

**From:** [Nicole Floyd](#)  
**To:** [Warren Devine](#)  
**Cc:** [Casey Schaufler](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Possible Development at Smith Lake  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 11, 2021 8:23:18 AM

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Warren,

Thank you for the information below and being patient with me while we made the application assignment. I have Added Casey Schaufler to this email chain so that he has your contact information. He will add you to the parties of record list for the re-zone and will probably use some of the information you provided below to being research on this application proposal. I am not sure if the City supports the proposal, we need to do a little more research to determine a variety of factors. Much like you point out below, its important to understand impacts. I understand your position related to environmental protection and the unique character of this lake. It is an interesting question as to which would provide more protection, the current zone or proposed zone. The current zone would allow more residences, but require sewer rather than allowing septic systems which would be the case for the proposal. The proposal would allow development now, whereas the current zoning would likely postpone any development until sewer infrastructure were in place, which might be quite some time.

What's noteworthy is that in either scenario the critical area ordinance would supersede in regard to how close to the lake one can build. We do not yet have the wetland reports and other scientific documents, but my guess is that the wetlands around the lake are high quality and would therefore require larger buffers. The property owner will need to determine the edge of wetland and then a buffer of...(depends but if its as high quality as you say – 220' seems likely). The buffer is required to be held in a separate tract of land. This means a protected tract would be adjacent to the lake, not individual properties. Now, the code could allow trail to the lake and some recreational features for the homeowners association to use, but that would need to be evaluated and approved and would be a single access point through the forest/wetland belt around the lake.

Again, thank you for taking the time to provide some input. Casey will add you to the parties of record list and might reach out for more info once he starts in on this.

*Nicole Floyd, AICP*

Principal Planner | City of Olympia  
601 4<sup>th</sup> Ave E. | Olympia, WA 98501  
Ph: 360.570.3768 | Fax: 360.753.8087  
Web: [olympiawa.gov](http://olympiawa.gov)

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**From:** Warren Devine <warrendevine@comcast.net>

**Sent:** Monday, May 10, 2021 9:52 PM

**To:** Nicole Floyd <nfloyd@ci.olympia.wa.us>

**Subject:** Re: Possible Development at Smith Lake

**External Email Alert!**

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Hello Nicole,

Thank you for your email of April 8 acknowledging our concern about possible development of property adjacent to Smith Lake. I realize you have limited information about the application from Blackbird Smith Lake LLC, however I want to confirm my desire to become a party of record and to be placed on your mailing list.

You said it would be helpful to know if we support or oppose a forthcoming rezoning request. Without more information we cannot say whether we would support or oppose a change, but it might be helpful to you if I briefly summarize why we have been against development proposals in the past.

Access. Shana Park is a quiet subdivision of 138 properties and no sidewalks. Families and their pets walk, run, and bike on streets with little traffic. Normandy Drive curves through the neighborhood from Yelm Highway to Viewridge Drive, where it dead-ends just before reaching the woods and wetland of Smith Lake. A developer once proposed to extend Normandy across the wetland to serve as the major access to his property. Such an artery would dramatically increase traffic and noise, changing the nature of Shana Park forever. Should the present developer propose this, he can expect vigorous opposition.

Flooding. Smith Lake covers approximately 16 acres and has a drainage basin of 67 acres. A 1949 earthquake reduced inflow from natural springs and significantly lowered lake level. Now inflow is from rainfall, groundwater, and runoff; there is no outflow. In the late 1990s high precipitation caused inundation of our lot and damage to our neighbor's lot. A study by Gibbs and Olson of Olympia made several recommendations to deal with this situation, and these were carried out. However in 2016 high groundwater again required us to make modifications. There are twelve property owners bordering the lake, and we have been concerned that a

large development—*because of loss of trees and other vegetation*—will augment existing inflow and jeopardize our homes. This concern was especially acute in 2007 when a developer proposed surrounding the lake with 129 homes and associated hardscape.

Environment. Smith Lake is *not* a recreational lake, nor is it a bog or swamp. It is, rather, something rare: a healthy example of a freshwater endorheic lake. Because water of such lakes can only be lost by evapotranspiration or percolation, pollutants gradually build up and wildlife suffers. Smith Lake, however, is in good health! We know this because of its population of pied-billed grebes. These water birds serve as “indicator species” because they are particularly sensitive to pollution. This has resulted in their decline in New England states where they are classified as endangered.

A wildlife biologist and I have compiled a database of our wildlife observations near the lake. It contains 95 bird species including three that are candidates for State listing, as well as bald eagles that nest in a tall fir nearby. There is an occupied beaver lodge off the southwest shore, and beavers can be seen at dawn and dusk towing cuttings from the west end to their home.

Other than small portions of twelve properties, Smith Lake is surrounded by a belt of forest 150' to 300' wide. *If left undisturbed*, this forest provides a natural buffer zone for the lake and wetland. It also provides wildlife with irreplaceable shelter and food, and is a shield from artificial light and noise.

Smith Lake could be the last small lake in Olympia not surrounded by development. This healthy endorheic lake is very likely one-of-a-kind here, and because it is particularly sensitive to disturbance, should by all means be preserved in its present condition.

Warren Devine  
5006 Viewridge Drive SE  
Olympia, WA 98501  
(360) 628-8717

P.S. If you or the planner assigned to this application have time to visit our community, please let me know. We will be pleased to show you around.

On Apr 8, 2021, at 12:03 PM, Nicole Floyd <[nfloyd@ci.olympia.wa.us](mailto:nfloyd@ci.olympia.wa.us)> wrote:

Warren,

The permit application has not yet been fully submitted. I am aware that the property owner is working towards applying to reduce the zoning density from 4-8 units per acre to a maximum of 4 per acre. The application is not complete nor do I know for sure if the City would support the request. It is my understanding that the property owner is requesting a reduction in density. I believe the primary purpose of this request is that sewer is not currently available in the near vicinity that can be used for this parcel. As it stands, in order to develop the parcel with more than one home, sewer would need to be extended which is cost prohibitive. The proposal to reduce the density would allow a lot size that would accommodate development with septic systems rather than sewer, which is probably a more affordable alternative. You may want to wait, and reach out again once we have further information about this application. It would also be helpful to know if you support or do not support their request and why. I understand your desire to preserve the environment, but I can see how the argument for and against this proposal can be made based on differing environmental concerns / perspective.

Once the application is deemed complete and is ready for processing, it will be assigned to a planner and you would be able to become a party of record and will be added to the email list. That just has not yet happened yet.

*Nicole Floyd, AICP*

Principal Planner | City of Olympia  
601 4<sup>th</sup> Ave E. | Olympia, WA 98501  
Ph: 360.570.3768 | Fax: 360.753.8087  
Web: [olympiawa.gov](http://olympiawa.gov)

**From:** [The Stephens](#)  
**To:** [Casey Schaufler](#)  
**Subject:** File 21-1729  
**Date:** Friday, June 4, 2021 8:39:43 PM

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I am confused as to how this can happen! There is a lot of wildlife as I thought this was a Washington Nature Preserve due to its physical, cultural and historic features? It appears as though you all believe houses are more important than wildlife? This will upset the EcoBalance. All these animals have been squeezed into a tighter spot due to new housing being thrown up everywhere, this includes Herman Rd. and new apartments on Wiggins and Donnely, where is all the wildlife supposed to go? Please give them a break, they were here before us all!

The Lake is already starting to bring in miscellaneous mischievous activity due to the unusually high activity on the Trail due to the new housing on Herman Rd., as well as the homeless population appearing to be moving closer and closer to this area, such as sleeping in the Lowe's parking lot.

Normandy Dr. already has enough traffic just to handle all the original neighbors and now you are suggesting to make this a fairway to new housing? This is a family friendly community, young children ride their bikes in the streets and everyone knows to be on the lookout for young children. With all the new housing that they threw up off Wiggins and Donnely, those people are using Normandy to cut off the light at the corner.

I want more information about why you all think this is a good idea and information on how we can fight this.

Thank you for your time!

**From:** [L. Larsen](#)  
**To:** [Casey Schaufler](#)  
**Subject:** Comment re Smith Lake Rezone  
**Date:** Friday, June 11, 2021 1:57:45 PM

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**YES I want to fully support the change from Residential 4-8 units per acre to Residential 4 units per acre. That is certainly a step in the right direction to protect the wetlands of Smith Lake and environs.**

**My big concern, however, is down the road when someone gets permission to actually build houses on this land.** This will probably be a lot of houses, meaning a lot of people, and a lot more cars! I live in Woodsmuir, and we have no sidewalks, and right now we get a lot of people coming from the Shana Park area, and the speed at which some drivers decide to go to "cut through our neighborhoods," for both Shana Park AND Woodsmuir, can be dangerous. Some folks traveling west make a right turn at the light at the Yelm Hwy and Normandy Dr SE and then "cut through" to Wiggins at 35 mph, thus avoiding having to stop behind traffic at the next Yelm Hwy stoplight at Wiggins.

I was out doing my daily mile walk in the rain today on Glendale Dr around 12:30 pm, and with a LOT of water running along both sides of this crown road, if there are cars coming from both directions passing me at about the same time, the only thing to do is to walk/stand in the water or quickly get onto a neighbor's property. I came home thinking that maybe I should save my money and invest in an indoor treadmill!

I KNOW Olympia continues to grow and we need more housing of all kinds, but **I hope the future plans will contain a road link-up with 45th for this new property, as well as perhaps the extension of Fuller Rd (which is mainly private right now), besides just linking things up with Normandy Dr taking the brunt.**

Thank you,

Leilani Larsen  
3734 Glendale Dr Se  
Olympia, WA 98501  
heylarsfam@msn.com

**From:** [gary.rosengren](mailto:gary.rosengren)  
**To:** [Casey.Schaufler](mailto:Casey.Schaufler)  
**Subject:** Party of Record project Smith lake Rezone #21-1729  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 15, 2021 12:09:59 PM

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Hello, I would like to be a Party of Record for the Smith lake Rezone #21-1729.

I would like to go on record and comment that I DO NOT want this development to go through. It will create too much traffic on my street (Normandy Dr SE) and create a hazard to the children and pedestrians who walk on it daily. The road is just wide enough for 2 cars, so more traffic will cause issues for anyone wanting to use it other than driving. Plus this development will cause issues with the bird species, beavers and eagles who live there. They have rights too. And the affect it will have on the lake itself. One big thing is the cutting down of trees. That is getting out of hand around here. I have lived here awhile now and the trees are disappearing at a high rate. I also don't like the idea of their septic system possibly affecting Shana Park wells.

Gary Rosengren (360-528-1658)  
glrosengren@yahoo.com

**From:** [Lydia Moorehead](#)  
**To:** [Casey Schaufler](#)  
**Cc:** [Aiesa Johnston](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Smith lake Rezone Project Number 21-1729  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 15, 2021 2:08:28 PM

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Hi Casey,

Here is a Smith Lake Rezone comment letter for you. Looks like it came through the cpdinfo email so it may be a duplicate if they sent one to you directly....

Lydia Moorehead | Associate Planner  
Olympia Planning & Community Development Department  
601 4th Avenue East | PO Box 1967 | Olympia WA 98507-1967  
360.570.3746  
[lmoorehe@ci.olympia.wa.us](mailto:lmoorehe@ci.olympia.wa.us)

-----Original Message-----

From: Aiesa Johnston <[ajohnsto@ci.olympia.wa.us](mailto:ajohnsto@ci.olympia.wa.us)>  
Sent: Tuesday, June 15, 2021 2:05 PM  
To: Lydia Moorehead <[lmoorehe@ci.olympia.wa.us](mailto:lmoorehe@ci.olympia.wa.us)>  
Subject: FW: Smith lake Rezone Project Number 21-1729

I believe this is for you.

Kind Regards,

Aiesa Johnston  
Program Assistant | Community Planning & Development She/Her Pronouns  
360-753-8314  
601 4th Ave East, Olympia

-----Original Message-----

From: [partyanimal@mindspring.com](mailto:partyanimal@mindspring.com) <[partyanimal@mindspring.com](mailto:partyanimal@mindspring.com)>  
Sent: Tuesday, June 15, 2021 12:51 PM  
To: cpdinfo <[cpdinfo@ci.olympia.wa.us](mailto:cpdinfo@ci.olympia.wa.us)>  
Cc: [Partyanimal@mindspring.com](mailto:Partyanimal@mindspring.com)  
Subject: Smith lake Rezone Project Number 21-1729

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Dear City of Olympia Community Planning & Development

I am sending this email and want to attend your Public Hearing on the Smith Lake rezone Project 21-1729.

I live on 5030 Viewridge Dr SE, in Shanna Park. I live next to Smith Lake which is directly across from the proposed development. I have lived here now for over 30 years and have seen Smith Lake rise and fall depending on the year. In the late 90's it rose to an extreme height which flooded several of the homesites along the lake on viewridge. At the time I was the Association President and got Thurston County to do a Study of the Lake. That Study was published on 1-13-1999 called the Smith Lake Flood Level Mitigation and Feasibility report. In that report was also several recommendations on ways to manage future flooding of the homes along Smith Lake. The



first two options (Do Nothing or Modify Property raising the yards) was never a viable option.

Option 3, The Pumping and Drainage options were the only realistic solutions that needed to be considered.

I request that you obtain this Smith Lake Flood Level Mitigation and Feasibility report and insure that its recommendations (Options 3), are also part of the rezone Project.

Thanks

Todd Jenkins

5030 Viewridge DR SE

Olympia, WA 98501

Mobil: 360-789-3782

To: Casey Schaufler, Assistant Planner  
City of Olympia Community Planning and Development  
P.O. Box 1967  
Olympia, WA 98507

From: Barbara Craven, Owner  
5010 Viewridge Dr. SE  
Olympia, WA 98501

June 29, 2021

Subject: Project 21-1729 Smith Lake Rezone

Dear Planners:

It is not possible at this time for me to take a position on the rezone due to lack of information. I'm concerned, however, about impacts of any development.

I am the owner of a property on Smith Lake that has been inundated by high water during separate heavy rain years. In the late 1990s, water was so high that a sump pump had to be placed under the kitchen to prevent water from reaching floorboards. The pump was operating for four months. In 2016, high water remained on my lawn for so long that it killed the grass, and I had to replace a large section. When the water rises, I am often concerned that it will overtake the house, and that a sump pump will not be able to prevent it from getting higher than in the 1990s. There is nowhere the water can be pumped to that is not back into the water surrounding the house.

The house next door was also affected during those years, even more so than mine.

Development brings with it hardscape that prevents water from its natural flow into the ground, and thus, it is likely that those of us living in the Smith Lake basin will experience even more high water than in those other years if development above us proceeds. This directly affects public health, safety, and welfare (Criterion B). It is not reasonable to expect a developer to mitigate these effects enough, nor is it smart for residents to believe they'll do everything they say they will.

The land surrounding the proposed rezone mostly consists of 5-acre plots with one house. I would be in favor of development along those lines, as it would be in keeping with what's there already. Four per acre is too many.

Is it possible to create a new zone? This would be a transition zone. Right now, the area of Smith Lake is a transition between city and county, and it should remain so. Notwithstanding the City's desire to develop everything they can, and the State's Growth Management Plan, there are areas on the fringes, and they should remain so.

The lake is home to beaver who have a lodge there, and to nesting bald eagles. There are muskrats, raccoons, coyote, and weasel, and 95 bird species. Great Blue Heron have been seen as well as swans. A U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's evaluation of wetlands and wildlife states that Great Blue Heron need a 750 foot buffer for rookeries. Beaver and Great Blue Heron need a 330 foot disturbance free zone for feeding. We have many wood ducks. They need 660 feet for nesting, and they nest in trees. The large copse of trees within the parcels is of great concern.

A report from the State of Washington Department of Wildlife says, "The plants and animals of the wetland are determined by the vegetation and disturbance on adjacent uplands," and "Adjacent uplands (buffers) themselves provide critical habitat." Also, loss of buffers "reduces recreational and economic opportunities associated with birdwatching, photography," and "total species are reduced." Please keep in mind that there's a public viewing area on the east side of Smith Lake accessible from the Chehalis-Western Trail.

"Buffers provide travel corridors," says the report. The beaver left when the lake dried up, then they returned. Three were seen recently swimming in Smith Lake. They have to come from somewhere, and it's likely they use the corridor on the parcels to come from Chambers Lake.

I bought my property more than a decade ago because of the lake, and the wildlife there. To affect it is to affect my welfare. (Criterion B)

Increased traffic is a great concern. There's no way to sufficiently mitigate that if the property is developed at a higher density than 1 house/5 acres.

Please carefully consider what the ramifications of this rezone will be. Perhaps the City can come up with a plan whereby the developer can get something for his investment, albeit less than he wants, without impacting the neighbors.

Thank you,

Barbara Craven

**From:** [Barbara Craven](#)  
**To:** [Casey Schaufler](#)  
**Subject:** Rezone proposal 21-1729 Smith Lake  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 29, 2021 4:16:33 PM  
**Attachments:** [Planning dept rezone.docx](#)

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Hi Casey,

Attached please find my letter regarding the rezone. It's concerning that we were given so little time to research this.

Thanks,

Barbara Craven

To:  
Mr. Casey Schaufler, Assistant Planner  
City of Olympia Community Planning and Development  
P.O. Box 1967, Olympia WA 98507-1967

From:  
Shana Park Homeowners Association Board of Directors  
5012 Viewridge Drive SE  
Olympia, WA 98501

Date: 29 June 2021

Subject: Project 21-1729 Smith Lake Rezone

The Shana Park Homeowners Association Board of Directors (“the Board” or “we”) takes no position at this time on the rezoning of the three parcels at issue from R4-8 to R4. As of this date no plan for the development of these parcels has been made available for our review and comment.

Nothing in this letter shall be taken to imply that we support any plan or any part of any plan for development of this property. While acknowledging the owner’s right to develop in accordance with the law, the Board and residents of Shana Park are greatly concerned about the impacts of **any** development of the subject parcels. These impacts—and our concerns—are common to both the existing high density and requested lower density zoning. Here are some of them.

**Access** *(pertains to Decision Criteria B and E)*

Shana Park is a quiet subdivision of 138 properties. Normandy Drive curves northward through the neighborhood from Yelm Highway to Viewridge Drive, where it dead-ends just before reaching the woods and wetlands of Smith Lake. Our families and their pets walk, run, and bike on Normandy and its side streets because our neighborhood has no sidewalks and sees very little traffic. There have been several proposals to extend Normandy northward across the wetland to access the subject property. Such an artery would increase traffic and noise, decrease safety, and dramatically change the nature not only of Shana Park, but also of Demarie Park, and Woodsmuir. In addition, extension would destroy a Category I wetland and the sensitive wildlife habitat at the western end of Smith Lake. We have been on record opposing extension of Normandy since at least 1998. Unfortunately it remains in the City’s Comprehensive Plan, despite no examination whatsoever of its impacts.

**Flooding** *(pertains to Decision Criterion B)*

The surface of Smith Lake was once about 194 feet above mean sea level. When inflow caused it to rise higher, water spilled over the southwest bank and flowed in a northwesterly direction across the property at issue. The 1949 Olympia earthquake of 6.7 magnitude reduced inflow from natural springs, and lowered lake level about six feet. Now, as no surface streams enter the lake, inflow is entirely from rainfall, groundwater, and runoff. Because there is no surface outflow, Smith Lake is classified by limnologists as an “endorheic” lake. Such lakes are a closed system; their level is maintained only when precipitation, evaporation, and groundwater exchanges remain in delicate balance. Any exogenous change will affect lake level. For example, Smith Lake itself occupies 16 acres, but its drainage basin is over four times as large. Thus the lake is highly susceptible to direct runoff from developed areas; moreover, it has been shown to be in direct hydraulic connection with the nearby shallow groundwater aquifer.

In the late 1990s high precipitation led to inundation of two Shana Park lots. A consultant made recommendations to mitigate future damage, and several were carried out. However in 2016 high groundwater again required modifications at one property. All twelve lots on Viewridge Drive remain at risk; owners are concerned that development will augment the lake’s natural inflow and damage their property. Feeling was strong in 2007 when a builder proposed 129 dwelling units, streets, hardscape, and associated infrastructure on portions of three sides of the lake.

### **Environment** (*pertains to Decision Criterion B*)

Smith Lake is not a recreational lake. Maximum depth is around ten feet and recreation is limited to wildlife observing. The lake is surrounded by palustrine emergent wetlands and a mixed forest. This forest is a natural buffer zone for the lake and wetland and, if left undisturbed, will continue to function as such. It also provides wildlife with irreplaceable shelter and food, and is a shield from artificial light and noise.

The area is a nesting and feeding habitat and migration corridor for a wide variety of birds, including nine species of duck. Great blue herons hunt regularly, and there is a nesting family of bald eagles. Mammals include deer, coyote, weasel, muskrat; beaver raise their young in a lodge off the southwest shore; river otters occasionally visit. Our record of wildlife observations on and near the lake contains 95 bird species including three that are candidates for Washington State listing. Watching these animals has been both a joy and a benefit to the welfare of our residents and visitors, especially during the pandemic.

Because water of endorheic lakes can only be lost by evaporation or percolation, pollutants gradually build up. Most endorheic lakes are in arid or semi-arid climates; they are naturally saline or are polluted from human activities, limiting the quantity and variety of wildlife. Certain plants and animals called “indicator species” are associated with the overall health of an environment. Because of the presence of such species, Smith Lake seems to have been affected very little by human activities. For example, the lake has a thriving population of pied-billed grebes—water birds that are particularly sensitive to pollution, to loss of their wetland habitat, and to human disturbance. They are in serious decline or are extinct in many states.

Smith Lake has a unique natural history, little existing development, high environmental quality, charismatic wildlife, and access from the popular Chehalis Western Trail. Unfortunately Smith Lake is highly vulnerable to new development. The City of Olympia and Thurston County must exercise great care to ensure its preservation.

The Board and Shana Park residents will participate in the forthcoming Public Hearing and in all public forums dealing with development of the subject property. Please enter this letter and all future statements from Shana Park into the record of the proceedings.

Sincerely,

Arlene McMahon, President

Russell Huebner, Secretary

John Sladek, Treasurer

Kathleen Kaynor, Website Coordinator

Warren Devine, Member-at-Large

## **Smith Lake: Arguments for Preservation**

Warren D. Devine Jr., Ph.D.<sup>1</sup> and Carol S. Devine  
Friends of Smith Lake<sup>2</sup>

### Introduction

Smith Lake is a unique natural feature within the city of Olympia and should be preserved in its current natural state.

### Setting

Smith Lake is located in Section 32, Township 18 North, Range 1 West, Thurston County, north of Yelm Highway, east of Wiggins Road, and west of the Chehalis-Western Trail. Refer to Figure 1. The lake lies in a drainage basin of approximately 67 acres and has a surface area averaging roughly 16 acres<sup>3</sup>. Maximum depth is around 10 feet, and recreation is limited to wildlife observing with limited opportunity for canoeing and kayaking.

### Jurisdiction and Ownership

Smith Lake and its surrounding wetlands were annexed to the City of Olympia in 2006. About 70% of the lake itself is included in three parcels owned by Blackbird Smith Lake LLC, a Seattle real estate developer. These parcels are undeveloped, total 49 acres, and wrap around the lake on its north, east, and west sides.<sup>4</sup> Approximately 25% of the lake is owned by the Shana Park Homeowners Association (SPHA). The remaining 5% is owned by Thurston County Parks and Recreation and two homeowners belonging to SPHA. Only twelve residential properties have been developed on Smith Lake, all on the south side.

### Natural History and Classification

Smith Lake, like most Thurston County lakes, was formed during the last glacial episode, the Vashon stade of the Frazer Glaciation. The glacier left an expansive region of drift material that contained isolated masses of ice. These ice masses may have persisted for centuries, but they eventually melted leaving water-filled pits. Smith Lake is one of these: a “pit” or “kettle lake<sup>5</sup>.” In modern times the lake surface reached an elevation of about 194 feet above mean sea level. When inflow caused it to rise higher, water spilled over the southwest bank and flowed in a northwesterly direction<sup>6</sup>. A youth camp was allegedly once located on the southwest shore, close to present-day Viewridge Drive. But in 1949 the lake changed significantly. The 6.7 magnitude Olympia earthquake reduced inflow from natural springs, and lowered lake level about six feet. Now no surface streams enter the lake, and inflow is entirely from rainfall, groundwater, and runoff. Because there is no surface outflow, Smith Lake is classified by limnologists as an “endorheic” lake<sup>7</sup>. Such a lake is a closed system; its level is maintained only when precipitation, evaporation, and groundwater exchanges remain in delicate balance.



## Flora and Fauna

The Smith Lake is surrounded by a mixed forest and palustrine emergent wetlands. The forest is dominated by Douglas fir, western red cedar, western hemlock, and big leaf maple; some specimens are magnificent with diameter at breast height of 4 feet or more. Tall Oregon ash grow near the water; red alder and Indian plum are prominent under the canopy. Major shrubs include spirea, salmonberry, and salal. The understory also includes sword fern and lady fern, while the emergent areas contain sedges and yellow pond-lily.

The area is a nesting and feeding habitat and migration corridor for wide variety of birds, including duck (11 species), sparrow (5 species), warbler (4 species), woodpecker (3 species), and owl (3 species). Great blue herons hunt regularly, and there is a nesting family of bald eagles. The lake and its surroundings are home to many species of amphibians and mammals, including salamanders (2 species), frogs (two species), and newts. Mammals include bats, shrews, weasels, muskrats, deer, and coyotes. An occupied beaver lodge is located off the southwest shore, and beavers can be seen at dawn and dusk towing cuttings from the west end of the lake to their home. River otters are occasional visitors.

We have compiled a table of our wildlife observations on and near the lake<sup>8</sup>. This table is included as Appendix A. It contains 95 bird species including three (white-breasted nuthatch, Vaux's swift, and pileated woodpecker) that are candidates for Washington State listing. The bald eagle is a Federally-Protected Species of Concern.

## Environmental Health

Water can only be lost from endorheic lakes by evaporation or percolation, so pollutants can gradually build up. Most endorheic lakes occur in arid or semi-arid climates; they are naturally saline or are polluted from human activities, limiting the quantity and variety of wildlife they can support<sup>9</sup>.

Certain plants and animals called "indicator species" are often associated with the overall health of an environment. Because of the presence of such species, Smith Lake seems to have been affected very little by human activities. For example, the lake has a thriving population of pied-billed grebes. These water birds are particularly sensitive to pollution, to loss of their wetland habitat, and to human disturbance. This has resulted in their serious decline or extinction in six New England states. Appendix B provides more information on the pied-billed grebe<sup>10</sup>. Other animals whose presence at Smith Lake reflects a healthy environment include damselflies, salamanders, bats, and river otters.

Smith Lake is surrounded by wetlands and by a belt of forest 150 feet to over 300 feet wide<sup>11</sup>. This forest is a natural buffer zone for the lake and its wetland and, if left undisturbed, will continue to function as such. It also provides wildlife with irreplaceable shelter and food, and is a shield from artificial light and noise. For example, great blue heron and beaver need a disturbance-free buffer zone of more than 300 feet for successful feeding<sup>12</sup>.

An environmental survey in 1998 concluded, “This is a high quality wetland because of its large size, forested buffers, connection to upland habitat, variety of vegetation classes, and extended period of ponding.”<sup>13</sup> The health of Smith Lake has evidently not declined since this survey; indeed, the variety of wildlife is greater now than that reported 23 years ago. In our opinion the Smith Lake wetlands will be classified as Category I when examined by independent scientists using the Washington State Department of Ecology’s current wetland rating system<sup>14</sup>.

### Value to the Public

The Chehalis-Western Trail (CWT) adjoins the developer’s property immediately to the east of Smith Lake. Just south of his property, on land held by Thurston County Parks and Recreation, the Rotary Club of Lacey has built a short gravel-and-dirt trail through the woods. The trail connects the CWT to a platform overlooking the lake. Here benches provide opportunity for quiet relaxation and observing the abundant wildlife of the lake and wetland.

### Uniqueness

Only seven freshwater lakes lie within the City of Olympia. All of them have some development near their shores, but Smith Lake is the least developed<sup>15</sup>. Few lakes in Thurston County are likely to have attributes comparable to those of Smith Lake: unique natural history, little existing development, high environmental quality, charismatic wildlife, and access from a popular urban trail.

### Conclusion

In spite of its many unique qualities, Smith Lake is highly vulnerable to new development. The Friends of Smith Lake believe the lake and its wetlands and woodlands should be permanently preserved in their present state. If you share our goal, please consider partnering with us to protect this valuable local resource.

## Notes

<sup>1</sup> Warren Devine is a Senior Scientist (retired), Science Applications International Corporation. He served the Oak Ridge National Laboratory in site development planning and buffer zone determination for hazardous facilities on the U.S. Department of Energy's Oak Ridge Reservation in Tennessee.

<sup>2</sup> Friends of Smith Lake is an informal group interested in Smith Lake and its preservation.

<sup>3</sup> Thurston County Water and Waste Management Storm and Surface Water Project. "Smith Lake Flood Level Mitigation and Feasibility Report." January 1999.

<sup>4</sup> Thurston County Geodata Center, [www.geodata.org](http://www.geodata.org), 2021.

<sup>5</sup> Kruckeberg, Arthur R. The Natural History of Puget Sound Country. University of Washington Press, 1991.

<sup>6</sup> Thurston County Storm and Surface Water Program. "Chambers/Ward/Hewitt Comprehensive Drainage Basin Plan." July 1995.

<sup>7</sup> Cole, Gerald R. and Paul E. Weihe. Textbook of Limnology, Fifth Edition. Waveband Press, 2016.

<sup>8</sup> Personal observations, 1996-2021, by wildlife biologist Cindy Levy, the authors, and numerous residents of Viewridge Drive.

<sup>9</sup> United Nations Environmental Program. "Endorheic Lakes: Water Bodies That Don't Flow to the Sea." Archived September 2007.

<sup>10</sup> Beans, B.E. and L. Niles, eds. Endangered and Threatened Wildlife of New Jersey. Rutgers University Press, 2003, updated 2010.

<sup>11</sup> Measurements by authors using GIS.

<sup>12</sup> Zeigler, Robert, wetland biologist. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. "Wetland Systems." Undated report.

<sup>13</sup> Swan Resource Company. "Wetland Report for the Smith Lake Property." May 1998.

<sup>14</sup> Washington State Department of Ecology. "Wetland Rating System for Western Washington: 2014 Update (Effective January 2015)." Publication number 14-06-029. October 2014.

<sup>15</sup> Various maps and visits to lakes by the authors.



Figure 1. Smith Lake area. The Shana Park, Demarie Park, and Woodsmuir neighborhoods lie south and west of the lake. Three thin black lines delineate property proposed for development. The eastern boundary of this property is former railroad right-of-way now held by Thurston County Parks and Recreation for the Chehalis-Western Trail, shown in red. The Rotary Trail leads to a platform overlooking the lake.



## Appendix A. Smith Lake Wildlife Observations

### Amphibians

Common name	Scientific Name	Status
Bullfrog	<i>Rana catesbeiana</i>	
Frog, chorus (Pacific treefrog)	<i>Pseudacris regilla</i>	
Newt, rough-skinned	<i>Taricha granulosa</i>	
Salamander, long-toed	<i>Ambystoma macrodactylum</i>	
Salamander, northwestern	<i>Ambystoma gracile</i>	

### Birds

Blackbird, Brewer's	<i>Euphagus cyanocephalus</i>	
Blackbird, red-winged	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>	
Bluebird, western	<i>Sialia mexicana</i>	
Bushtit	<i>Psaltriparus minimus</i>	
Chickadee, black-capped	<i>Parus atricapillus</i>	
Chickadee, chestnut-backed	<i>Poecile rufescens</i>	
Coot, American	<i>Fulica americana</i>	
Cormorant, double-crested	<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>	
Creepers, brown	<i>Certhia americana</i>	
Crossbill, red	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>	
Crow, American	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	
Dove, rock	<i>Columba livia</i>	
Duck, bufflehead	<i>Bucephala albeola</i>	
Duck, gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>	
Duck, hooded merganser	<i>Lophodytes cucullatus</i>	
Duck, lesser scaup	<i>Aythya affinis</i>	
Duck, mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	
Duck, northern shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	
Duck, ring-necked	<i>Aythya collaris</i>	
Duck, ruddy	<i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>	

Duck, wood	<i>Aix sponsa</i>	
Eagle, bald	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	<b>Federally Protected Species of Concern</b>
Finch, Cassin's	<i>Carpodacus cassinii</i>	
Finch, house	<i>Carpodacus mexicanus</i>	
Finch, purple	<i>Carpodacus purpureus</i>	
Flicker, northern	<i>Colaptes auratus</i>	
Flycatcher, olive-sided	<i>Contopus cooperi</i>	
Flycatcher, Pacific slope	<i>Empidonax difficilis</i>	
Goldeneye, common	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	
Goldfinch, American	<i>Carduelis tristis</i>	
Goldfinch, lesser	<i>Carduelis psaltria</i>	
Goose, Canada	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	
Grebe, pied-billed	<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>	
Grosbeak, black-headed	<i>Pheucticus melanocephalus</i>	
Grosbeak, evening	<i>Coccothraustes vespertinus</i>	
Gull, herring	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	
Harrier, northern	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	
Hawk, Cooper's (sharp-shinned)	<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>	
Hawk, red-tailed	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	
Heron, black-crowned night	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	
Heron, great blue	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	
Heron, green-backed	<i>Butorides virescens</i>	
Hummingbird, Anna's	<i>Calypte anna</i>	
Hummingbird, rufous	<i>Selasphorus rufus</i>	
Jay, Steller's	<i>Cyanocitta stelleri</i>	
Junco, dark-eyed	<i>Junco hyemalis</i>	
Kestrel, American	<i>Falco sparverius</i>	
Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>	
Kingfisher, belted	<i>Megaceryle alcyon</i>	
Kinglet, golden-crowned	<i>Regulus satrapa</i>	

Kinglet, ruby-crowned	<i>Regulus calendula</i>	
Martin, purple	<i>Progne subis</i>	
Nuthatch, red-breasted	<i>Sitta canadensis</i>	
Nuthatch, white-breasted	<i>Sitta carolinensis</i>	<b>Candidate for State Listing</b>
Oriole, Bullock's	<i>Icterus bullockii</i>	
Owl, barred	<i>Strix varia</i>	
Owl, great horned	<i>Bubo virginianus</i>	
Owl, western screech	<i>Megascops kennicottii</i>	
Phalarope, Wilson's	<i>Phalaropus tricolor</i>	
Pigeon, band-tailed	<i>Patagioenas fasciata</i>	
Rail, Virginia	<i>Rallus limicola</i>	
Raven, common	<i>Corvus corax</i>	
Robin, American	<i>Turdus migratorius</i>	
Sapsucker, red-breasted	<i>Sphyrapicus ruber</i>	
Siskin, pine	<i>Carduelis pinus</i>	
Sparrow, fox	<i>Passerella iliaca</i>	
Sparrow, house	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	
Sparrow, savannah	<i>Passerculus sandwichensis</i>	
Sparrow, song	<i>Melospiza melodia</i>	
Sparrow, white-crowned	<i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i>	
Starling, European	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	
Swallow, barn	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	
Swallow, tree	<i>Tachycineta bicolor</i>	
Swallow, violet-green	<i>Tachycineta thalassina</i>	
Swan, trumpeter	<i>Cygnus buccinator</i>	
Swift, Vaux's	<i>Chaetura vauxi</i>	<b>Candidate for State Listing</b>
Tanager, western	<i>Piranga ludoviciana</i>	
Teal, green-winged	<i>Anas crecca</i>	
Thrush, hermit	<i>Catharus guttatus</i>	
Thrush, Swainson's	<i>Catharus ustulatus</i>	



Thrush, varied	<i>Ixoreus naevius</i>	
Towhee, spotted	<i>Pipilo maculatus</i>	
Warbler, black-throated gray	<i>Dendroica nigrescens</i>	
Warbler, hermit	<i>Dendroica occidentalis</i>	<b>Partners-in-Flight Species at Risk</b>
Warbler, orange-crowned	<i>Vermivora celata</i>	
Warbler, yellow-rumped	<i>Dendroica coronata</i>	
Waxwing, cedar	<i>Bombycilla cedrorum</i>	
Wigeon, American	<i>Anas americana</i>	
Wood peewee, western	<i>Contopus sordidulus</i>	
Woodpecker, downy	<i>Picoides pubescens</i>	
Woodpecker, hairy	<i>Picoides villosus</i>	
Woodpecker, pileated	<i>Dryocopus pileatus</i>	<b>Candidate for State Listing</b>
Wren, Bewick's	<i>Thryomanes bewickii</i>	
Wren, marsh	<i>Cistothorus palustris</i>	
Wren, house	<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>	

## **Mammals**

Beaver	<i>Aplodontia rufa</i>	
Chipmunk, Townsend	<i>Tamias townsendii</i>	
Coyote	<i>Canis latrans</i>	
Deer, mule (black-tailed)	<i>Odocoileus hemionus</i>	
Mouse, house	<i>Mus musculus</i>	
Muskrat	<i>Ondatra zibethicus</i>	
Opossum, Virginia	<i>Didelphis virginiana</i>	
Otter, river	<i>Lontra canadensis</i>	
Raccoon	<i>Procyon lotor</i>	
Skunk, striped	<i>Mephitis mephitis</i>	
Squirrel, Douglas	<i>Tamiasciurus douglasii</i>	
Weasel, long-tailed	<i>Mustela frenata</i>	

## **Appendix B. The pied-billed grebe**

The pied-billed grebe is arguably the quintessential inhabitant of a healthy wetland. Smith Lake has long had a breeding population of these small birds, whose unusual calls are striking to even casual visitors. Pied-billed grebes are diving birds, and spend nearly all their time on the water. Breeding sites are floating platforms on fairly open water of depths 1 to 6 feet, interspersed with submerged or floating aquatic vegetation and dense emergent vegetation.

Pied-billed grebes are extremely sensitive to human disturbance, particularly during incubation. Intruders can cause adults to spend a prolonged period of time away from the nest, leaving the eggs vulnerable to weather and predators. Boating activity near nest sites can disturb breeding grebes and destroy nests through wave action. Since grebes have just one brood per year, a single disturbance can affect the local population.

Habitat destruction and degradation resulting from the draining, dredging, filling, siltation, and pollution of wetlands are the greatest threats facing the pied-billed grebe population. Palustrine emergent wetlands like those of Smith Lake is one of the most threatened wetland types in the United States. Changes in hydrology may render breeding sites unsuitable or may destroy nests through flooding. Contamination from hardscape runoff, pesticides, and herbicides threaten pied-billed grebes and the aquatic organisms upon which they feed. Pesticides that can be lethal to pied-billed grebes may leach from lawns, gardens, and farmlands into nearby wetlands. Grebes are highly susceptible to oil toxicosis and may die if impacted by a spill.

Pied-billed grebes tend to nest in low numbers throughout their entire range. This, coupled with wetland degradation and loss, has resulted in a very small local populations. The species is declining throughout New England. In Massachusetts, Connecticut and New Hampshire grebes are classified as endangered; Vermont lists the pied-billed grebe as a species of special concern; New Jersey considers the pied-billed grebe to be critically imperiled; and Rhode Island believes it to be locally extinct. Fortunately grebes are still somewhat common in the Puget Sound area, although there is evidence of recent declines.

**From:** [Nicole Floyd](#)  
**To:** [Casey Schaufler](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Smith Lake paper  
**Date:** Monday, July 19, 2021 3:39:02 PM  
**Attachments:** [Smith Lake Arguments.pdf](#)

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Can you make sure this document is in the file folder.

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**From:** Warren Devine <warrendevine@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 18, 2021 9:54 PM  
**To:** Nicole Floyd <nfloyd@ci.olympia.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Smith Lake paper

**External Email Alert!**

This email originated from a source outside of the City's network. Use caution before clicking on links or opening attachments.

Nicole Floyd, AICP  
City of Olympia SEPA Official  
Community Planning and Development  
601 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue East, P.O.Box 1967  
Olympia, WA 98507-1967

July 16, 2021

Subject: Smith Lake Rezone, Project 21-1729

Dear Ms. Floyd:

As the City's SEPA Official, please accept the enclosed short semi-technical paper on Smith Lake. It reflects a quarter-century of observation and study of the lake and its wildlife by nearby residents, many of whom have scientific backgrounds. The paper might serve as one starting point for studies you will require as you evaluate the environmental impact of nearby development.

We are also using this paper as an invitation to people beyond the neighborhood of the lake to join the informal group Friends of Smith Lake. If, at some point, Blackbird Smith Lake LLC decides against developing their property, our group would be interested in pursuing options for permanent preservation of at least part of the acreage at issue.

Sincerely,

Warren Devine

5006 Viewridge Drive SE  
Olympia, WA 98501  
(360) 628-8717

[warrendevine@comcast.net](mailto:warrendevine@comcast.net)

**From:** [Barbara Craven](#)  
**To:** [Casey Schaufler](#)  
**Subject:** Smith Lake rezone  
**Date:** Sunday, September 5, 2021 8:18:54 PM

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Hello Casey,

I've just been informed by Warren Devine that the City has proposed a different rezone, that is, to R4-CB. He reports that during a conversation with you he was told that this is a more favorable zone because of clustering of residences, less hardscape, no minimum number of units per acre, hydrological constraints reflecting the drainage into Chambers Ditch, etc.

In looking at the zoning document, I see none of this except the no minimum number of units, and why that would be mentioned is puzzling since it applies to both rezone proposals, R4 and R4-CB.

So, if I've received correct information about that conversation, where is the documentation requiring these things? Where do I find that in zone R4-CB, the residences must be clustered, that there must be less hardscape, and that there are hydrological constraints? And what exactly are those constraints that apply to R4-CB, and not to R4?

I'd also like to mention my concern that I was not informed by the City of this new development, and further, that part of my housing development is in the area to be rezoned. How can a parcel separate from the developer's parcels be included, especially without any notification?

Thank you,  
Barbara Craven

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Barbara Craven](#)  
**To:** [Casey Schaufler](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Notice of Upcoming Olympia Planning Commission - Smith Lake Rezone 21-1729  
**Date:** Thursday, September 16, 2021 3:16:09 PM

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Oh, I took the paragraph in your Sept. 10 message to mean the staff would provide an environmental review to the Planning Commission: The process for reviewing proposed site-specific zoning map amendments (also known as “rezones”) has been established by State law and by Olympia Municipal Code chapters 18.58, 18.59 and 18.82. The municipal code provides for staff level review, including environmental review through the State Environmental Policy Act, followed by review by the Hearing Examiner

I understand what you keep saying that there will be an opportunity for comments and environmental review at the Hearing Examiner’s hearing. However, I think it’s best to have these presented from the beginning, and the developer’s SEPA completion is pathetic. It needs to be done by someone who is conscientious.

It was disconcerting to read one of your previous responses about the Planning Commission members being volunteers. I am guessing, then, that they don’t have time to do their own research, and need to have the staff give them as much as possible.

Thank you,  
Barbara

Sent from my iPad

On Sep 16, 2021, at 2:51 PM, Casey Schaufler <[cschaufl@ci.olympia.wa.us](mailto:cschaufl@ci.olympia.wa.us)> wrote:

Good afternoon, Barbara –

The City of Olympia is currently preparing its own SEPA checklist for the updated zoning recommendation and additional parcels. I expect to send notice for that SEPA review as well as the Hearing Examiner meeting in the very near future. I want to emphasize again that the SEPA review is for the impacts of the rezone only; any application for development in the future will have to undergo additional environmental review.

I prepared and sent written letters to each of the parcel owners based on Thurston County Assessor records. These letters went out via standard mail on August 16 or August 17; the letters were dated August 20 to account for mail transit time. I

subsequently called each of the parcel owners or points of contact available to me to verify that they received the letters and whether they had questions, comments, or concerns.

Please let me know if you have additional questions. Thank you.

Kind regards,

Casey Schaufler | Assistant Planner

City of Olympia | Community Planning and Development

601 4th Avenue East | PO Box 1967, Olympia WA 98507-1967

360.753.8254 | [cschaufl@ci.olympia.wa.us](mailto:cschaufl@ci.olympia.wa.us)

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**From:** Barbara Craven <cravenbarb@outlook.com>

**Sent:** Thursday, September 16, 2021 2:38 PM

**To:** Casey Schaufler <cschaufl@ci.olympia.wa.us>

**Subject:** Re: Notice of Upcoming Olympia Planning Commission - Smith Lake Rezone 21-1729

Thanks for sending. I don't see anything in the agenda for Smith Lake that is the staff level environmental review. Why have they skipped that?

The report states that 10 (or 12) adjacent parcels have been proposed for the rezone. Have the owners of those parcels been notified?

Sent from my iPad

On Sep 16, 2021, at 1:45 PM, Casey Schaufler <[cschaufl@ci.olympia.wa.us](mailto:cschaufl@ci.olympia.wa.us)> wrote:

Good afternoon, Barbara –

The agenda and materials may all be found at the following link:

<https://olympia.legistar.com/MeetingDetail.aspx?ID=837892&GUID=6767411C-1E2C-4F8A-B25D-A38BC31DD515&Options=&Search=>

The full text to the staff report is available at this link:

<https://olympia.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=5136908&GUID=FEE06ACD-684F-4C91-9AF6-6262464F369C&FullText=1>

For your convenience I've also attached the full agenda, which includes

links to each of the agenda items and accompanying materials. Please let me know if you have questions.

Kind regards,  
Casey Schaufler | Assistant Planner  
City of Olympia | Community Planning and Development  
601 4th Avenue East | PO Box 1967, Olympia WA 98507-1967  
360.753.8254 | [cschaufl@ci.olympia.wa.us](mailto:cschaufl@ci.olympia.wa.us)

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**From:** Barbara Craven <[cravenbarb@outlook.com](mailto:cravenbarb@outlook.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 16, 2021 1:23 PM  
**To:** Casey Schaufler <[cschaufl@ci.olympia.wa.us](mailto:cschaufl@ci.olympia.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Re: Notice of Upcoming Olympia Planning Commission - Smith Lake Rezone 21-1729

How do I find the packet materials? I want to read what the staff says in their review of environmental concerns.

Sent from my iPad

On Sep 10, 2021, at 4:32 PM, Casey Schaufler <[cschaufl@ci.olympia.wa.us](mailto:cschaufl@ci.olympia.wa.us)> wrote:

Good afternoon –

As a party of record for Permit #21-1729, Smith Lake Rezone, this message is to inform you that City staff will be presenting its recommendation to the Olympia Planning Commission on September 20, 2021. If you wish to attend this meeting, you can register here:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_CxQXwwexTfOSkbsH1pJGZA](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_CxQXwwexTfOSkbsH1pJGZA).

The agenda and packet materials will be available on the city calendar by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, September 14:

<https://olympiawa.gov/city-government/advisory-committees/planning-commission.aspx>

The process for reviewing proposed site-specific zoning map amendments (also known as “rezones”) has been established by State law and by Olympia Municipal Code chapters 18.58, 18.59 and 18.82. The municipal code provides for staff level review, including environmental



review through the State Environmental Policy Act, followed by review by the Hearing Examiner.

The Hearing Examiner holds an open-record public hearing before making a recommendation to the City Council. The City Council makes the final decision regarding such applications. The Examiner's hearing has been scheduled for October 25, 2021. This will be the only open record hearing for this application pursuant to the State of Washington Local Project Review Act.

However, OMC 18.59.050 provides that staff also forward rezone applications to the Planning Commission for review. While the Commission is prohibited from holding a hearing to solicit comments from the applicant or the public, the Commission may choose to make a recommendation to the Hearing Examiner, which would be part of the record forwarded to the City Council.

Please contact me with any questions or if you would like to provide comment for the project record. Thank you.

Kind regards,  
Casey Schaufler | Assistant Planner  
City of Olympia | Community Planning and Development  
601 4th Avenue East | PO Box 1967, Olympia WA 98507-1967  
360.753.8254 | [cschauf@ci.olympia.wa.us](mailto:cschauf@ci.olympia.wa.us)

<Agenda\_20Sept2021.pdf>



**Nisqually Indian Tribe  
Tribal Historic Preservation Office  
4820 She-Nah-Num Dr. S.E.  
Olympia, WA 98513  
(360) 456-5221**

June 15, 2021

To: Casey Schaufler, Assistant Planner  
City of Olympia  
Community Planning and Development  
601 4th Avenue  
Olympia WA 98507

**Re: Notice of Land Use Application and Public Meetings - 21-1729  
Smith Lake Rezone**

The Nisqually Indian Tribe's THPO has reviewed the notice of application that you provided for the above named project and has no specific comments or concerns at this time. Please keep us informed if there are any Inadvertent Discoveries of Archaeological Resources/Human Burials.

Although the Nisqually Indian Tribe has no specific comments or concerns, we respect the traditional cultural knowledge of affected tribes and support their opinions on this matter.

Sincerely,

Brad Beach, THPO  
Nisqually Indian Tribe  
360-456-5221 ext 1277  
[beach.brad@nisqually-nsn.gov](mailto:beach.brad@nisqually-nsn.gov)

cc: Annette Bullchild, Director, Nisqually Indian Tribe,



**Nisqually Indian Tribe  
Tribal Historic Preservation Office  
4820 She-Nah-Num Dr. S.E.  
Olympia, WA 98513  
(360) 456-5221**

October 4, 2021

To: Casey Schaufler, Assistant Planner  
City of Olympia  
Community Planning and Development  
601 4th Avenue  
Olympia WA 98507

**Re: 21-1729 Smith Lake Cove Rezone DNS**

The Nisqually Indian Tribe's THPO has reviewed the determination of nonsignificance (DNS) and supplemental materials that you provided for the above named project and has no specific comments or concerns at this time. Please keep us informed if there are any Inadvertent Discoveries of Archaeological Resources/Human Burials.

Although the Nisqually Indian Tribe has no specific comments or concerns at this time, we respect the traditional cultural knowledge of affected tribes and support their opinions on this matter as well.

Sincerely,

Brad Beach, THPO  
Nisqually Indian Tribe  
360-456-5221 ext 1277  
[beach.brad@nisqually-nsn.gov](mailto:beach.brad@nisqually-nsn.gov)

cc: Annette Bullchild, Director, Nisqually Indian Tribe

**From:** [Shaun Dinubilo](#)  
**To:** [Casey Schaufler](#)  
**Subject:** RE: City of Olympia - Notice of Public Hearing and SEPA DNS - 21-1729 Smith Lake Cove Rezone  
**Date:** Monday, October 11, 2021 9:45:25 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.jpg](#)

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Hello Casey,

Thank you for contacting the Squaxin Island Tribe Cultural Resources Department regarding the above listed project for our review and comment. We have no specific cultural resource concerns for this project. However, if DAHP recommends a survey, or any other additional recommendations, we concur with DAHP's recommendations. We would prefer to receive an electronic copy by email once completed. If any archaeological or cultural resources are uncovered during implementation, please halt work in the area of discovery and contact DAHP and the Squaxin Island Tribe's Archaeologist, Shaun Dinubilo via email at [sdinubilo@squaxin.us](mailto:sdinubilo@squaxin.us).



Shaun Dinubilo  
Archaeologist  
Cultural Resource Department  
Squaxin Island Tribe  
200 S.E. Billy Frank Jr. Way  
Shelton, WA 98584  
Office Phone: 360-432-3998  
Cell Phone: 360-870-6324  
Email: [sdinubilo@squaxin.us](mailto:sdinubilo@squaxin.us)

As per 43 CFR 7.18[a][1]) of the Archaeological Resource Protection Act, Section 304 of the National Historic Preservation Act, and RCW 42.56.300 of the Washington State Public Records Act- Archaeological Sites, all information concerning the location, character, and ownership of any cultural resource must be withheld from public disclosure.

---

**From:** Kenneth Haner <[khaner@ci.olympia.wa.us](mailto:khaner@ci.olympia.wa.us)>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 1, 2021 9:59 AM  
**Cc:** Casey Schaufler <[cschaufl@ci.olympia.wa.us](mailto:cschaufl@ci.olympia.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** City of Olympia - Notice of Public Hearing and SEPA DNS - 21-1729 Smith Lake Cove Rezone

The City of Olympia has issued the following **Notice of Public Hearing** with the **Hearing Examiner** and **State Environmental Policy Act Determination Of Nonsignificance (SEPA DNS)** for the project known as **Smith Lake Cove Rezone** located at **4900 Blk Normandy Drive SE**.

PROJECT: **21-1729**

See the above attachments for further details.

Please forward questions and comments you may have regarding this project to the staff contact listed below:

- **Casey Schaufler, Assistant Planner, 360.753.8254, [cschaufl@ci.olympia.wa.us](mailto:cschaufl@ci.olympia.wa.us)**

Ken Haner  
Program Assistant  
City of Olympia  
Community Planning and Development  
PO Box 1967 | 601 4th Avenue | Olympia WA 98507  
Phone: (360) 753-8735  
Email: [khaner@ci.olympia.wa.us](mailto:khaner@ci.olympia.wa.us)

**From:** [L. Larsen](#)  
**To:** [Nicole Floyd](#); [Casey Schaufler](#)  
**Subject:** Smith Lake Cove Rezone  
**Date:** Friday, October 8, 2021 11:03:58 AM

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Dear Nicole and Casey,

I want to express my concerns for this project, as I won't be attending the meeting on Oct. 25th:

Extensive development around Smith Lake in all likelihood **will contribute to killing off the lake.** Already the shoreline keeps retreating inward year by year, with continued plant growth. We do not have sewers here, all septic tanks.

**Where will the traffic go?** I live at 3734 Glendale Dr SE in Woodsmuir (and have, since Dec. 1974), and we already get a lot of "through" traffic on Glendale coming north from the Yelm Hwy on Normandy Dr SE, and heading over to Wiggins Rd. We have no sidewalks. I walk daily for exercise but on certain curves walkers are not seen and cars travel at 30 mph or more. I listen for cars, and step onto someone's property quickly as needed.

**Would you put through another road** going *west*, like extending Fuller Lane? (which is private, currently) Would you put through another road going *east* toward College St.? **It seems to me that BOTH would be needed!**

Sincerely,

Leilani Larsen  
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