

Public Comment and Proposed Changes to Draft 2016 Parks, Arts and Recreation Plan

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

December 22, 2015



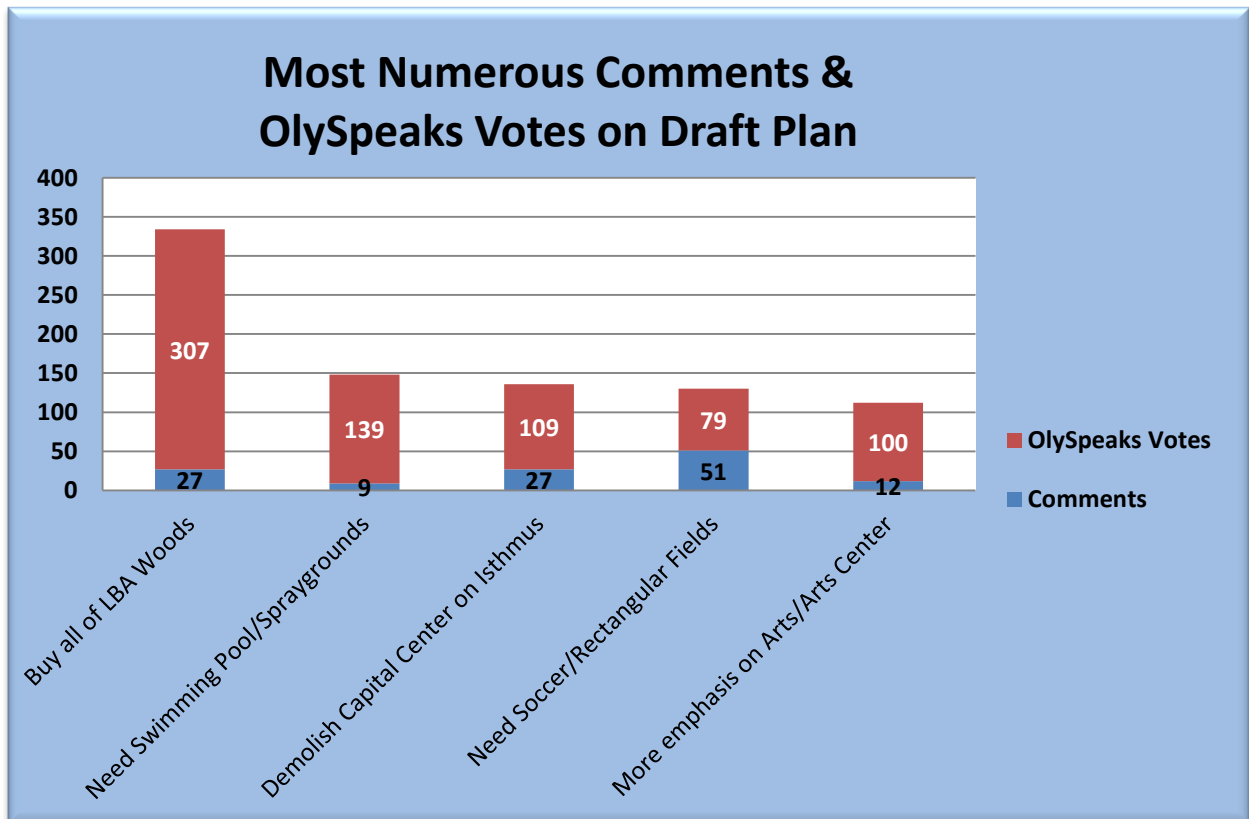
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The public comment period for the Draft 2016 Olympia Parks, Arts and Recreation Plan ran from November 17, 2015 to December 11, 2015. During the public comment period, the following input was received:

- **E-mail** - 121 e-mail comments received.
- **OlySpeaks On-Line Forum**
 - 228 total participants
 - 55 ideas submitted
 - 43 comments on ideas
 - 924 votes
- **Public Open House** - 24 people attended a December 2, 2015 open house
- **Advisory Committees/Commissions**
 - Olympia Planning Commission December 7, 2015
 - Olympia Arts Commission December 10, 2015
 - Olympia Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee December 17, 2015

The following table shows the five topics that received the most comments and OlySpeaks votes:



Highlights of Proposed Changes to the Plan as a Result of Public Comments:

TOP FIVE COMMENTS/OLYSPEAKS VOTES:

1. **LBA Woods** – No proposed change. The Plan’s Capital Investment Strategy sets aside \$11 million for 169-acres of land acquisition. These funds could be utilized for purchasing the second LBA Woods parcel (the Bentrige parcel), the Capital Center building on the Isthmus, a different community park site, or for open space (p. 92).
2. **Swimming Pool/Spraygrounds** – Added language and funding for a feasibility study for a recreation/aquatic center on p. 89.
3. **Isthmus** - The Plan’s Capital Investment Strategy sets aside \$11 million for 169-acres of land acquisition. These funds could be utilized for purchasing the Capital Center building on the Isthmus, the second LBA Woods parcel (the Bentrige parcel), a different community park site, or for open space (p. 92). The plan’s Capital Investment Strategy also identifies \$5 million in Metropolitan Park District funds in 2017-2021 to support a high priority project. The revised draft now identifies Isthmus Park Development as one of four projects that could utilize a portion of these funds. Also, the revised draft now contains a clarification that the Isthmus area includes the 9-story Capitol Center Building and that the random sample survey showed strong public support for demolishing that building. Outdated park development cost estimates have been removed in order to be consistent with other projects in plan. A reference has been added to potential future City-led focus area planning that will influence decisions in this area (p. 36 & 79)
4. **Soccer Fields** – The plan’s Capital Investment Strategy identifies \$5 million in Metropolitan Park District funds in 2017-2021 to support a high priority project. The revised plan now identifies Soccer Fields as one of four projects that could utilize a portion of these funds. Also, in order to be able to develop new soccer fields sooner, the revised draft moves the Athletic Field Complex Phase 1 project from 2021 to 2019 (moving Ward Lake Phase 1 back). There is now \$580,000 planned in 2017 for upgrades to existing athletic fields, \$300,000 in 2018 for an athletic field park design and \$900,000 for phase 1 development in 2019, and \$3.5 million in 2022-2035 for an athletic park Phase 2 development project (p. 88).
5. **Arts Center** – The plan’s Capital Investment Strategy identifies \$5 million in Metropolitan Park District funds in 2017-2021 to support a high priority project. The revised draft now identifies an Arts Center as one of four projects that could utilize a portion of these funds (p. 89).

OTHER CHANGES TO THE PLAN:

Percival Landing Bulkhead Replacement Project - The plan’s Capital Investment Strategy identifies \$5 million in Metropolitan Park District funds in 2017-2021 to support a high priority project. The revised draft now identifies the Percival Landing Bulkhead Replacement Project as one of four projects that could utilize a portion of these funds. This was proposed to provide a cash match for a \$900,000 state grant. (See revised Capital Investment Strategy between p. 107-108)

Grants and Donations Table – Table updated with addition of Thurston Regional Planning Council’s role in Olympia Woodland Trail grants and value of volunteer hours added (p. 19).

Pesticide Free Parks – Language added that OPARD will explore making more parks pesticide free (p. 32).

Inventory of Observed Wildlife – Inventory updated with additional wildlife observed (p. 42-43).

Arts and Events Section – Reference to incorporating public art into park infrastructure through design teams. Added link to Municipal Art Plan (p. 45).

Kettle View Park – Reference to drainage problems and need to assess what it would take to improve the playfield (p. 76).

Harrison Ave Parcel – Enhanced language illustrating importance of partnership between Community Visioning Group and City (p. 78).

Yashiro Japanese Garden – Reference to drainage problems (p. 82).

Garfield Nature Trail – Reference to the important walking connection provided by the park and effort to make trail more barrier free as bridges and boardwalks are replaced (p. 83).

Olympia Woodland Trail – Reference to importance of partnerships moving forward including for Phase 4. Reference to \$5.3 million in open space/trail acquisition that can be utilized for Phase 3 & 4 Right of Way acquisition. (p. 84).

Neighborhood Park Acquisitions – Clarification that if five-acre sites are not available, smaller parcels will be considered (p. 86).

Future Land Acquisition Criteria – “High City Council Priority” added to list of criteria (p. 88).

Arts Center – Clarification of relationship between an Arts Center and Artspace (p. 89).

Recreation/Aquatics Center - \$300,000 budgeted for a feasibility study for a recreation/aquatics center in “Long Range Options 2022-2035” (p. 89).

Kaiser Woods – Clarification that before constructing of off-road bike trails and staff would analyze potential impacts to adjacent neighbors (p. 93).

West Bay Woods – Clarification that potential acquisition in this area would provide potential recreation opportunities, not just wildlife habitat (p. 93).

Map 7-1 – Clarification in references to map that the map shows proposed open spaces not proposed trails.

Business Plan (p. 102-106) -

- Clarification that Facility Condition Index does not include land value.
- Language added that notes that Maintenance Management Plans will be utilized to find the most cost-effective ways to maintain parks.
- Recreation program language changed to clarify that delivery of high quality programs is a primary focus in addition to program development.
- Expanded definition on 1% for Art set-aside.
- “Area walking distance to a park” added to performance measurements
- “Artwork Condition” added to performance measurements
- “Artists” added to “Businesses Participating in Arts Walk” performance measurement

Municipal Arts Plan link - added to “More Information” section at end of plan (p. 114).