

October 18, 1996

Introduced By: Greg Nickels
Ron Sims

Maury:sdw

Proposed No.: 96-721

MOTION NO. **9992**

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A MOTION related to the King County Park and Open Space System; adopting the program plan for Maury Island Regional Park.

WHEREAS, the population of King County is projected to increase by an estimate of 325,000 residents over the next 15 years, increasing the need and demand for parks and open space;

WHEREAS, parks contribute to residents' physical, mental and emotional health and support the high quality of life our area is known for by providing the opportunity for residents to get away from the more densely populated urban areas and experience the outdoor amenities of the region;

WHEREAS, Maury Island Regional Park is located on Vashon/Maury Island within a short ferry ride from the urban areas of the County;

WHEREAS, Maury Island Regional Park serves both a local and regional population and is classified as a regional park;

WHEREAS, Maury Island Regional Park includes almost 300 acres, and 1 and 1/3 miles of saltwater shoreline;

WHEREAS, the program planning process included a public participation component consisting of public meetings on Vashon Island and the mainland, survey questionnaires sent to local groups, individual contacts generated by press

1 releases, and an initial inventory and analysis by the
2 planning team of staff and consultants;

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

4 The attached Maury Island Regional Park Program Plan is
5 hereby adopted, as amended, and shall be incorporated into
6 the Master Plan, provided, however, the following policy
7 framework shall guide the development of the master plan for
8 Maury Island Regional Park:

9 The park is intended as a refuge for park users to
10 experience and enjoy Puget Sound shoreline, the water, and
11 the adjoining uplands with its natural features and
12 magnificent views; and

13 The park shall predominantly be used for passive
14 recreation and development shall be minimal and shall respect
15 the natural features of the site; and

16 King County shall preserve the unique natural resources
17 on the site, including but not limited to the Pacific
18 Madrones, the saltwater shoreline areas, and areas with
19 wildlife habitat, and shall restore those portions of the
20 site which have been degraded by prior use and development;
21 and

22 Access to the park shall be facilitated by boat, by
23 foot, by horse, by bicycle, and by vehicle but infrastructure
24 and support facilities such as parking areas shall be
25 appropriately scaled to conform with the natural features of
26 the site; and

27 Camping is an appropriate use at the park site but in
28 order to minimize the impacts of overnight park usage, the
29 total number of overnight camping sites should not exceed 30;

1 the development of camping sites should be phased, and an
2 overnight permitting system should be considered; and

3 Staff shall incorporate into the development of the
4 Maury Island Park Master Plan, a study to determine the
5 feasibility of an underwater diving facility. The study
6 shall consider safety concerns, permitting and approval
7 requirements, cost, liability, maintenance and monitoring,
8 and other relevant issues; and

9 The Master Plan shall include a security plan with the
10 option for an on-site caretakers facility; and

11 Due to the limited water supply from the Vashon-Maury
12 Island aquifer, boat wash-off facilities shall not be
13 provided at the park; and

14 The large, relatively flat areas located on the upper
15 portions of the park site could be considered for active
16 recreation activities and facilities; and

17 Retreat facilities, except for camping sites and picnic
18 shelters, are not appropriate uses for the shoreline and
19 wooded areas of the park; and

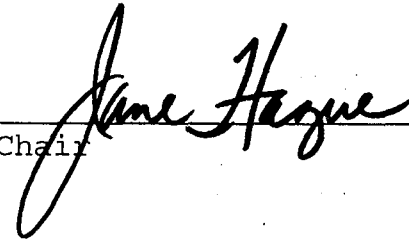
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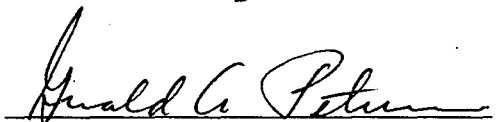
The Master Plan shall include a detailed phasing plan to guide the future development of the park improvements and facilities.

PASSED by a vote of 13 to 0 this 28th day of October, 1996.

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON


Chair

ATTEST:


Clerk of the Council

Attachment: Maury Island Regional Park Program Plan revised October 18, 1996

MAURY ISLAND REGIONAL PARK PROGRAM PLAN

Maury Island Regional Park is located along Puget Sound on the eastern shores of Maury Island, a small island connected by causeway to Vashon Island. It features almost 300 acres of both wooded and cleared hillsides with level benches and terraces offering a variety of opportunities for recreational use. A healthy stand of Pacific Madrones on the site may be one of the most significant in the region. The saltwater shoreline stretches 1 1/3 miles along Puget Sound and features an existing 150 foot dock. The site offers spectacular views of Mount Rainier and of mainland King County. The marine environment provides habitat for a variety of sea life including seals, orca whales, and octopus.

The site has some significance for Native Americans in the central Puget Sound area as part of a legend about the snake people. Portions of the site were early homesteads around the turn of the century and a logging camp was once located on the property. In 1905, Raeco built a large factory for the casting of Raecolith (a floor material similar to tile or cement), a dock for shipment and a boarding house for employees on the site. Gravel mining occurred on the site during recent times and a portion of the site continues to be mined through a 10 year lease with the County which expires in 2004. King County purchased the site for a park in 1994 for \$6.82 million.

Maury Island Marine Park will provide a variety of recreational opportunities on a day to day basis for local park users and as a destination for a more regional user group. Access to the site will be from both land and water. Facilities will support independent users, as well as groups. Programming for the site will focus on directed and informal interpretive themes related to site natural and cultural resources. Conservation of the sites natural resources, and restoration and enhancement of the disturbed areas of the site will be included as long term stewardship goals.

LAND USE CLASSIFICATION

This site is classified as a regional park and will predominantly serve as a passive recreation site in the King County Parks System. Specific use areas within the site will be further located and defined as part of the master site plan. The park use categories will include natural areas, passive recreation areas, active recreation areas, staging areas and special management areas. Areas will be mapped and identified based on a variety of factors, such as the type and location of sensitive areas, streams, slopes, wildlife corridors, wetlands, shorelines, and those areas suitable for varying levels of park development and use. The flat, upper portions of the site will be further evaluated for active recreation areas or facilities.

RECOMMENDED ACTIVITIES

This large site provides the opportunity to accommodate a range of activities. Activity areas will be located to allow users to enjoy the site as part of a group activity with groups of various sizes or to get away by themselves for private experiences. The site can be accessed by land and by water and will provide for both upland and shoreline activities, in addition to those associated with the marine environment. The following activities are recommended as appropriate for the site and are reflective of the input obtained during the public participation process:

- **Trail Use** - Trail use through the various areas of the park including the beach, hillside, homestead/orchard area, madrone forest. Individual trails will be designated and signed for appropriate use.
- **Picnicking** - Informal and group picnicking.
- **Kite Flying, Beach Combing, Fishing, Wading, Bird Watching** - Informal passive activity, non-scheduled.
- **Boating** - Accessing the park by water, use of boats for recreational purposes.
- **Horseback Riding** - Riding of horses on designated trails with access to off-site trails.
- **Group Retreats** - Utilization of facilities for group activities.
- **Camping** - Using camping areas as provided.
- **Scuba Diving** - Recreational diving.
- **Educational and Interpretive Activities** - Both directed and informal learning and appreciation of the sites resources.

RECOMMENDED FACILITIES TO SUPPORT PUBLIC USES

Many of the proposed activities for the site require facilities to support them and to direct users to the appropriate locations for their pursuit. The following identifies the range of facilities recommended to provide for public enjoyment. These facilities can be expected to be developed in phases over time. The Master Plan should include a detailed phasing plan for the development of the park improvements and facilities.

Waterfront Activities

- **Boat Anchorage** - Limited number of moorage buoys, dingy dock connected to fishing pier by ramp.
- **Fishing Pier** - Restore existing dock, providing railing, signage, access from dingy dock and lighting.
- **Car-Top Boat Launching Facility** - Load and unload area, staging area.

Internal Trail System

- **Trail System** - To include hiking, equestrian, and interpretive, with bird and wildlife information stations, limited site furnishings.
- **Interpretive Trails** - Beach trail, homestead trail.
- **Look Outs** - Small platforms with railings located at appropriate points with signage, appropriate measures to ensure safety and environmental protection.

Picnicking and Camping Facilities

- **Picnic Tables** - Picnic tables situated near the beach, near the picnic shelter, in the homestead/orchard area, and the group education area.
- **Picnic Shelters** - Medium size shelters with tables, electrical outlets, lighting, fireplaces, located near beach and group education area, and camping or primitive group camping area.
- **Large Picnic Shelter** - A shelter of sufficient size to accommodate large groups or events, could also be used as an interpretive gathering area for school groups during inclement weather.
- **Group Education Area** - Cleared area with informal seating (grass berms or low benches), fire pit and picnic tables
- **Group Camping Area** - Primitive, maximum number of people and or tents. Hose bib and toilet. Could be in proximity with Group Education Area.
- **Camping Area** - Sites are generally 20 by 20 feet in size, available domestic water, accessible restrooms, garbage receptacles, picnic tables and fire grills at each site.
- **Fire Pits** - Limited number of controlled fire pits along beach and in association with picnic shelters and camp sites. The location and number of fire pits shall be determined in regard to fire safety concerns.

Infrastructure and Support Facilities

- **Restrooms** - One to be located near the pier, potentially with outdoor showers for rinsing sand. Others to directly correlate to overnight and day use areas.
- **Access Road** - Paved road from top of site, accessing a main parking area, car top boat launching, and camping area.
- **Parking Area** - Parking suitable to serve the programmed facilities and activities.
- **Caretaker Facilities** - Residence cottage, maintenance/supply storage building. The on-site provision and location of caretaker facilities shall be analyzed with regard to providing security for the park site.

Activities and Facilities Needing Additional Information

These activities and facilities have been discussed and are of interest to include, but additional information and evaluation is necessary to determine their feasibility.

Underwater Facility

The establishment of an underwater facility was discussed during the program planning process. A few individuals expressed an interest in developing a diving amenity through the creation of an artificial reef. These reefs are comprised of sunken materials, such as old boats, pipes, etc. to provide attractions for aquatic species and add interest to divers. These provide the basis for an underwater trail system. Development of this facility would require the restriction of watercraft in the area of the artificial reef.

Additional research needs to be done in the areas of water current, safety, protected underwater species, permitting, separation from boating activities, etc. to determine feasibility.

- **Artificial Reef** - Separate from boat moorage and fishing pier, located, design and positioned to provide access for recreational divers. Upland facilities include loading and unloading area, staging area, temporary parking, signage, garbage receptacle and domestic water.

INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMS FOR THE PARK

Many interpretive possibilities for park programming have been identified. These may be the focus of both formal programs or provided for by individual experiences through interpretive signage, brochures, etc. These opportunities include:

- History of Maury Island and the property (including Native American use, Raeco/Raicolith tiles, and the gravel mining operation.)
- Possible interpretive displays with historic photographs/diagrams of gravel and tile operations.
- Connections to the regions: shipping lanes; sites where the gravel has been sent (Seattle, Bangor, etc.)
- Natural forces combined with the disturbed site; what this tells us about the environment.

STEWARDSHIP AND MAINTENANCE

Portions of the park site have been repeatedly disturbed over the years and will require restoration and enhancement as part of development and long term stewardship of the site. These areas and appropriate methods of restoration will be identified in the master site plan. The natural features of the site, including but not limited to the Pacific Madrones and the shoreline areas, shall be preserved.