

Proposed Lake Kapowsin Aquatic Reserve

Workshop Summary

June 29nd, 2016, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Graham Fire Station 94

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 comments and answer questions about the proposed reserve.
- Provide an opportunity for local residents to share ideas about how to build a community partnership for Lake Kapowsin.
- Ensure local public interest is included in the plan.

Agenda

6:00 – 6:15 – Browse listening posts

6:15 – 6:30 – Purpose of the meeting – short presentation

6:30 – 7:50 - Listening posts and writing comments

7:50 – 8:00 -Wrap up

- 18 people signed in to the meeting.
- There were five “listening posts” set up for discussion
 1. Aquatic Reserve and DNR – Community Connection
 2. Unique Features of Lake Kapowsin
 3. Learn More About the Management Plan
 4. Community Involvement
 5. History

Comments and Questions

Unique Features of Lake Kapowsin

Question: What is the difference in how the lake will be managed as an aquatic reserve (as opposed to maintaining the present status)?

Response: The state-owned portion of the lake will be managed to protect the unique characteristics of the lake that support current public uses and according to a plan developed and implemented in cooperation with a local implementation committee and comments and recommendations from the public.

Comment: Only 2 lakes in Pierce County open for hunting. Silver Lake and Lake Kapowsin. Silver Lake has no public access. Wood ducks and mallards are the 2 primary birds that are hunted.

Question: Does anyone monitor wood duck populations and wood duck boxes?

Answer: Yes. The wood duck boxes were installed and are maintained by local Washington Waterfowl members.

Comment: Place some receptacles to deposit derelict fishing line and gear.

Comment: QR code for public to learn present species.

Answer: A QR code (graphic to scan with your phone) could be added to outreach materials and future interpretative stations for access to more in-depth information.

Learning More about the Management Plan

Question: Where is the Aquatic Reserves Program in the DNR structure?

Response: The Aquatic Reserves Program is in the Aquatics Division of DNR and managed out of the Aquatic Lands Planning and Stewardship Section.

Comment: The lake is unique in that you can catch bass throughout the entire lake because of all the structure (submerged trees and logs) to hide around.

Comment: It would be nice to have camping areas available around the lake.

Comment: Interested for protection of biodiversity.

Question: Are motorized boats allowed on the Lake?

Response: Yes.

Comment: Location of a telephone cable was drawn in on the map.

Question: Do you see remote controlled toy boats on the lake? Are they a disturbance for birds?

Response: DNR staff have not seen them.

Comment: Elk are often seen up no-name creek by the air strip between 240th near S. Orville Road.

Question: Define “make it a healthy lake.”

Response: This was a comment we heard during our initial 2014 outreach public meetings. We understand this refers to limiting pollutants such as fecal coliform that result from failing septic systems; reduce garbage dumping and abuse; and control invasive species/foster native plants on shorelines.

Question: How would you increase enforcement at boat launch? What can be done there?

Response: This is a good example of how we would work with the Implementation Committee to generate practical options to pursue. In conjunction with WDFW, these options might include recruiting and training volunteer site stewards; a volunteer gate keeper to open and close the gate; installing cameras, and so on.

Question: Were hunters on the planning committee?

Response: DNR did attempt to recruit representation from hunters but without success. As part of the 2016 outreach meeting we met representatives from hunting organizations that are committed to participating in the future.

Question: How do you know if wetlands are state-owned aquatic lands? Why aren't north wetlands state-owned aquatic lands?

Response: County parcel data, tax records and state ownership data provided the information regarding ownership. Wetlands are rarely considered "navigable" which is a primary factor in defining state-owned aquatic lands.

Question: What is the shoreline ownership of Jaybird Island?

Response: Our records indicate that the Puyallup Tribe owns a small portion of the southern shorelands and the state owns the remaining portion of shorelands.

Community Involvement

Comment: Effort should go to promote a secure, clean and safe environment around the lake. Parking may not be a good option unless this changes.

Response: This is a good example of how we would work with the Implementation Committee to generate practical options to pursue.

Question: Will there be a row boat concession at the lake in the future?

Response: This idea has been promoted by a few other people. We will include this recommendation in the draft management plan (currently Goal 1, Objective 1.1, Strategy f).

Comment: Leave the lake the way it is.

Response: This is the intent of the management plan.

Comment: Improve shoreline access and develop picnic areas.

Response: This requires developing partnerships with Pierce County and adjacent land owners and is a recommendation in the draft management plan. [Goal 1: Promote public access, encourage sustainable recreation, and support continued fishing and hunting opportunities; Objective 1.1, Strategy a.]

History

No comments or questions at the June 29 meeting.