



MONROE PLANNING COMMISSION

SUBJECT:	Letter Supporting a North Hill area Acquisition for a Public Park
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DATE:	DEPT:	CONTACT:	PRESENTER:	ITEM:
05/11/2020	Parks	Denise Johns	Denise Johns	NB #1

Discussion: 05/11/2020

Attachments: 1. Draft Letter of Support

REQUESTED ACTION: Authorize the Planning Commission Chair to Sign a Letter Supporting a North Hill area Acquisition for a Public Park

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Acquiring land for a new neighborhood park in Monroe's North Hill area is included as a major goal and objective in the City's adopted 2020 Budget and is a priority project in the City's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). Once acquired, the land will become a new neighborhood park serving Monroe's growing North Hill area residents fulfilling the City's level-of-service goals. Park land acquisition has been identified in the City's Parks Recreation and Open Space Plans, Capital Improvement Plans since 2007.

The Planning Commission policy question is whether supporting the City's grant application in 2020 to acquire the 'North Hill Area Park Site' fulfills policies supporting the following City's Goals: Goal 2 'Manage Monroe's environment and natural resources, supporting the health, safety, welfare, recreational needs and economic well-being of current and future generations'. Goal 7: Provide parks and civic facilities, recreational opportunities, and arts and cultural activities on pace with need, growth and long-term objectives.

DESCRIPTION/BACKGROUND

Staff is preparing a grant application to Washington State Conservation Office (RCO), Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) Local Parks Program. The grant requested amount proposed is \$1,000,000, the program's maximum. The grant will provide partial funding to acquire approximately 5 acres of an existing 8.2 acre parcel from a private party. The parcel is located in the North Hill area of Monroe.

FISCAL IMPACT

Funding has yet to be identified for the purchase. The City intends to acquire the land using grants and other City financing. If successful in its grant effort and prior to City's acceptance of RCO funding, staff will return to City Council with alternative funding recommendations. Once the property is acquired, the City will incur additional costs in future years related to the neighborhood park's planning, design, construction, and maintenance.

TIME CONSTRAINTS

The letter of support will be included with the City's grant submittal, due June 1, 2020.



May 11, 2020

Mayor Geoffrey Thomas
806 West Main Street
Monroe, WA 98272

Subject: Recreation and Conservation Office Grant Application
Project: 20-1288 ACQ. Monroe North Hill Park Site

Dear Mayor Thomas,

The City of Monroe's Planning Commission would like to express our support for the City's efforts to purchase five acres in the North Hill area of Monroe. The property is intended to be developed into a neighborhood park, which is very much needed in this growing residential area. As one of the last large land parcels available, suitable, and accessible in the North Hill area of Monroe, we are excited to see the property developed for public recreation use. Currently, our new residents surrounding the site have to travel by car to reach the closest public recreation area.

Parkland acquisition in Monroe's North Hill area has been identified in several City park planning documents over the years, yet unattainable until now. Currently the property acquisition represents a major goal and objective in the City's current 5-Year Strategic Plan and is a priority project in the City's 2020 Parks 6-year Capital Improvement Plan. For many years comprehensive plans and public surveys have recognized this critical gap in the 'level-of-service' for public recreational access in this area and community members supported the vision for a North Hill neighborhood park.

Thank you for continuing to strive to improve the health and well-being of our community and protect our environment by providing vibrant, accessible, sustainably-designed parks.

Sincerely,

Bridgette Tuttle
Planning Commission Chair