



# Spokane County

PARKS, RECREATION AND GOLF

## Glenrose Trailhead Public Meeting– 1/26/17 Meeting Notes

Meeting took place on Thursday, January 26<sup>th</sup> starting at 5:30 PM at the Moran Prairie Public Library. We had 15-20 people in attendance, including project neighbors, Dishman Hills Conservancy members, Mountaineers and other interested folks.

Presentation was followed by 45 minutes of questions, answers and discussion. The following is a summary of that discussion:

- A need was expressed for more signs to address illegal activity, including hunting and motorized use. Dirt bikes, ATVs and snowmobiles frequent the property. An additional recommendation was for signage to be placed at locations around the property boundary where access from adjoining property may be taking place.
- The neighborhood is interested in having horses allowed on the trail system, but trailer parking is limited and therefore should be discouraged. Currently, trailers are discouraged at Stevens Creek and Iller Creek Trailheads because of the limited parking available at both locations. With that said, there is a larger County strategy of providing recreational opportunities suitable for all non-motorized recreationists. For example, County Parks has just completed a new trailhead at Antoine Peak that was designed to accommodate horse trailers and has features specifically for those users. The trail system there is also being built to accommodate that use. At Mica Peak, County Parks has implemented similar improvements to the trailhead parking area and the Mica Peak Non-Motorized Recreation Plan recommends improvements specific to mountain bikers, hikers and equestrian users.
- Several folks expressed an interest in the future rules for the site. What will be prohibited on the property? What will be allowed? Fires should be banned as well as motorized vehicles.
- What will the park hours be? Typically, County Parks are closed at 10 pm unless otherwise posted. There is some flexibility in the County Park Code to customize park hours if its warranted. There wasn't any clear consensus on what the closing time should be.
- There was a question posed regarding the gate shown in the conceptual rendering. That gate was added into the concept for no apparent reason. County Parks would likely not install a gate as there aren't resources to operate that gate (opening and closing each evening, for example) and the envisioned trailhead parking area will also provide a turn-around for snow plows and emergency vehicles making year-round access desirable for public safety reasons.

- There were numerous comments with regards to parking capacity. There should be some overflow capacity built into the design. Staff was asked whether the lot could be built to facilitate future expansion if needed. Staff responded that the only direction the lot could be expanded is east – into the hillside. That expansion would likely be cost prohibitive as it would require significant grading and likely more retaining walls. Staff might be able to design in a shoulder along the out-going lane of the driveway that could accommodate several more vehicles. However, it is anticipated there will be the 1-2% of days where cars might park on Thierman Road due to a large organized event that did not consult with County Parks prior to it taking place. However, the lot is expected to be able to handle anticipated parking demands 98-99% of the time into the foreseeable future. Another attendee pointed out the popularity of Stevens Creek. Staff explained that every site is different and the Stevens Creek trailhead in particular is so popular because of the hiking experience (it’s the best “bang for your buck” trail experience in Spokane County) and site specific users it attracts – including many rock climbers accessing Big Rock and the Rocks of Sharon. Staff also anticipates the future expansion of the Glenrose Unit with the potential acquisition of the Flying L Ranch on the eastern side of the conservation area. This property could provide an site more suitable for a larger trailhead parking area. That could take some pressure off of the proposed Glenrose access point.
- Natural resource management concerns were shared by several attendees. Several neighbors mentioned their concern over noxious weeds. They pointed out that the Department of Natural Resource (DNR) had not performed weed control for some time. Staff acknowledged the widespread knapweed on the property and explained that it typically takes about a year to work a new property into the maintenance program. County Parks has a noxious weed control plan and this property will be added to it with a “high priority” status. Several other neighbors expressed a concern over fire. The Dishman Hills in general is prone to fires. Staff explained that there are grant opportunities periodically made available by DNR that can be taken advantage of to perform thinning and other fire suppression activities. Staff will look into this.