have for the community. I received your contact info from -, who said you were the right person to contact regarding public comment.

I am writing to specifically voice my sincere hope that the full length, paved, oceanfront walking path not be altered by the golf course (in the event that it does move forward, which I oppose in general) and remain intact in its current state. Since moving here I have gone for runs back and forth on this path about 3 times per week and have observed its clear value to the community in multiple unique ways over that period.

1. The path builds community - I see and converse with my neighbors on this path multiple times per week and make new friends. The community needs these safe public recreation spaces to interact with one another and build community.
2. The path provides safe, accessible, healthy recreation for children, families, and people of all ages - I see families teaching their children to ride their bikes for the first time, I see teenagers skateboarding, I see people walking their dogs, yesterday I saw three women in their 80's going for a walk together in the sunshine. In a town with few sidewalks, this area is a critical safe space for these activities and brings joy to its residents.
3. The path provides useful edge habitat for animals - The deer and pheasants graze along this path and hawks and bald eagles find it useful for hunting.
4. The path drives tourism - this stunningly beautiful path is an obvious attraction in the town and is the one of the first places I send visitors. It is a key reason to visit westport and has a benefit for tourism.

I firmly believe that a survey of the frequency of path use, and the varied uses of the path, would demonstrate the core value of the path, in its current state, to our community. I am a biological research scientist and have extensive expertise in data gathering and data analysis. I would be happy to aid in setting up an online or in person survey of these uses over the upcoming months. Feel free to call me to set this up.

Thank you for your time and I would appreciate it if you could communicate these comments to those working to make this decision.

Best wishes, ³⁸