

## **Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Assessment Park Land Conversion of Use and Replacement**

### **Purpose of Notice:**

The proposal involves a federal action to transfer protection of park and recreation uses from property located with the Salmon Creek Greenway to property located at Foley Park, located at NW 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue and NW 120<sup>th</sup> Street.

It is the purpose of this notice to provide for the exchange of information regarding the effect of the proposal on the community. This purpose is in accordance with and pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA, 42 USC 4321-4347) and the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965.

### **Project Description:**

Clark County proposes to remove federal protection from 0.76 acres of the Salmon Creek Greenway for construction of a sewer pump station and a land exchange with an adjacent property owner to acquire property more interior to the greenway. Park land and recreational use will be replaced by transferring federal protection to 4.4 acres at Foley Park.

This action is needed to facilitate improvements to Clark County's sanitary sewer system and to consolidate land ownership within the Salmon Creek Greenway.

Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation Department contacted the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) in 2004 regarding an interest by Clark County Public Works to locate a sewer pump station within the Salmon Creek Greenway. The pump station was needed to increase the sanitary sewer transmission capacity of the Salmon Creek Regional Wastewater Management System to allow for future growth in the area. As the project progressed, the conversion process was delayed in an effort to combine conversions within the Salmon Creek Greenway into one action and further refine the extent of the conversion areas.

The project site was purchased in part using a Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant which is protected under Section 6(f)(3) of the LWCF Act for outdoor recreation use in perpetuity. Conversion of such parkland for non-recreational use requires adequate replacement of the displaced site and use and preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) pursuant to the NEPA.

The replacement site, Foley Park (4.4 acres) is located approximately 1.5 miles west of the project site and proposed to include passive recreation opportunities, including open space to match or exceed those uses that were displaced on the conversion site.

### **Public Comment Period:**

The National Park Service (NPS) is the federal agency responsible for compliance with the LWCF Act and NEPA, and the Recreation and Conservation Office administers the LWCF grant program on behalf of NPS. Clark County is issuing this public notice on behalf of the NPS and RCO to encourage public review and comment on the proposed project and its probable impacts. Comments received will be forwarded to the state and federal authorities for consideration.

Comments will be accepted from October 4<sup>th</sup> to November 4<sup>th</sup>. Submit written comments to Lisa Hemesath at Clark County Department of Environmental Services, PO Box 9810, Vancouver, WA 98666-9810, or via email to [Lisa.Hemesath@clark.wa.gov](mailto:Lisa.Hemesath@clark.wa.gov). The Draft EA is available at <http://www.clark.wa.gov/publicworks/documents/Foley.pdf>. Printed copies are available for purchase for \$3.40.

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Clark County assures that no person shall on the grounds of race, color, religion, creed, sex, marital status, national origin, disability, age, veteran status, on-the-job injury or sexual orientation, as provided by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any county sponsored program or activity. Persons wishing information should contact the County Human Resources Manager at (360) 397-2456.