

KITSAP COUNTY PARKS ADVISORY BOARD

January 21, 2025

MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Parks Advisory Board Chair, Dawn Dockter. Meeting guidelines of the hybrid Parks Advisory Board were read.

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 19, 2025

Larry Walker motioned to adopt the November 19, 2025, meeting minutes. Linda Berry – Maraist seconded the motion.

No corrections. Minutes approved.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

- Katherine Ander: Shared insight and progress on volunteer work in Parks and the impact on the community. Also, shared plans for 2026, including work parties and collaborations with McCormick Woods and Washington Youth Academy.
- Marion Allen: Expressed concerns over wildlife and habitat protection at Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park and voiced the need for more single-use trails for pedestrians at Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park.
- Beverly Parsons: Shared concerns about Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park and the need to balance human visitors with protection of wildlife habitat, and balance mountain bike park usage with the other types of trail usage. Also encouraged PAB members to attend BoCC meetings and Planning Commission meetings.
- Carol Price: Raised concerns about human population and the impact on ecosystems (statistics from an article by Dr. Delisala) and wants clearer emphasis on ecosystem health from the Parks Department.
- Alan Marshall: Gave a shoutout to Alex W and Parks staff for their work, shared news about a forestry expert to speak at South Kitsap High School, which was recorded and saved on the Save Banner Forest website. Also mentioned that Banner Forest Park is regaining old growth status/health; after reviewing policy and planning docs recently approved in December, he expressed concerns over any heavy equipment used for thinning.
- Patricia Weagant: Raised concerns about safety at Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park regarding the speed of mountain bikers; is encouraging speed limits and signs
- Joe Lubischer: Raised concern that the Parks Department is out of compliance with the Ranger Corridor in critical areas ordinance and forest practices act for Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park. The Park Stewardship Plan proposed in 2016 for Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park wetlands should have been indicated on maps and permits and requested change in approach for building trails and specialized recreation areas to be within compliance
- Judy Willott: PGFHP's original concept was to be for all users, with a balance of recreation usage and conservation. Also expressed the need for more restoration work for natural habitats, and conservation, also.

- Doug Hayman: Raised concerns about Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park, expressed belief that there shouldn't be any other mountain bike areas except for the existing ride park. Also, expressed the need for restoration for compliance in the critical areas and a need for pedestrian-only trails and areas
- PAB Member, Linda Berry-Maraist: Shared overview and history of long-term volunteer involvement at PGFHP (from before the park was a park). Volunteers were a diverse group of users working together, we never would have saved this park without working cooperatively. (In responses to a letter): PGFHP Stewards are not all mountain bikers, in fact 3 of the five co-leaders are not mountain bikers at all. Many mountain bikers have lead volunteer conservation activities and have focused on projects that are not for mountain bikers.
- Martha Burke: Raised concerns about mountain bikers using trails going through streams, causing erosion on trails, has photo that she'd like to share with the PAB. Also, raised concerns that mountain bike usage impacts the environment as well as other park visitors
- PAB Chair, Dawn Dockter, explained how emails/feedback/photos are distributed with PAB and Parks so all feedback is heard and shared.
- April Ryan: Raised Concerns over Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park and how multi-use trails pose dangers if trail etiquette for yielding is not observed, and if there's no enforcement of speed limits; Proposed trails based on purpose and use.
- Margaret Tuft: Commented that park usage for pedestrians at Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park has been limited because of the danger of multi-use trails. Expressed desire for nature and conservation to take priority at that location.
- Dewey G.: Discussed the incident at Horseshoe Lake on June 30, 2025, resulted in a Trespass from the Park for 1 year.
- Unknown Commenter (No name provided): Comment with a reminder that Evergreen Mountain Bike Association (EMBA) has a contract with Parks for the work they do in maintaining the ride park

IV. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS –

Michelle Filley, Project Manager from Public Works presented on Lund Avenue – Chase to Jackson 1 Project at South Kitsap Regional Park (SKRP).

- Part of a larger plan to improve the corridor that includes road improvements to help traffic flow and non-motorized access
- Work for this phase will take place in 2026 at the Lund entrance of SKRP, and will include widening and paving paths and upgrading stormwater infrastructure.
- No permanent impacts to park usage, and temporary impacts will be mitigated by detours and signage.
- Project will improve park access, bike and pedestrian safety, and improve stormwater management and road operations
- PAB members asked that the landscaping around the roundabout do not occlude visual sight lines for drivers and requested pedestrian safety at the roundabout be taken into consideration.

IV. Sub-Committee Assignments

The four sub-committees for 2026 were discussed with the aim for less than half of the PAB members to participate on any single sub-committee.

- Finance & Budget: Larry Walker, Jessica Rice, Linda Berry-Maraist* (*interested)
- Capital Projects & Parks: Linda Berry-Maraist, Lisa Hurt, Dawn Dockter
- Community Outreach & Visitor Services: Jessica Rice, Jen Skalbeck
- Planning & Property: Larry Walker*, Linda Berry-Maraist, Lisa Hurt, Jen Skalbeck

IV. 2026 Goals

Highlights for 2026 Parks Department goals

- Rolling Hills Golf Course, approved to proceed with an RFP process to evaluate potential new vendors and opportunities for operation.
- Create Naming and Sponsorship Policies
- Work to update our maintenance management software program
- AECOM Contract for Wildlife Utilization Study and Vegetation Mapping
- Update to Parks Code (last done in 1971), contract to conduct a new Parks Impact Fee study (last done in 2003), begin update to Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park Framework, Complete Gordon Park Master Plan (work to start in February).
- PAB members raised the following concerns
 - What metrics are being used to determine if the project was completed or considered a success.
 - Concerns over REIT money being shared with Public Works Storm Water and Capital Projects, in terms of that impacting Parks budget
 - Concerns over establishing single-use trails in Port Gamble and how trails will be distributed by use
 - Concerns were voiced over Parks contract with EMBA, which has been renewed for 2026

V. Parks Report

Parks continue to receive regular vandalism.

- Bathroom closed at South Kitsap Regional Park due to vandalism.
- Porta Potty installed to replace it was lit on fire and burned down
- Security patrols have been started at the park
- Security camera trailer was installed at park, but was tipped over twice and is now broken

New Wildlife Ecologist Position

- Currently reviewing applications.

Point No Point Updates

- Park is now open, grand re-opening held on December 20, 2025

- Working with DNR now on creosote log removal at Eastern Beach. To date, 10,000 lbs. of creosote logs have been removed from the beach

VI. Sub-Committee Reports

None

VII. District Representative Reports

North

- Concerns about Springs Trail at Port Gamble showing signs of erosion (as mentioned previously by Marion)
- Rogue biking trails are appearing that need to be decommissioned
- Concerns over EMBA using apps such as Trail Forks to share routes
- Concerns regarding Port Gamble's Stottlemeyer Trailhead parking: Since parking lot is gravel and pull-through, equestrian stalls aren't marked and there is confusion on where people should park. Suggested additional signage and stall delineation for equestrian parking, and better signage and trail connection to overflow parking on the street
- Asked about the status of permit for a bridge crossing; was that permit applied for?

South-

- Meeting held with Commissioner Root about Banner Forest
- Framework for park planning has not been done yet, but will be developed this year, with no work being done in Banner until 2027
- Soccer Clubs reached out regarding grants for getting artificial turf installed at SKRP
- Larry has meeting with Addison Richards on Friday, who has interest in SKRP and Banner

VIII. Public Comment

- Allen Marshall: Despite vandalism, park visitors in South do appreciate the porta-potties at SKRP and Harper Park. Asked the question, what is the intent for the Stewardship program, and getting more clarification on the specifics of how it will work and how Parks will work with volunteers and stewards
- Joe Lubisher: Disagrees about the planning being documented in 2022. Had thought that framework for park planning was not going to happen until 2027. Planning of at Port Gamble has had difficulties in past with lack of wetland identification and mapping of critical areas
- Carol Price: Only 2 walking trails at Port Gamble (Tessa's and Bluff), Concerns over rogue trail that has become a mountain bike trail. If bridge will be installed at Springs Trail, please consider aesthetics. Would like a public meeting where all members of public can speak to stewards to have a say in what work is being done
- Lisa Hurt: Question on ride park and what rules/restrictions they have in place. Would like to know if what they're doing is part of STO. Concerns that Petrichor trail is now 14' wide, has pictures

- Alex Wisniewski : In response to Lisa, it is not part of the STO, They do not have full reign on what work they can do- they maintain trails at ride park, and they have approval to make new connection to the new parking lot, but that is it. If any additional trails/widening is happening, please share information and photos with Parks
- Don Willot: Comments on STO. Feedback and information on concept of Sound to Olympics Trail

IX. Adjournment

Larry Walker motioned to adjourn the meeting. Linda Berry-Maraist Seconded the motion.

Motioned carried. The meeting was adjourned.

Parks Advisory Board Meeting Attendance

PAB MEMBERS	STAFF	PUBLIC (IN PERSON)
Lisa Hurt - North	Alex Wisniewski – Director	
Linda Berry- Maraist - North	Alex Hardy – Admin and Event Supervisor	
Larry Walker - South	Dee Tuttle – Office Support Specialist	
Dawn Dockter - South	Michelle Filley – Public Works Project Manager	
Jessic Rice - South		
Jen Skalbeck - North		