

PO Box 114  
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November 7, 2013

Public Comment on Park and Recreation 2012 Update to Comprehensive Plan Proposal.

Dear Planning Commissioners:

Mr. Adams, at your recent hearing held up a copy of an early Park Plan in a Brown cover; Shortly before, Mr. Christensen held up the proposed update. It seems to be about two hundred pages longer. Further inquiry shows that the 1996 Park Plan was updated in Skagit in 2004 by a Mr. Dragoo of Skagit County. This is the last Park Plan to be adopted by resolution or ordinance by the Skagit Board of County Commissioners.

References are unclear as to the exact origination of the present proposal. In many cases it is referred to as an update, and others as a new Comp[ Plan. To this I add that I have recently seen a Park Plan update for the State of Indiana promulgated by their Department of Natural Resources. It is an exact matrix for our current proposal administered by our State Department of Recreation and Conservation.

I erred in the dates I quoted in public testimony for Park Advisory Board deliberations on the proposed Plan. On May 28, 2009 the committee was told "The plan needs to be updated. It's necessary for community support, involvement, and for the eligibility of grant funding for projects. Mostly factual figures (sic) need updating {pricing, population, acres of land.} A survey would be beneficial. Trails plans would be updated and more inclusive.

Mention on the board agenda also occurs Sept 2009/ October 2009/ November 2009/ Sept 2010/ and Jan 2010.

If the non relevant content of quotes from philosophical ramblings of an ex governor, ideological beliefs of special interest groups, and public relations treatises were to be struck we would be left with a Skagit specific, lean, mean, focused plan we could both support and administer.

If you want to explore sources, do an internet search of open space, wildlands project., sustainability, smart growth, and state controlled land policy.

In Skagit County, the law of the land is the Growth Management Act and the subsequent Skagit County Comprehensive Plan in which the stewardship of rural lands falls to the land owners, not the county, state or federal government. There is no operational definition of open space.

GMA does require planning for trails, greenways, and corridors **within and between urban growth areas, not county wide.** Thank You      Ed Stauffer West Alger