

April 26, 2007

Chuck Denney, Director  
Tumwater Parks & Recreation Department  
555 Israel Road SW  
Tumwater, WA 98501-6558

Dear Mr. Denney:

Thank you for meeting with members of the Barnes Lake Management District Steering Committee to discuss our concerns with the February 21, 2007 draft of the Tumwater Park, Recreation, & Open Space Plan. This plan includes boat launches, waterfront access, picnic tables, picnic shelters, water trails, playgrounds, basketball courts, volleyball courts, and public restrooms on the West Side of Barnes Lake and at the Michael T. Simmons School.

Barnes Lake is a very fragile ecosystem that is rapidly approaching extinction. The efforts of the Lake Management District and the Barnes Lake Conservancy are a valiant attempt to slow this deterioration. In our February 8, 2007 letter to you, the Barnes Lake Management District Steering Committee requested that all of the development proposals for Barnes Lake that were included in the December 2006 be removed from further consideration.

In your response of February 10, 2007, you stated that the Parks Plan lists Barnes Lake as a site that the City should consider for park use, within a broad definition of possible land acquisitions should favorable opportunities present themselves. You stated that the goal would be preservation of open space and the creation of a passive park and possible picnic area, as well as interpretive areas.

At our meeting on April 24, you asked if the LMD Steering Committee would be in support of a passive park, interpretive areas, and possible picnic areas on Barnes Lake. After discussion, our preference is that all of the development proposals for Barnes Lake that were included in the February 21, 2007 draft be removed. Specifically, we request that boat launches, waterfront access, water trails, playgrounds, basketball courts, volleyball courts, and public restrooms on Barnes Lake be removed from further consideration in the Parks Plan. If the City is determined to proceed with including Barnes Lake in the draft parks plan, we would only be in support of a passive park, interpretive areas, and possible picnic area, provided that launching of watercraft from the site(s) is expressly prohibited.

Please feel free to contact me or our steering committee to clarify our position or to provide additional input into your long term planning process. Thank you again for the opportunity to provide comments to the plan.

Sincerely,



Kathy Peterson, Chair

Barnes Lake Management District Steering Committee

cc: Barnes LMD Steering Committee Members,  
Dan Smith, City of Tumwater