



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF  
**Natural Resources**  
Peter Goldmark - Commissioner of Public Lands

# Proposed Lake Kapowsin Aquatic Reserve

## Open House Summary

October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2014, 6:30 p.m. –8:30 p.m.  
Kapowsin Elementary School

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**ATTENDANCE:** Approximately 32

### **PURPOSE OF THE MEETING:**

- To share information about the Aquatic Reserves Program with the community. Describe the benefits of the program and why Lake Kapowsin has been proposed as an aquatic reserve.
- Listen to community ideas, suggestions and concerns. Gather feedback on recreational uses, the natural environment, and local history and culture.

### **INTRODUCTIONS AND PRESENTATION:**

1. Introductions
2. Presentation by Birdie Davenport, Aquatic Reserves Program Manager (15 minutes)

Questions following the presentation:

- Q: Will other forms of recreation be allowed?
  - A: Reserve designation only pertains to state-owned aquatic lands. It does not affect fishing.
- Q: Negative connotations for recreation from the aquatic reserve?
  - A: Fishing and boating would not be affected by the reserve designation. This is the beginning of the scoping process and potential uses would be incorporated into a site-specific management plan.
- Q: Will you have groups like Forterra looking to buy areas adjacent to the reserve? Will that happen here?
  - A: DNR doesn't have information about any projects by Forterra near Lake Kapowsin. A proposed reserve does benefit from existing upland protection.
- Q: What is being reserved?

- A: All state-owned aquatic lands have some stewardship. The reserve designation provides another level of protection and review of potential uses. It enables DNR to focus more staff resources, restoration, monitoring, etc. on Lake Kapowsin.
- Q: Where did this idea come from?
  - A: This is an internal DNR nomination. We recognized Lake Kapowsin as a good candidate for the Aquatic Reserve Program.
- Q: Do you have other examples of freshwater reserves so that we can see the effects?
  - A: We currently have 7 aquatic reserves throughout Puget Sound. This would be the first freshwater aquatic reserve.

## WORKSHOP:

3. John Kleim facilitated a workshop designed to gather community feedback on the Proposed Lake Kapowsin Aquatic Reserve. These comments will be used to help guide the planning process.
4. **Focus question:** What are your ideas, hopes and concerns for Lake Kapowsin being part of WDNRs Aquatic Reserves Program?
  - Individually brainstorm 10 answers to this question (15 minutes)
  - Work together in teams of 4-5 to people and select 3-5 answers to share with the entire group (20 minutes). .
5. Each team selected their top comment to post and discuss. The group worked together to find connections between the ideas. This process continued in subsequent rounds until the teams posted all new ideas on the wall.
  - First Tier comments
    - Maintain sportsmen’s right
    - Does reserve lead to preserve? (Will there be hunting or fishing restrictions?)
    - Will raised awareness increase usage?
    - Don’t snowball bureaucracy
    - Clean up the lake front (litter and garbage dumping)
    - Boat racing will affect anadromous fish
  - Second Tier comments
    - Security at boat ramp (currently a there is a lot of vandalism and trash dumping)
    - Larger fines for trash and litter
    - Free access
      - Currently must have a fishing license, a Vehicle Access Pass, or a Discover Pass to park at the boat ramp, no free access

- If you increase shoreline access and activity there is an increased chance for litter, or alternately if there are more people recreating at the lake there is a decreased chance that people can dump large truck loads without being seen.
      - Preserve fish habitat (Bass spawn on the submerged tree stumps)
      - Allow a boat center or racing course
      - Shoreline activities may affect water quality
    - Third Tier comments
      - Restore “no name” creek that quads have destroyed
      - What are the tax implications?
      - Check for pollution at old mill sites
      - Preserve human history of the lake – historic town and pilings
      - Trail and interpretive signs would be great
      - Public/private partnership to assemble park – raise the money and maintain it
    - Fourth Tier comments
      - Picnic area (perhaps with interpretive center)
      - Make center of lake safe for boating, but don’t remove habitat - no net loss
6. Comments with common themes were grouped together into seven categories and summarized. Categories:
1. **Preserve natural habitat and the access to it** - Keep it as a sportsman lake, more natural, keep the lake clean
  2. **Balance usage and preservation & restoration**
  3. **Clear Lines of accountability** – Clear partnership between agencies, local government, land owners, etc.
  4. **Include people in the plans** - Plan for people and respect human history
  5. **Making it a healthy lake** – Clean-up and maintain the lake
  6. **Multi-use public park**
  7. **How much is it going to cost?** - How do you pay for it? Where does the funding come from?

Preserve Natural Habitat & Access To It	Balance Usage, Preservation, & Restoration	Include People in the Plans	How Do You Pay for It?	Clear Lines of Accountability	Making It a Healthy Lake	Multi-Use Public Park
Maintain sportsman's rights	Will raised awareness increase usage?	Preserve human history of lake (e.g. town pilings)	Free access	Don't snowball bureaucracy	Check for pollution at old mill sites	Boat racing on lake may threaten anadromous fish
Does reserve lead to "preserve"	Shoreline activities may impact water quality	Picnic area	What are the tax implications?	Shoreline owners become more restricted	Larger fines for trash & litter	Allow rowing center & race course
Security at boat launch	Restore "No Name" Creek	Trails & interpretive signs would be great			Clean up lake frontage	Make center of lake safe for boating, but preserve habitat - no net loss-
Preserve fish habitat						Public private partnership to assemble park raise the money & maintain it

**CLOSING:**

Discussed a follow-up meeting in 1-2 month and also providing the meeting summary to those who attended. After the meeting DNR gathered information on species present at the lake, recreational usage, history of the area and sites of interest.

**ADDITIONAL COMMENT SUBMITTED BY EMAIL:**

I wholeheartedly endorse the idea of turning Kapowsin Lake into a reserve. The lake is not just an ecological marvel, with trees seeming to come from nowhere from its depth, it is an example of nature recovering from the trauma of man's intervention.

My first adventure on the lake was more than 50 years ago. My father took me fishing on the lake. My mother taught me to swim in the lake. I spent many summers picking blackberries near the edge of the lake. In college, I took photos of the lake. I confess that I love this lake and have enjoyed watching it change, and yet not change, over the decades.

The lake has been recuperating from the days when there were mills - more than one, I'm sure - along the edges. Look at old photos and you'll see a town squatting along the lakefront that I believe the Muckleshoot Indian Nation now owns. When I was a girl, the Ericksons ran their cows on that land. It's been used and used and now is probably pushing heirloom apple trees. Walk carefully in the field and you probably will see the remnants of streets. They were there once, bustling with people, before the town burned and the City of Tacoma decided it wanted the lake as a water source.

I hope someone will mention that not only is the lake teeming with fish, it's a habitat for ducks and geese and once was a habitat to a swan or two. I'm not sure anyone ever proved that, though. In any event, thank you, on behalf of the birds, for this proposal.

Kapowsin Lake truly is a one-of-a-kind lake and it deserves this special designation.