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August 2, 1995  
S36Plan  
MS:elm

Introduced by: BRIAN DERDOWSKI  
LARRY PHILLIPS  
Proposed No.: 95-542

MOTION NO. **9714**

A MOTION related to the King County Park System adopting the Section 36 program plan.

WHEREAS, King County acquired the 633-acre Section 36 for \$8 million in 1993 to preserve and protect the natural environment and provide passive and active recreation opportunities in the King County Park System, and

WHEREAS, Motion 9015 established a Section 36 Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) to advise King County on future uses of Section 36, and

WHEREAS, the CAC held ten public meetings, solicited public comment and considered a range of future uses, and

WHEREAS, Section 36 is a regional, multi-use property that provides a range of benefits for all the residents of King County;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:

King County adopts the attached program plan for future uses of Section 36 to guide the development of the proposed Section 36 Master Plan which will be subject to Council review and approval.

PASSED by a vote of 11 to 1 this 27<sup>th</sup> day of November 19 95

KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Kent Pullen  
Chair

ATTEST:

Gerald A. Peterson  
Clerk of the Council

Attachments: Section 36 Program Plan

Revised November 16, 1995

Section 36 Citizens Advisory Committee Recommended Revised 95-542

Attachment A

## **SECTION 36 PROGRAM PLAN**

### **Introduction**

1 The sheer size of Section 36 and the variety of its natural features are regional in  
2 character. Its location on the urban rural boundary provides a physical buffer that  
3 separates more intense urban development on the East Lake Sammamish Plateau  
4 from the rural Snoqualmie Valley. The overall program goals for this property are  
5 wildlife corridor and open space preservation, trails for equestrians, mountain  
6 bicycles and pedestrians, athletic field development, passive recreation and  
7 appropriate maintenance that supports these program elements.

8  
9 When the park land was purchased it was envisioned that active development  
10 **footprint would be limited to 80 acres.** ~~The program recommended below can be~~  
11 ~~accomplished within a footprint of between 100 and 130 acres, exclusive of the~~  
12 ~~entry road.~~ **The collective development of the Active and Passive Recreation**  
13 **and Support Services Zones (hereinafter called the developed footprint) should**  
14 **be limited to 80 acres.**

15  
16 The Parks Department recommendation is to pursue a limited development program  
17 that respects this site's natural systems and balances all elements of the program. In  
18 recognition of this balance, this site has been classified as a Regional, Multi-Use  
19 Site.

20  
21 **In order to minimize the developed footprint of the park, the use of alternatives**  
22 **to existing codes, policies and design and development standards for parking**  
23 **and sports fields is strongly encouraged.**

### **Athletic Field Development**

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27 The public comments on future athletic field development supported maximizing  
28 athletic field development at Section 36. However, the following recommendation  
29 for athletic field development portrays a balance between preserving the site's  
30 natural beauty and resources and athletic field needs.

31  
32 Ten acres of multi-purpose turf with irrigation and underdrainage should be  
33 included for activities like youth soccer and T-ball, pick up games, frisbee, large  
34 picnics, etc. This area should not be lighted. Provide one baseball and three softball  
35 fields in a quad layout to minimize the footprint of the fields. In addition, four  
36 soccer fields with all-weather surfaces, irrigation and underdrainage are  
37 recommended. The baseball/softball and soccer fields should be lighted to  
38 maximize play. Lighting should employ the latest technology to minimize glare.  
39 New lighting systems like the Bellevue ballfields at Marymoor and the Meadowdale  
40 Playfields may be effective in minimizing glare and light spill. **Lighting of sports**  
41 **fields should be considered only after all other alternatives are eliminated.**

### **Other Development**

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45 Parking, restrooms, and one large centrally-located play area, should be  
46 concentrated to serve the field users and provide access to the trail system.  
47 Vegetation inside the active zone should be included to incorporate and extend the  
48 character of the site's natural features and provide a buffer for adjacent property near  
49 the athletic fields and to increase the density of buffers between these areas and the  
50 urban wildlife habitat.

### **Joint Development**

51  
52  
53  
54 Joint development opportunities between King County and the Issaquah and Lake  
55 Washington School Districts will provide a critical alternative to the demand for  
56 athletic fields on the Plateau.

1  
2 **Maintenance**  
3

4 To support maintenance of the Park, a maintenance facility approximating the size  
5 of those constructed at Beaver Lake or Hamlin Parks is necessary. The location of  
6 this facility should provide efficient vehicle access to those more intensely-  
7 developed portions of the property without visually dominating the viewshed. No  
8 fueling for maintenance vehicle capability will be required. The final master plan  
9 should incorporate the estimated operating costs for the site at full build out. King  
10 County will seek partnerships with interested volunteer and other organizations to  
11 minimize public maintenance costs and maximize public use.  
12

13 **Trails (Internal and Regional Connector)**  
14

15 Loop soft surface trails for equestrians, mountain bicycles and pedestrians, should  
16 be provided. **Provide within the park some exclusively pedestrian trails. Except**  
17 **with regards the Regional trail, mountain bicycle trails should be separate**  
18 **from other user trails.** To minimize alteration of habitat, and allow for interaction  
19 of trail users, these trails should merge where appropriate. Only pedestrian and  
20 equestrian trails will be allowed in the designated urban wildlife habitat. The 12-  
21 foot wide paved Klahanie Trail and separated equestrian trail will enter from the  
22 south on a alignment paralleling the access road from Trossachs and terminate  
23 inside the heart of Section 36. Future plans for continuation north are subject to  
24 Council review and approval of the alignment.  
25

26 The existing Northwest Passage Trail should remain. However, future alignment  
27 could be subject to potential relocation based on further review of wetland and  
28 wetland buffer requirements. Under any circumstance, a new alignment must  
29 connect to the west and south.  
30

31 Mountain bicycle trails should provide a challenging experience that includes tight  
32 turns, undulating topography and ~~trail obstacles like wind thrown trees on a narrow~~  
33 ~~tread trail features designed to minimize user speed while enhancing enjoyment.~~

34 Additional A loop trails trail system should be provided within the active-area  
35 **Active and Passive Recreation and Support Services Zone of the park.**  
36

37 **Site Access**  
38

39 The Parks Department recommends that no through road be constructed at Section  
40 36. In addition, based on the uncertain timing of adjacent private developments,  
41 access from the west and south are recommended. The preferred access is from the  
42 south based on population concentrations and a comparison of road development  
43 costs.  
44

45 Actual road pavement width should be as narrow as possible to minimize  
46 destruction of habitat and meander to minimize vehicle speeds. For the benefit of  
47 public safety and wildlife habitat preservation, buffers between the road, paved trail  
48 and the equestrian trail are critical.  
49

50 **Sale of Section 36**  
51

52 Because there is a large existing deficit of acreage in the Park System, ownership of  
53 all of Section 36 should be retained by King County.  
54