



# **Lake Sawyer Park Development Concept Plan**

**City of Black Diamond  
Washington  
February, 2008**







### Technical Assistance

Planning support and production of this document was provided by a grant of technical planning assistance from the Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program of the National Park Service – Seattle, Washington. This assistance was requested by the City of Black Diamond through a written grant application.



Location of future Lake Sawyer Park





## A Word about ‘Development Concept Plans’

This document presents the community vision for developing Lake Sawyer Park at a conceptual level. Development concept plans are preliminary documents planners use to describe how an area is to be developed and utilized for future park use. They typically are written utilizing the best information available at the time, but readers should understand that many of the concepts presented in this plan could get modified and adjusted as more detailed design and engineering occurs to produce construction documents, and as those construction documents move through the permitting process. Future design and engineering will involve detailed analysis of factors such as soil structure, wetland delineation, hydrology, and sensitive natural or cultural environments, any of which could cause refinements to the concepts presented in this plan. Further refinements could occur during the permitting process in order to receive the necessary building and construction permits before work can actually begin.

Development Concept Plans are useful documents as a starting point in park development projects. They help to promote consensus among community leaders and stakeholder groups by articulating goals for development and use of the property. They are also useful documents for securing grants, appropriations, and assisting in other fundraising efforts.



## **Acknowledgments**

### **Lead Agency – City of Black Diamond**

Howard Botts                                      Mayor, City of Black Diamond

### **Planning Team**

M. Scott Jones                                      City of Black Diamond, Former Planning  
Director  
Bryan Bowden                                      National Park Service – RTCA Program  
Rebecca Olness                                      Black Diamond City Council/Chair, Parks  
Committee

### **Citizen Advisory Committee**

Helen Bittner                                      Black Diamond Community Center - Youth  
Program Coordinator  
Mark Davis                                      King County Lake Stewardship Program; Lake  
Sawyer Community Club  
Bob Eaton                                      Lake Sawyer Community Club  
Steven Garvich                                      Lake Sawyer Community Club  
Leah Grant                                      King County Water Quality Committee; Lake  
Sawyer Community Club  
Elise Hanson                                      Black Diamond Resident  
Kevin Myette                                      Lake Sawyer Resident/REI  
Allison Newcomb                                      Black Diamond Resident; President, Kentlake  
High School PTA  
Ernie Richardson                                      Black Diamond Resident  
Cindy Wheeler                                      Lake Sawyer Community Club





### Charette Participants

Don Benson, ASLA AICP	Senior Planner/Landscape Designer
Mike Bertsch	Black Diamond Resident
Helen Bittner	Citizen's Advisory Committee
Howard Botts	Mayor, City of Black Diamond
Bryan Bowden	Planning Team
John Brandon	Black Diamond Resident
Jim Brennan, ASLA	Landscape Architect
Laura Branham	Back Country Horsemen
Chuck Burger	Landscape Architect
Drew Combs	Landscape Architect
Allen Cox	Landscape Architect
Romana Crilly	Lake Sawyer Resident
Mark Davis	Citizen's Advisory Committee
Bob Garland	The Ridge Homeowners' Association
Steven Garvich	Citizen's Advisory Committee
Greg Goral	Black Diamond Police Officer
Leah Grant	Citizen's Advisory Committee
Jack Gucker	Lake Sawyer Resident
Ned Gulbran, ASLA	Landscape Architect
Lyndsey Heller	Landscape Architect
Scott Jones	Planning Team
Elise LeBarron	WSU Graduate Student in Landscape Architecture
Ralph Loewen	Single Track Mine Cycling Club
David MacDuff	Senior Project Manager, Yarrow Bay Communities
George McPherson	Black Diamond City Council
Martha McPherson	Lake Sawyer Resident
Kevin Myette	Citizen's Advisory Committee
Allison Newcomb	Citizen's Advisory Committee
Rebecca Olness	Planning Team
Mary Ordos	WSU Student in Landscape Architecture
Tim Perciful	Public Information Officer, Fire Department
Thom Randolph	Friends of Rock Creek Valley
Ernie Richardson	Citizen's Advisory Committee
Alexandra Stone	National Park Service; Landscape Architect
Cindy Wheeler	Citizen's Advisory Committee



## **Table of Contents**

### **Introduction**

- Project Background and History
- Request for National Park Service Planning Assistance
- The Planning Process
- Public Outreach and Participation

### **Vision, Goals and Objectives**

### **Resource Significance**

- Natural Resources
- Cultural Resources

### **Regional Recreation Inventory**

### **Community Recreation Survey**

### **Facility Recommendations**

### **Design Charette**

### **Lake Sawyer Park Development Concepts**

- Overall Concept/Plan Goals
- Open Space/Natural Areas
- Waterfront Area
- Ball Fields
- Trails/Roadways/Circulation Patterns
- Play Areas and Sports Courts
- Environmental Education and Interpretation
- Existing Boat Launch Park





## **Next Steps and Implementation**

### **Funding Opportunities**

Federal

State

Private Businesses and Foundations

Revenue Generation

Community Fundraising, Donations, and In-Kind Contributions

Information Sources

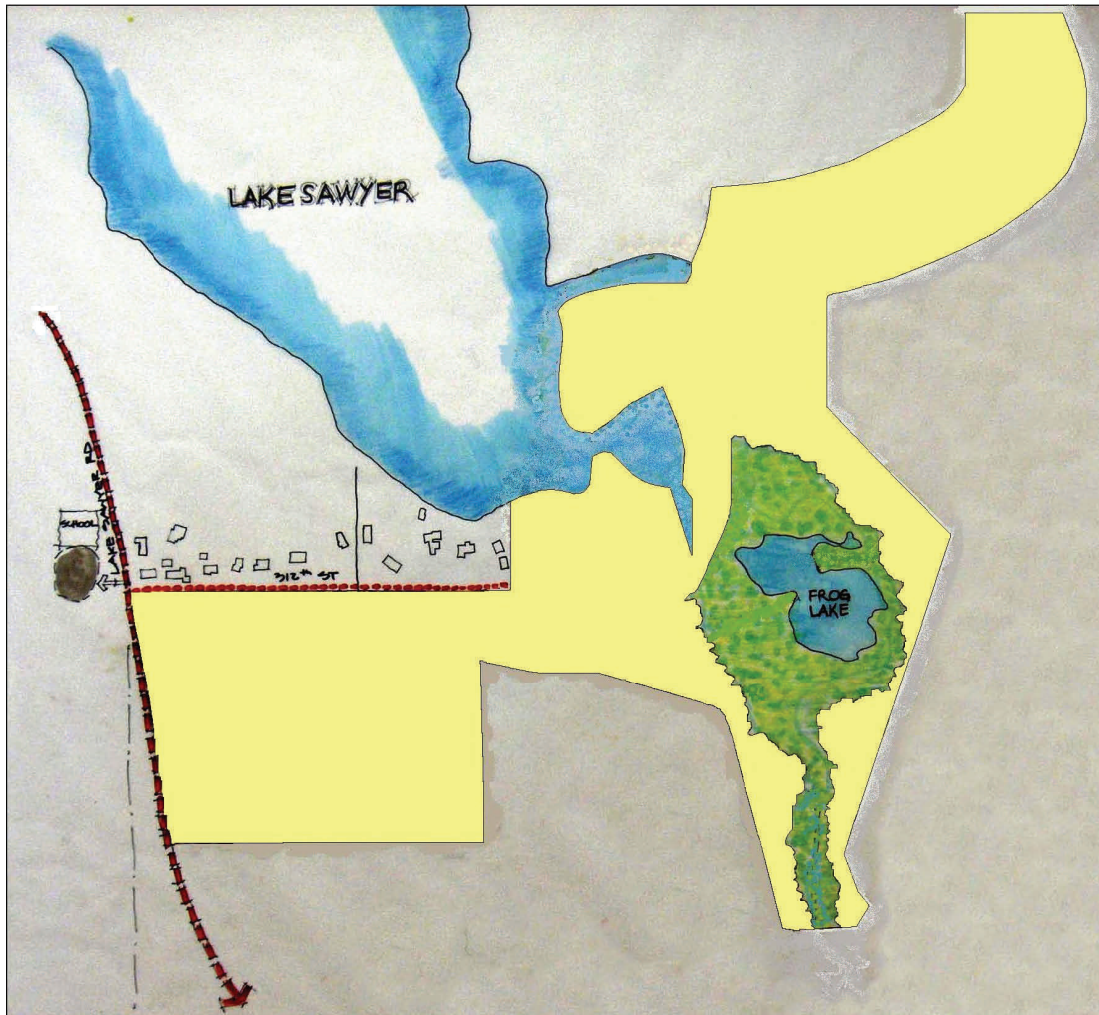
Appendix I: Black Diamond Recreation Survey Questionnaire

Appendix II: Newsletter One

Appendix III: Newsletter Two

Appendix IV: Newsletter Three

Appendix V: Summary of Public Comments on the Draft Plan, with Responses



150 acre site on the south end of Lake Sawyer transferred from King County to the City of Black Diamond for future development of a regional park





## Introduction

### Project Background and History

In the late 1990's, King County purchased 165 acres of land on the south shore of Lake Sawyer for the future development of a regional park. The property was purchased from Palmer Coking Coal, who had acquired the property in 1988 from the Black River Quarry. King County paid \$9.3 million for the property. The money was assembled from a variety of grants and county funding sources. The land acquisition was completed in 1999. Shortly thereafter, the county began a master planning process but a final plan was never completed due to funding issues.

In 2001, King County announced that it would be working to transfer ownership of many of its park sites to local cities to address financial shortfalls. The City of Black Diamond and King County entered into negotiations soon thereafter for the transfer of the property. These negotiations ran hot and cold for two years until late in 2003 when the transfer was included as part of a larger implementation agreement for the Black Diamond urban growth area.

These negotiations resulted in an open space agreement known as the 'Black Diamond Area Open Space Protection Agreement'. That agreement allowed for the Lake Sawyer Park site to count toward the Black Diamond urban growth area open space requirements in exchange for additional consideration aimed at furthering the open space and recreation objectives of the City.

The open space Agreement was finalized in June, 2005, and included a provision to convey ownership of approximately 150 of the original 165 acres of the Lake Sawyer Park site to Black Diamond. The transfer was completed in April, 2006, at no cost to the city. All 150 acres are located within the city limits of Black Diamond. The 15-acre parcel retained by King County was held in County ownership for the future development of a regional trailhead parking area.

It is important to note that King County originally acquired the property utilizing a combination of grants and county funding sources some of which required legal and



contractual commitments to develop and/or manage parts of the property in certain ways. For example, the money used to purchase the land around Frog Lake came from county Open Space Bonds and must be managed for open space purposes. Another 38.6 acres of the property was purchased using money from a state recreation grant source that requires development of that property for active recreation use (including baseball and athletic fields).

When the City acquired the property from King County, the County and the City Agreed to conditions in the conveyance deed and other legal documents. Some of the agreed conditions were:

The City would develop for active recreation, including athletic fields, the 38.6 acre portion of the property purchased with a state recreation grant.

The City would manage the property around Frog Lake (containing wetlands, streams, and riparian habitat) for open space purposes.

The County would maintain a trail route through the property that functions as part of a regional trail link between the Green and Cedar River open space systems.

The City would not discriminate between city and non-city residents with respect to the imposition of any user fees, except in the active recreation area, where the City could provide a credit to residents based upon operation and maintenance costs paid for through the City's general fund revenues.

The land transfer was completed in April, 2006, via an agreement specifying that the property would be used for public park purposes per the conditions outlined above. The 'Development Concept Plan' is the first step in fulfilling the terms of

..





that agreement (i.e., to finalize and adopt a plan substantially the same as the County's) and contains the following information:

- The community vision for developing the park
- The type of use and proposed facilities to develop in different areas of the park
- Maps, illustrations, and graphics
- A description of potential funding sources
- Implementation recommendations

#### Request for National Park Service Planning Assistance

To help facilitate the planning process, the City of Black Diamond applied for a grant of planning assistance from the Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program of the National Park Service. The grant was approved and a planning process was organized to prepare a "Development Concept Plan" for Lake Sawyer Park.

RTCA is the community assistance arm of the National Park Service. RTCA staff provides planning assistance to community groups and local, state, and federal agencies on conservation and recreation projects to preserve open space and develop trails and greenways in communities all across America. The RTCA program implements one component of the National Park Service mission to extend the benefits of parks and conservation to the nation and the world.





## The Planning Process

In March, 2006, Bryan Bowden of the National Park Service met with Black Diamond Mayor Howard Botts, Council Members George McPherson and Rebecca Olness, City Planner Scott Jones, and City Administrator Jason Paulsen. They discussed the process involved in planning the park and established a time line for implementation of the first stage. A 'Planning Team' and a 'Citizen Advisory Committee' were then formed to help guide the planning process. The Planning Team consisted of City officials responsible for development of the plan. The Citizen Advisory Committee was selected from a group of applicants who submitted applications to serve on the committee. They were all residents of Black Diamond, many of whom lived on Lake Sawyer. The advisory committee met approximately once a month until the Design Charette was held.

A project timeline was developed that organized the project into the following four stages: 1) Information Gathering; 2) Analysis; 3) Design Charette; and 4) Writing/Plan Production.

### ***Information Gathering***

The first objective was to acquire, develop, and organize background information relative to the project. This included researching natural and cultural resource information, documenting previous planning efforts, developing base maps, conducting a citywide mail survey, preparing an inventory of existing recreation facilities in the region, and the development of a vision and goals statement with the advisory committee.

### ***Analysis/Facility Recommendations***

In the analysis phase, the planning team and advisory committee developed a list of recommendations about facilities to include at Lake Sawyer Park. The resulting list was derived from a review and analysis of a combination of documents including the following: deed restrictions included in property transfer from King County to the City of Black Diamond; previous park planning; city-wide survey; and the regional recreation inventory. The complete list from this analysis is provided in the 'Facility Recommendations' chapter.



### ***Design Charette***

The cornerstone event in the planning process occurred over a three-day weekend in October, 2006, when a design *charette* was conducted. A charette is an intense, focused, illustrated brainstorming session that involves any number of people and lasts from a few hours to a few days. Approximately 25 community members were teamed with 10 volunteer landscape architects to develop graphic design ideas for various components of the park.





### ***Writing/Plan Production***

Armed with all the work to date, the planning team moved forward with writing the first full draft plan during the late fall and early winter months of 2006/2007. The planning team then met with the advisory committee in April, 2007, to review and discuss the draft plan and additional revisions were made based on that meeting. This draft plan is the result of all the work that has occurred since the project began. It is now available for a 30-day public review and comment period and will be edited one last time before it is finalized. Those edits will be the result of comments received during this public review period.

### **Public Outreach and Participation**

A public involvement component was included in the project to complement and parallel the planning process. This component was designed to accomplish two goals: 1) inform people about the project at key stages; and 2) provide opportunities for comment, reaction, and participation in the process. Public participation for this project was accomplished in the following ways:

- A Citizen Advisory Committee was formed at the beginning of the planning process to guide city officials in the development of this plan
- Newsletters were mailed out at key points in the planning process to every household in Black Diamond (see Appendix II, III, and IV)
- A recreation survey was mailed to every household in Black Diamond (Appendix I)
- A public meeting was held at the conclusion of the design charette to report on the results (October, 2006)
- A public meeting was held coinciding with the release of the draft plan for formal public review (September, 2007)

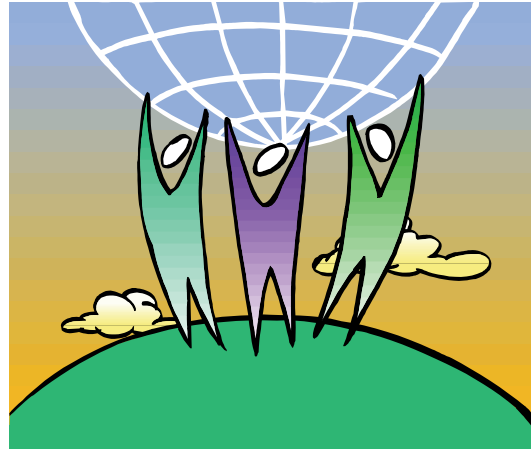




## Vision, Goals and Objectives

### *Vision*

Lake Sawyer Park is a premier recreation area that fosters a sense of stewardship and community for all residents and visitors in the Black Diamond area. The park is designed to support:



- A variety of appropriate activities for individuals and groups
- A healthy and thriving natural environment
- Spiritual and mental health renewal
- A safe, inviting family atmosphere
- Educational and interpretive programs and activities
- Accessibility and basic needs for park enjoyment

### *Goals and Objectives*

Goal 1: Provide a variety of appropriate activities for individuals and groups.

#### Objectives:

- Provide a variety of settings and facilities that support the recreation, education, and health interests of individuals, groups and families.
- Assure that park facilities and development are designed to support/encourage activities appropriate to the park in terms of size, location, noise, etc.
- Connect activity areas with an integrated trail system. Include footpaths and nature trails as part of the larger trail system.



Goal 2: Provide a healthy and thriving natural environment.

Objectives:

- Protect sensitive lands and resources.
- Maintain natural buffers along streams, the lakeshore, and around wetland areas.
- Enhance natural habitat (food and shelter) to attract desirable wildlife
- Design the park with long-lasting, natural materials that are compatible with the environment.

Goal 3: Provide a quiet natural setting for spiritual and mental health renewal.

Objectives:

- Provide opportunities for relaxing and enjoying scenery.
- Provide areas with minimal noise and light pollution.
- Provide separation and natural buffers between activity areas.

Goal 4: Provide a safe, inviting atmosphere.

Objectives:

- Incorporate safety features that protect park users, adjacent properties and the environment.
- Establish a volunteer program for management and maintenance to increase community ownership and stewardship.
- Maintain a clear and visible management presence that demonstrates the park is clean, well maintained, and regularly patrolled.

Goal 5: Provide educational and interpretive programs and activities.

Objectives:

- Provide opportunities to educate park users on the history of the area.
- Plan and develop interpretive opportunities on the natural environment including wildlife, plants, and habitat.
- Set aside an area for a resource/educational center.
- Develop partnerships with schools and youth groups in the community for cooperative use.



Goal 6: Provide an accessible area designed to meet basic needs.

Objectives:

- Provide ADA accessibility.
- Provide strategically placed rest rooms, emergency stations, covered areas, trash receptacles, and parking for park users, with minimal impact to adjacent properties and the environment.
- Provide dock and moorage for the Black Diamond Marine Patrol.

## Resource Significance

### *The Setting*

Black Diamond is a small community of approximately 4,000 people located in southeast King County, Washington, in the heart of the Green River Watershed. Situated along the western foothills of the Cascade Range, the area is characterized by rolling Cascade foothills, heavily forested areas, pastoral settings, and small, rural towns.

The climate of the area is subject to the same meteorological conditions that affect Puget Sound. It can be characterized as a marine climate dominated by cool, moist winds coming off the Pacific Ocean. Winters are wet and relatively mild and summers are dry and warm. Rain usually begins in earnest in mid-October and continues with few interruptions through the spring months. This pattern is caused by maritime low pressure disturbances originating in the Pacific Ocean and carried inland on southerly winds ranging from the southeast to the southwest. Warmer and drier weather, associated with gradually lengthening high pressure systems, begins in June and continues through September. Winter temperatures are typically 40-50° in the day and 30-40° at night. Summer temperatures average 70-80° with nighttime lows of 50-65°.





## Natural Resources

### Geology

The City of Black Diamond lies in a geographic area known as the Puget Lowlands, a large land trough extending from the Fraser Valley in British Columbia, Canada, to the Willamette Valley in Oregon and from the Cascade Range in the east to the Olympic Mountains in the west. Glaciers, once as thick as 3,000 feet during the Vashon Period (roughly 15,000 years ago) deposited till, outwash, and material mixed with volcanic ash in the Puget Lowlands. Two types of deposits occurred: Vashon till which is generally an impervious mix of gravel, cobbles, clay, and sandy silt (known as 'hardpan'); and Vashon stratified drift which is a generally pervious composition of outwash gravels, rocks, and cobbles.

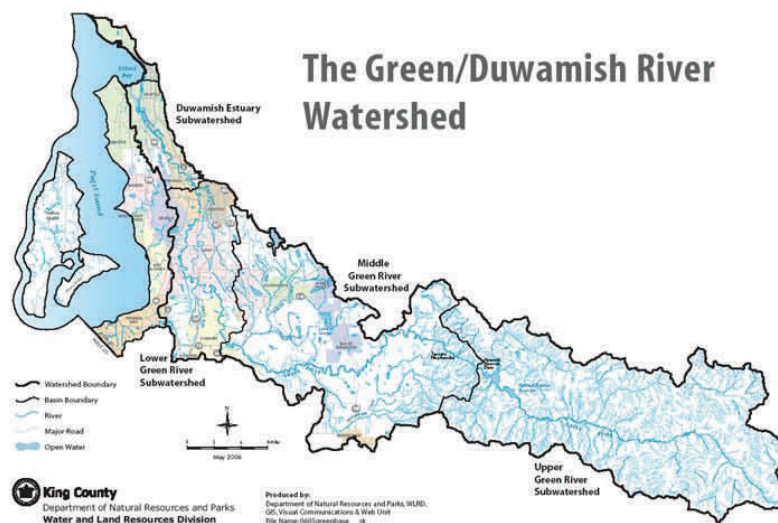
Pre-glacial sediments underlie the Vashon till and consist of interbedded and/or stratified silt, sand, gravel, and till. These soils are exposed in the upper walls of the Green River gorge south of Black Diamond. Bedrock underlies it all at a depth of 200 feet or more and is exposed in the lower walls of the Green River gorge. The bedrock consists of sedimentary sandstone, mudstone, shale, and coal.

Black Diamond coal is a high quality, low sulfur coal, and there are rich and plentiful seams in the area. The veins, however, are deep-pitched and broken by faults which makes mining difficult and expensive – especially when compared to the relatively 'flat' seams of high quality coal in areas such as Wyoming. The City of Black Diamond was created from its coal mining origins, but the underground mines all closed as oil replaced coal as a primary fuel source. The potential for future underground mining in the area will depend on world energy needs, advancements in technology, and environmental considerations.



### Hydrology

The Green River originates high in the Cascade Range and flows west to the City of Auburn. It then turns north and flows through the cities of Kent and Tukwila to its convergence with the Black River. At that point the river becomes the Duwamish which continues flowing north to the City of Seattle and on to its confluence in Puget Sound at Elliott Bay. Major drainages within the Green River Watershed include the Black River and Springbrook, Mill, Big Soos, Jenkins, Covington, Newaukum, and Crisp Creeks.



Lake Sawyer is located in the middle of the Green River watershed and is the fourth largest natural lake in King County with a surface area of 302 acres. It has five small islands and is fed at the south end by two creeks, Rock and Ravensdale, and an extensive wetland. Lake Sawyer drains to the west via Covington Creek into the Big Soos Creek drainage system. The Big Soos Creek discharges into the Green River about one mile east of the City of Auburn.



Rock and Ravensdale Creeks were inventoried and classified in 1991 using guidelines provided by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources. Rock Creek was classified as a 'Water of Medium Use and Importance in Water Quality' (Type 3) and Ravensdale Creek was classified as a 'Water of High Use and Importance in Water Quality' (Type 2).

Rock Creek originates from two lakes (Jones and Black Diamond) which are located south and east of Lake Sawyer. Rock Creek flows into Frog Lake and on into Lake Sawyer through an interconnected stream system. Frog Lake is located at the southern tip of Lake Sawyer and is included in the future Lake Sawyer park property. Frog Lake is approximately 25 acres in size and is largely a forested swamp wetland with an open water area.

Ravensdale Creek originates from Ravensdale Lake which is located north and east of Lake Sawyer. Ravensdale Creek has excellent water quality and provides spawning habitat for Coho salmon.

Lake Sawyer has experienced water quality problems from various sources, including discharge of inadequately treated sewage from the decommissioned City of Black Diamond sewage treatment plant located in the Rock Creek drainage. Presently, the most significant phosphorus inputs to Lake Sawyer from surface water still come from Rock Creek, but at far lower levels than when the sewage treatment plant was in operation. Lake Sawyer apparently continues to be enriched by the phosphorus that accumulated in the bottom sediments at that time.

Lake Sawyer has been part of the Lake Stewardship Volunteer Monitoring Program since 1994. Twice a month from May through September, volunteers collect total phosphorus, chlorophyll a, total nitrogen, and phytoplankton samples to send to the County lab. Additional measurements, such as temperature, Secchi depth, precipitation, and lake level are collected by volunteers weekly throughout the year. The City of Black Diamond continues to monitor the lake and is committed to preserve and protect this natural resource.

**Vegetation**

The Black Diamond/Lake Sawyer area is abundant with a variety of vegetation. Forested hillsides in the area are a mix of deciduous and coniferous trees such as cedar, fir, hemlock, alder, maple and poplar. Pastures and farmlands contain grasses, small shrubs and a mix of native and planted deciduous and coniferous trees. Meadows and wetland areas contain wildflowers, willows, reeds, hay and other grasses. Riparian corridors contain uniquely adapted vegetation typically found alongside stream and river corridors such as cottonwoods, alders, bushes, shrubs, moss, lichens, etc. Particularly noteworthy is the riparian corridor along Ravensdale Creek.

**Habitat**

Diverse and abundant wildlife is present in the Lake Sawyer area. This is attributable to a healthy environment and the availability of multiple and diverse habitat types capable of supporting a variety of wildlife including large and small mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, insects, and invertebrates. Wildlife use different habitats for various activities related to nesting, feeding, foraging, migrating, and cover. These include areas such as forests, ponds, lakes, wetlands, seeps, snags, open meadows, clear-cuts, and riparian areas.

**Mammals and Birds**

Common mammals that live in the area include deer, elk, black bear, fox, coyote, bobcat, cougar, raccoon, skunk, rabbit, weasel, mink, otter, squirrel, beaver, and bats. In addition, large numbers of resident and migrating birds can be found at various times of the year. These include raptors such as eagles, hawks, osprey, and owls; waterfowl such as geese, ducks, and herons; songbirds such as warblers, finches, robins, thrushes, wrens, nuthatches, and chickadees; and others such as jays, flickers, hummingbirds, crows, doves, swallows, quail, and woodpeckers.



***Fish***

Lake Sawyer is an important migration corridor for a late run of Coho salmon that pass upstream in late December of each year and spawn in upper Ravensdale Creek. Lake Sawyer also provides year-round recreational fishing for stocked rainbow trout and other warm water fish. These include: large and smallmouth bass, bluegill, catfish, crappie, perch, steelhead, and triploid.

***Amphibians, Reptiles and Shellfish***

Several species of terrestrial and aquatic amphibians, reptiles and shellfish inhabit the Lake Sawyer area. These include: salamanders, newts, frogs, toads, freshwater clams, crayfish, snails, snakes, and turtles. Terrestrial amphibians are found in or under woody debris, near seepages or streams, under logs, and other rocky or forested areas that provide cool, moist conditions. Aquatic amphibians are associated with water bodies such as rivers, streams, ponds, lakes, and wetlands.



## **Cultural Resources**

Over time, people living in and traveling through the region have hunted, fished, mined, and harvested plants and timber. They built trails, railroads, roads, camps, mines, and towns. People have connected with the spiritual, as well as the physical qualities of this landscape.

### ***Native Americans***

A variety of Native American groups inhabited and utilized regional areas around Mount Rainier for thousands of years before European settlement. Within the Puget Sound region, their territories were often associated with river drainages and watersheds, some of which originated on the flanks of Mount Rainier. The Skopamish tribe inhabited the central Green River valley, and the Smulkamish tribe lived near present-day Enumclaw. Other tribes included the Stkamish, Yilalkoamish, Tkwakwamish, and the Buklshuhl. Salmon fishing was a staple in their economy, along with hunting and gathering.

Nothing changed the lives of Pacific Northwest Native American Indians as significantly as immigration and European settlement. Early immigrant settlers began arriving in the Puget Sound region in the early 1800's and were generally welcomed into Indian communities. These early settlers were dependent on Indians for food and transportation. More and more settlers continued moving in and, in 1854 and 1855, the treaties of Medicine Creek and Point Elliot were negotiated. These treaties ceded Native American lands throughout Puget Sound to the federal government.

When the Medicine Creek Treaty of 1854 was signed, no mention was made of the Muckleshoot tribe, as they were not named as such. Tribes from the Green and White rivers were to be moved to the Nisqually Reservation, unless a more suitable place could be found. On December 5, 1856, Washington Territory Governor Stevens recommended the establishment of the Muckleshoot Reservation on a former military tract between the Green and White rivers, and the river tribes settled on the new reservation.





Over time, the reservation was enlarged and the Muckleshoot tribe incorporated other local tribes, as long as the members had one-eighth degree Muckleshoot blood. By the 1930s, the tribe numbered 194, but by the end of the century they numbered in the thousands.

### ***European Settlement***

Black Diamond was built in the late 1800's as a company town for the Black Diamond Coal Company. The Black Diamond Coal Company was originally based in Nortonville, California, 35 miles east of San Francisco. When coal was discovered in the region a crew of several men and one woman was sent to homestead and set up operations. Because heavy machinery had to be moved in, the first order of business was to build a railroad. A narrow gauge rail line was built southeast from Renton and by 1884, the mines were ready to open. Workers and their families were moved up from California.

The community was named for the Black Diamond Coal Company, which opened mines in the region in the 1880s. Dense forests nearby provided all the timber needed to brace mine tunnels and build towns. Coal was in huge demand in the late 1800's to fuel the boilers of ships, trains, and buildings, and coal supplies from California mines were dwindling.

Most of the families were first-generation Americans of mainly Welsh or Italian descent. The Welshmen usually came from a long line of coal miners in their native land. Because of this, a hierarchy existed whereby the Welshmen executed tasks that required more skill and were better paid. The mine superintendent, Morgan Morgan, was a Welshman and also ran the town.

Black Diamond was a company town and the company owned practically everything. Families could buy houses, but the company leased them the land on which the houses stood for one dollar a month. Morgan Morgan declared that only one church was necessary and a Congregational Church was built to accommodate all faiths. Different services were held each Sunday on a rotational basis, but people attended all of them. Later the town would have a company store, where workers could buy goods with the cost deducted from their paychecks.



By the turn of the century, there were nearly 3,500 people of many nationalities living in town. Ethnic groups tended to group together, and neighborhoods were known (sometimes disparagingly) for the people who lived in them – Swede Town, Welsh Town, Dago Town, etc.

At first, the miners had no union but were paid more than most union workers in other parts of the country. As time went on, though, working conditions and wages became an issue. In 1907, coal miners organized Local 6481 of the United Mine Workers of America.

When the Union started meeting near the train depot, the company wouldn't allow them to congregate on company property. The workers walked outside of the town limits and one of them jumped on a stump to speak to the men. This stump would serve as their meeting location for many years. Later it was encased in concrete, and 'Union Stump' still exists today next to the Black Diamond Cemetery.

World War I created a greater demand for coal. Wages had been slowly rising since the union organized and were up to \$8 a day. After the war ended, the company wanted the miners to go back to \$7 a day, causing an outrage. The company labeled the most vocal dissenters "agitators," and fired them. The union insisted that they be rehired, but they were not. Along with this, the company refused to give current workers a new contract and started bringing in non-union labor. In 1921, the men went on strike.

The company placed barbed wire around the mine entrance and along the railroad tracks to protect the replacement workers from the strikers. The company hired guards to patrol the town and terminated the dollar-a-month leases for the land on which many people owned their own homes. Families were told to either sell their homes or move them off the property.

The Union stepped in and built 200 new homes on land donated by Tim Morgan (no relation to Morgan Morgan). This new settlement, to the west of Black Diamond, became known as Morganville. The houses were built quickly, with little insulation or attention to detail, yet some are still standing today.



The mine remained non-union for 10 years, until President Roosevelt was elected in 1932. His Depression-era New Deal economic policies, which United Mine Workers president John L. Lewis helped to write, brought strength to many unions nationwide. The coal miners in Black Diamond reestablished their Union in 1933, but it was too late. Oil was replacing coal as a fuel source and the demand for coal was waning rapidly. By the end of the 1930s the company town was disbanded in order to save money. Power lines were given to the power company, and roads were given to the county. By 1958, the mines were closed.

Accidents, mostly from falling rock, slips, and falls were common in the mines. Most feared, however, was the possibility of large explosions and/or other disasters. The biggest mining accident in Black Diamond happened at the New Lawson Mine on November 6, 1910, when a great explosion killed 16 men. Explosions like this were usually caused by gas and dust that accumulated. A simple spark could ignite the volatile mixture, causing a chain reaction explosion, often with tragic results.

In 1959, Black Diamond incorporated. Although its heyday had long passed, for many people it is still a fine place to live and raise a family. The city annexed Lake Sawyer and surrounding homes in 1998. Today, with a population of 4,120, Black Diamond is a city proud with heritage.

**Lake Sawyer History**

According to many, Lake Sawyer had a few dance halls in the mid to late 1920's. It is hard to document, probably because they began during Prohibition, but there are still some residents who remember them. One dance hall was reportedly on the point known as the "Hanson Estate" on the



north end of the lake and another was at the site of the original Lake Sawyer Resort on the southwest side (now part of a private home). According to "A Glimpse of the Charmed Land" by Louis Jacobin, a newspaper supplement to several newspapers, "The Grove Resort at Lake Sawyer is not only located on the lake shore, but is bedecked with virgin forest trees and bespangled with many kinds of beautiful flowers. These flowers have been planted and cultivated until much of the resort is a bower of bloom and especially so around the rustic summer cottages. ....The Grove is the property of L. Lochow, and is an exquisitely pretty place to spend a vacation. Fine bathing facilities, good fishing, and a camping ground as good as the best. 'The Grove' is in every way a beautiful, pleasing and scenic resort and is attracting the attention of many city people."

The article also describes ".....Lake Sawyer Paradise, a beautifully wooded tract on the shores of the lake two and one-half miles in length and one mile wide.

'Paradise' camping and parking grounds are in a tract of 34 acres of virgin forest which is composed of nearly every specie of tree that grows in Western Washington, is sanitary, level ground, free of underbrush and wind-fall and has modern camping accommodations for hundreds of automobiles; tables, beaches, free wood and water, a fine dancing pavilion, cottages for rent by day, week or month, excellent boating and bathing accommodations and fishing which is not surpassed on the Pacific Coast." This description indicates that 'Paradise' was located at or very near the Lake Sawyer Park site at the south end of the park. There may also have been a dance hall on the large island near the existing resort.

The Lake Sawyer Lumber Company was located on the north end of the lake and was in business from 1922 to 1934. A sawmill was located at the south end of the



lake near the future park area. In the early 1950's, the U.S. Air Force considered a 9,200 acre site on Lake Sawyer as a possible site for the U.S. Air Force Academy. According to a Seattle Times article (dated December 7, 1950) the Lake Sawyer site was "...one of the possible sites for the U.S. Air Force Academy, offering recreational advantages as well as space to build a two-mile-long air field." At that time, most of the property was owned by a coal company and a timber firm.

In 1948 there were only a few cabins on Lake Sawyer and lots sold for about \$400. Bob Eaton (a member of the Citizen Advisory Committee) had one of the first permanent homes on the lake and said that many of the lots and cabins back then were "squatter's cabins". During that year, the Lake Sawyer Improvement Club was formed and granted tax exemption status, but the club disbanded several years later.

In 1950, some Lake Sawyer property owners brought a lawsuit against Vern Cole Realty which was trying to reclaim land in the North Boot by lowering the lake level. This was done by clearing the natural outlet restriction (stories vary over whether it was natural log/brush debris or a beaver dam) and draining the lake to a level that would allow the marshy Boot area to dry out and become building lots. The property owners prevailed and the court required Vern Cole Realty to reestablish the lake level by building a man-made barrier at the outlet to replace the natural dam that was destroyed.

The new dam was to be owned and maintained by the Washington State Department of Hydraulics. The Department of Hydraulics was later abolished and its responsibilities were absorbed by the Department of Fisheries which became responsible for culverts and weirs. Vern Cole Realty left the area and, in 1956, the Department of Fisheries assigned responsibility for maintenance to a local homeowner by the weir (H. B. Sovie). When Mr. Sovie died, and the weir fish ladder needed repair, the Department of Fisheries met with some homeowners on the canal. They issued a permit for the repair and, in October, 1993, assigned maintenance responsibility to Black Diamond City Council Member Mike Cline, who lives on the outlet.

In 1956, a King County Boating Regulation (Resolution 16896) was adopted to





allow water skiing on Lake Sawyer with speeds up to 20 MPH between 2:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. during the week and from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on weekends and holidays. The time was later extended to 7:00 p.m. on weekdays. Lake ordinances became the responsibility of the City of Black Diamond following annexation. The last time the ordinance was revised was in 2005 when the maximum speed during designated hours was changed to 36 MPH and the speed limit during non-speeding hours and inside the buoy areas at all times was reduced to 5 MPH or “no wake”.

In 1961 lake residents again formed a group, the Lake Sawyer Control and Development Club, meeting at the Black Diamond Eagles Hall and also at the Masonic Temple. The first annual meeting of the club took place in May of 1962. In 1965 the bylaws were revised and the name was changed to Lake Sawyer Community Club (LSCC). The LSCC continues to thrive and serves the lake community in many ways.

There have always been many recreational activities on Lake Sawyer. From 1964 to 1966, the American Red Cross offered swimming lessons at the lake. Many residents recall ice skating in the Boot, canal, and across the entire lake at least twice in the last 35 years. Jack's Boats was a private campground renting boats and canoes and run by the Lochow family (who originally owned most of the south end of the lake). It was sold in the late 1970's and became the Lake Sawyer Resort, used for recreational vehicles, company picnics, and open to the public. The area is now called Sunrise Resort at Lake Sawyer and is a members-only recreational vehicle park that has cabins and boats for rent. A public boat launch and park is located on the western shore of Lake Sawyer. Residents and visitors enjoy boating activities and fishing year-round as well as an extensive trail system south and east of Lake Sawyer used by walkers, hikers, equestrians and mountain bikers.



## Regional Recreation Inventory

Site visits were made to four nearby parks to gain an understanding of existing recreation facilities in the region and their condition. The four parks visited were:

1. Lake Wilderness Park – Maple Valley
2. Lake Meridian Park - Kent
3. Flaming Geyser State Park – South King County
4. Tiffany Park - Renton

Facilities at each park were generally in good condition and well used. All four parks included picnic facilities, playground equipment, restrooms, and walking paths. Three of the parks have a water feature (lake or river) and two of the parks have developed swimming areas. Tiffany Park and Lake Wilderness Park have tennis courts and Flaming Geyser State Park is the only park with interpretive elements. The chart on the following page summarizes the findings at each park:



	<i>Lake Wilderness Park</i>	<i>Lake Meridian Park</i>	<i>Flaming Geyser State Park</i>	<i>Tiffany Park</i>
<b>Acreage</b>	<b>108 Acres</b>	<b>16 Acres</b>	<b>480 Acres</b>	<b>7 Acres</b>
<b>Recreation Facilities</b>	1. Children's play area 2. Open and covered picnic areas 3. Swimming area (with lifeguard stand) 4. Boat launch (non-motorized boats only) 5. Fishing access 6. Walking paths 7. Arboretum (40 acres) 8. Tennis courts	1. Children's play area 2. One picnic area (covered) with water and electricity 3. Outdoor amphitheatre (small) 4. Swimming area (roped off and includes two lifeguard stands) 5. Fishing pier 6. Boat launch	1. Hiking trails (over 4 miles) 2. Biking trails (over 4 miles) 3. Equestrian trail (1 mile) 4. Model airplane field (25 acres) 5. Green River access (boating and fishing) 6. Interpretive signs 7. Open and covered picnic areas	1. Open and covered picnic areas 2. Tennis courts
<b>Restrooms</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Comments/ Observations</b>	1. Covered picnic areas available for rent	1. Covered picnic area available for rent 2. Ideal for community gatherings, weddings, etc.		



## Community Recreation Survey

A recreation survey questionnaire was developed and mailed to every household in Black Diamond (1,538 households) to determine the public's interest in how Lake Sawyer Park is developed. A full copy of the survey questionnaire is contained in Appendix I.

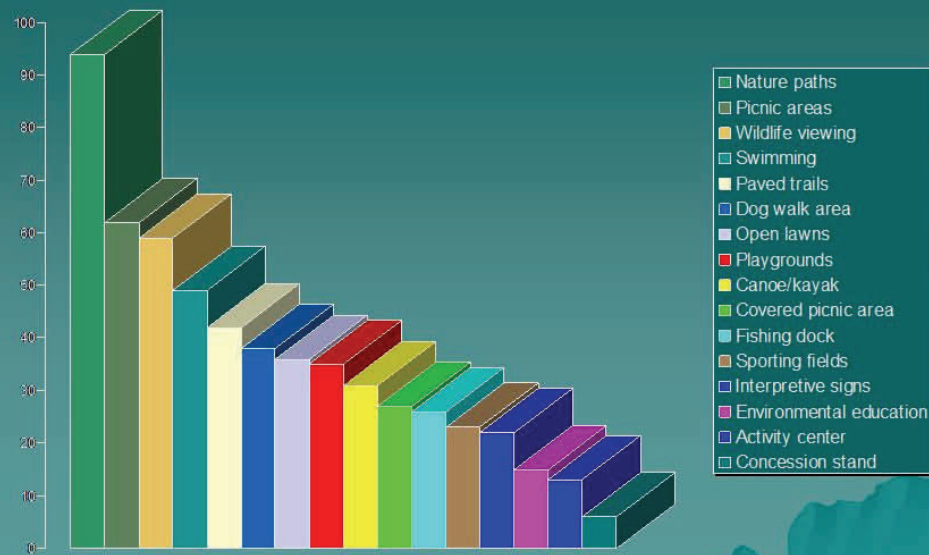
A total of 155 completed questionnaires were returned to the planning team. Of those:

- 50% were from households on Lake Sawyer
- 67% of respondents indicated they visit parks 5 or more times per year
- 85% preferred serene or semi-active use only
- 84% wanted at least half of the park left in its current natural state

A key question in the survey provided a list of potential amenities that could be provided at Lake Sawyer and asked people to indicate their level of interest in each from three options: 1) Very Important; 2) Important; or 3) Not Important. The charts on the following pages show how these potential amenities ranked among respondents:

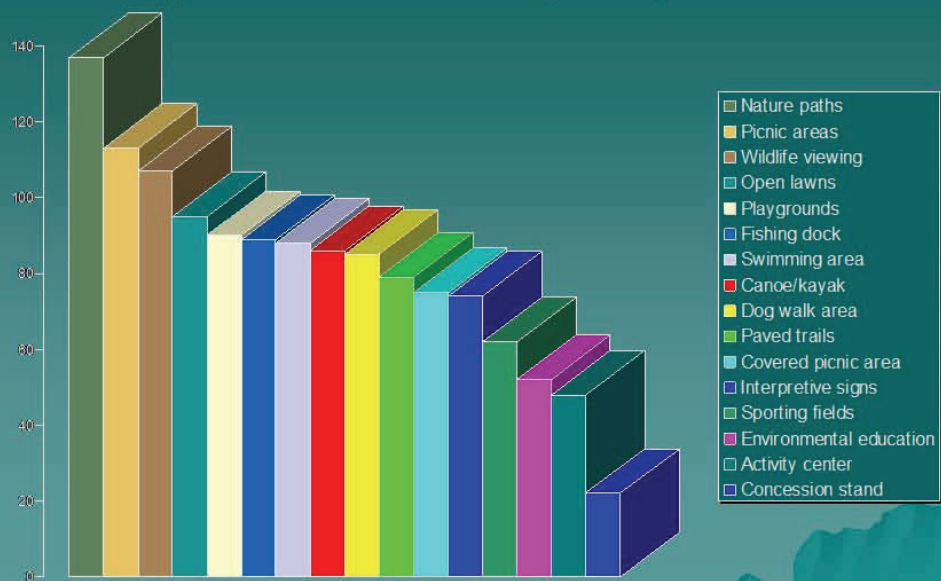


## Activities rated as “Very Important”





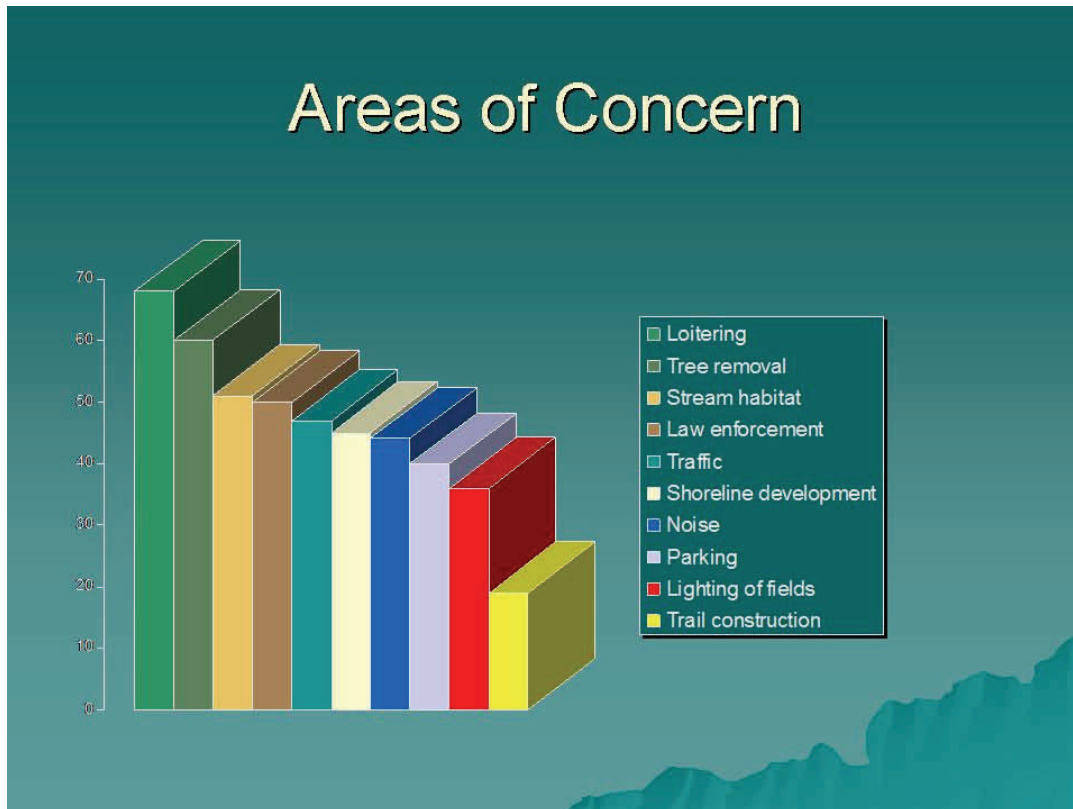
## Activities rated as “Important or Very Important”







Another key question in the survey provided a list of possible impacts that could result from park development and asked respondents to circle the ones that concern them the most. The following chart shows the responses to this question.





## Facility Recommendations

In the analysis phase, the planning team and advisory committee developed a list of recommendations about facilities to include at Lake Sawyer Park. The list was derived from a review and analysis of many factors, including the following:

- deed restrictions included in property transfer from King County
- previous park planning
- vision and goals statement
- regional recreation inventory
- city-wide recreation survey

The chart on the following page is the list resulting from this analysis.



## Facility Recommendations

<b>Waterfront Area:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Swimming beach</li><li>•Amphitheatre</li><li>•Fishing dock</li><li>•Canoe/Kayak area</li><li>•Concession stand</li><li>•Boathouse (for police boat)</li></ul>	<b>Athletic Fields:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Youth baseball</li><li>•Adult softball</li><li>•Soccer</li><li>•Multi-purpose playfields/open lawn areas</li><li>•Sports courts</li></ul>
<b>Natural Areas/Open Space:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Wildlife viewing</li><li>•Interpretive signs</li><li>•Habitat preservation/enhancement</li><li>•Forested buffers (between active recreation and all other areas)</li></ul>	<b>Trails:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Mountain bike trails</li><li>•Nature paths &amp; boardwalks</li><li>•Multi-Use trails connecting to:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>--Green River Open Space</li><li>--Cedar River Trail and Open Space</li><li>--City of Black Diamond</li></ul></li><li>•Equestrian trails (connecting to adjacent equestrian trail systems)</li></ul>
<b>Infrastructure:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Roads &amp; traffic patterns</li><li>•Parking</li><li>•Sidewalks/Paved pathways linking activity areas</li></ul>	<b>Miscellaneous:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Picnic areas</li><li>•Covered picnic area (pavilion)</li><li>•Playground equipment/bouldering wall</li><li>•Dog walking (dogs allowed on leash with plastic bags and waste disposal areas)</li><li>•Activity center (preserve space for future building)</li><li>•Fresh look at existing boat launch park</li></ul>



## Design Charette

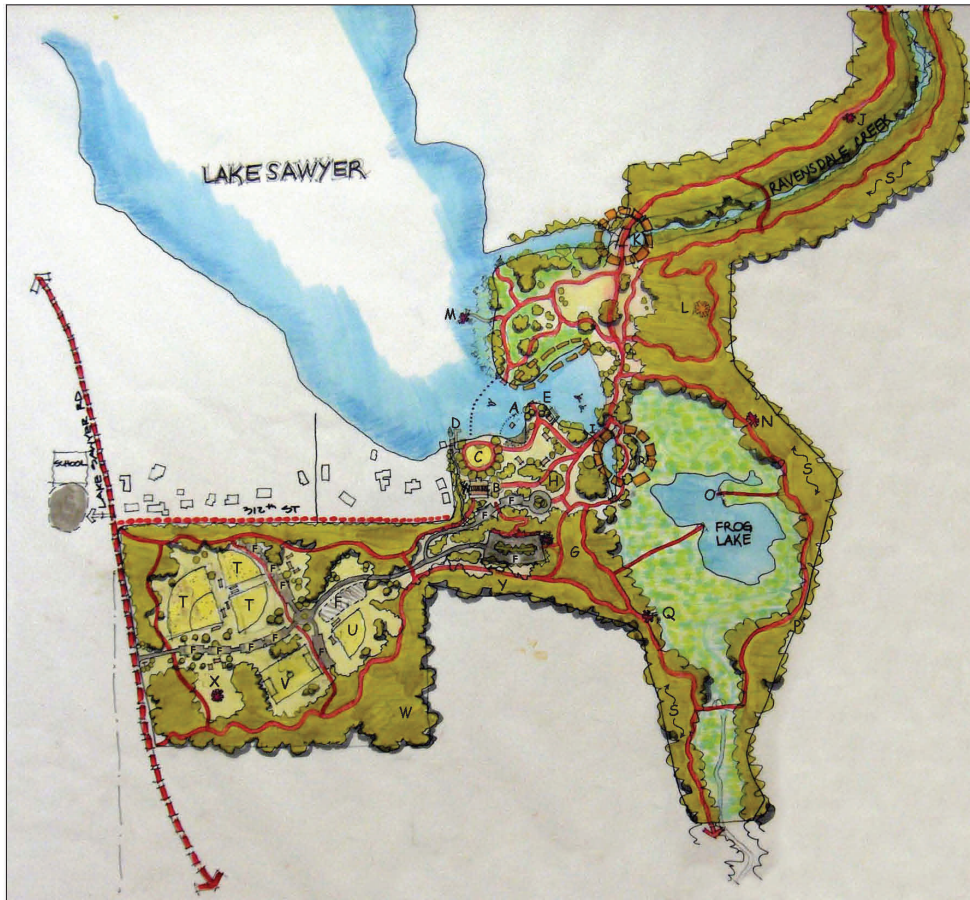
The cornerstone event in the planning process occurred over a three-day weekend in October, 2006, when a design *charette* was conducted. A charette is an intense, focused, illustrated brainstorming session that involves any number of people and lasts from a few hours to a few days. Approximately 25 community members were teamed with 10 volunteer landscape architects to develop graphic design ideas for various components of the park.

Community member participants included most of the Citizen Advisory Committee and other invited 'stakeholders' chosen for their knowledge and subject matter expertise in certain areas. They included representatives from city and lake residents; homeowners associations; community clubs and service organizations; environmental groups and trail/recreation advocates (for a complete list please see the 'Acknowledgments' section at the beginning of this document).

The group was organized into five teams, with two landscape architects and five community members on each team. Each team was assigned a specific design element for the following park components:

- Waterfront Area
- Ball fields
- Interpretation/Conservation
- Trails and Infrastructure
- Small Areas and Existing Boat Launch





### Lake Sawyer Park Development Concept Plan

- A – Swimming Area
- B – Community Pavilion/Covered Picnic Area  
(Historic Dance Hall – Interpretive Site)
- C – Community Commons
- D – Boat Dock with Police Boat House  
(drop-off only; no public moorage)
- E – Kayak & Canoe Launch
- F – Parking
- G – Future Activity/Community Center
- H – Concession Building (w/restrooms and bath house)
- I – Pedestrian Bridge (over lagoon)
- J – Notched Log
- K – Ravensdale Creek (restoration & monitoring)
- L – Views on Sunny Knoll
- M – Miners Fishing Point/Sunset Views
- N – Narrow Gauge Railroad (interpretive site)
- O – Viewing Platform
- P – Old Cedar
- Q – Tree House
- R – Rock Creek/Frog Lake (restoration & monitoring)
- S – Habitat Improvement
- T – Baseball Field (tournament quality)
- U – Baseball/Multi-purpose Field (pick-up games)
- V – Soccer/Football Field
- W – Mount Rainier Viewpoint
- X – Children's Play Area



## Lake Sawyer Park Development Concepts

The Lake Sawyer park site consists of approximately 150 acres located at the south end of Lake Sawyer. The site is irregular in configuration and includes the following:

- About 38 acres of wetland/riparian area, including Frog Lake (approximately one-third of the site is in regulated wetland or wetland buffer)
- About 9 acres of upland meadow
- About 116 acres of upland forest (previously managed for timber production)
- About 4,000 lineal feet of shoreline on Lake Sawyer (much of which was artificially constructed)
- About one mile of gravel/dirt road
- About one mile of dirt footpath
- Ravensdale Creek and Rock Creek cross the site and flow into Lake Sawyer
- Approximately 40 acres (immediately adjacent to Lake Sawyer road) are considered suitable for development for active recreation (minus vegetative buffers and eagle management area)

### Overall Concept/Plan Goals

The following goals describe the overall approach towards the development of Lake Sawyer Park. They are not intended to be strictly interpreted and followed; rather, they were written to provide general guidance and policy for park development. It is understood that opportunities and/or unforeseen issues may arise that cause actual implementation to vary somewhat or to occur in a different sequence than what is described.

1. **Minimize environmental impact.** Utilize construction techniques that are environmentally sensitive (e.g., sustainable materials; low impact development; energy efficient; permeable surfaces; etc). Implement conservation projects designed to protect/improve water quality and native habitat, restore wetlands, attract wildlife, etc.





2. **Contain infrastructure cost.** Concentrate development in the western half of the property (e.g., roads, parking, utilities, stormwater drainage, active recreation, etc.). Leave the eastern half of the property in a more natural state for passive recreation.
3. **Provide a mix of activities.** Develop the park to offer a wide variety of recreation opportunities designed to serve multiple interests and a broad cross-section of the regional population. These opportunities should include: organized sports and athletic fields (baseball, softball, soccer, football); waterfront area with a swimming beach; picnic areas; playground equipment; open grassy fields (frisbee, kite flying, pick-up games); trails for bicycling, horseback riding, walking, and hiking; interpretive exhibits and nature trails; and wildlife viewing.
4. **Create revenue sources.** Include facilities capable of generating revenue to help offset the cost of park maintenance and operations (e.g., concessions stand; league quality ball fields, activity center [available for private rentals], etc.).
5. **Establish logical, progressive development for phased construction plan.** Develop the park from Lake Sawyer road in. Focus on development of infrastructure first (e.g., roads, parking, utilities, trails) followed by facilities such as athletic fields, the waterfront area, and interpretive areas (viewing blinds, boardwalks, signs/exhibits, etc.). Perform restoration/enhancement projects (exotic weed removal, stream restoration, wetland enhancements, etc.). Remain flexible and opportunistic (i.e., develop infrastructure and facilities as funding becomes available for specific purposes).



## Open Space/Natural Areas

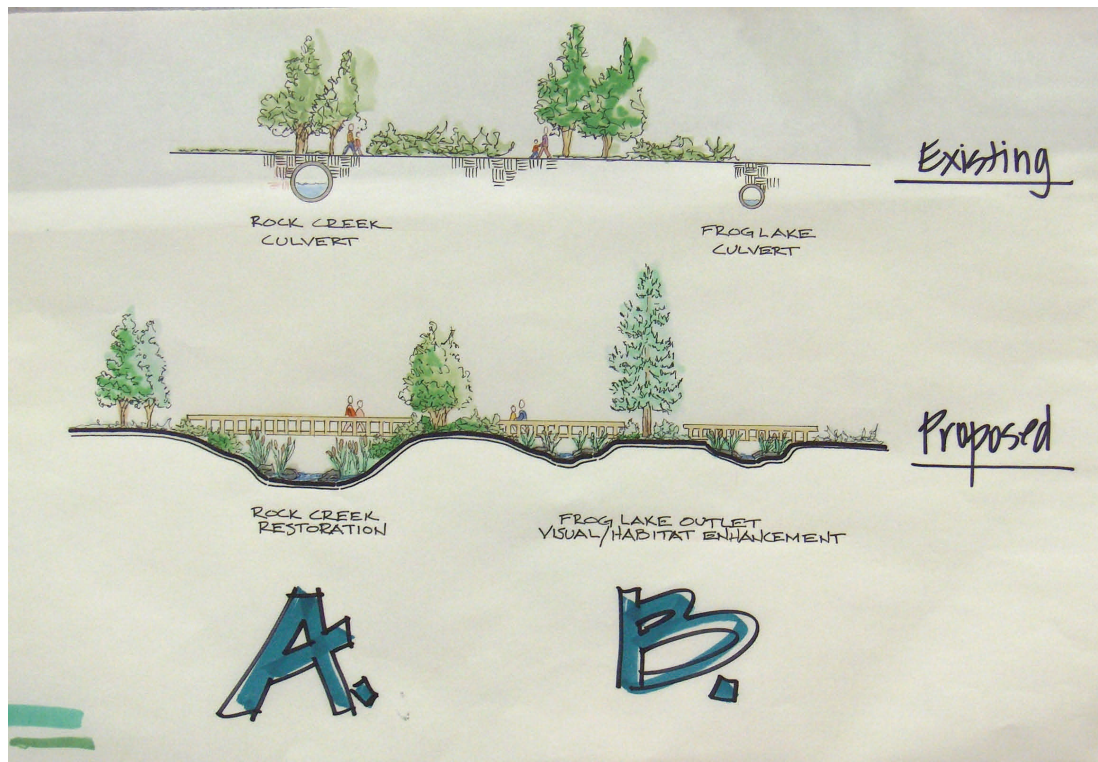
Approximately half of the Lake Sawyer site will be left in a relatively natural, or enhanced, state to provide for fish, wildlife, water quality, and other environmental purposes, as well as passive recreational use. This is the eastern half of the property which contains Frog Lake, Rock Creek, and Ravensdale Creek. Trail use, nature observation, environmental education, and interpretation are the types of recreation activity that will occur in this part of the park. This is also the part of the park where environmental restoration and conservation projects will be emphasized.



Goals for managing open space/natural areas include:

I. Promote regeneration between Frog Lake, Rock Creek, and Lake Sawyer.

The natural hydrologic functions between Frog Lake, Rock Creek and Lake Sawyer have been significantly altered and disrupted by previous development and road building on the property and in the surrounding region. Future park development will consider and evaluate projects to reverse these impacts and restore the functionality between these systems. These projects will potentially perform work such as culvert removal, causeway enhancement, aesthetic improvements, restoration of water flow, and creation of pedestrian bridges between these important creek, wetland, and lake systems (subject to evaluation).





2. Minimize impacts to creeks.

Public access points to both Rock Creek and Ravensdale Creek will be limited in order to protect water quality and the sensitive riparian habitat bordering these streams. Pedestrian bridges and crossings will be kept to a minimum and a natural buffer of at least 75 feet will be retained on each side of these creeks. Existing trails currently located within this buffer may be relocated further away from the creek.

3. Minimize noise and light impact.

Close attention will be paid to the retention of vegetative 'buffers' in and around the eastern portion of the park to minimize the impact of noise and light coming from the lake or other parts of the park. This part of the park is intended to be quiet and serene, offering a place for people to get away from their urban surroundings.

4. Protect, enhance and/or restore wildlife habitat.

A variety of restoration and conservation projects will occur in the eastern portion of the park that will benefit wildlife. These projects will emphasize natural and native habitat to support native species that traditionally use the area.

5. Provide public access via trails and develop a variety of outdoor environmental learning experiences for children and adults.

Trail use, nature observation, environmental education, and interpretation are the types of recreation that will occur on the eastern half of Lake Sawyer Park. A primary multi-use trail (oriented north and south) will serve as the main access route, with several spur trails leading off from that to other areas. One spur trail will be a nature trail (footpath and boardwalk) around Frog Lake that leads to strategically located wildlife viewing observation areas. Another spur trail will branch off to the west and lead walkers through the open grassy meadows adjacent to Lake



**CONSERVATION OPPORTUNITIES**

Move trail away from Ravensdale Creek

Use existing trails on side of creek

Invasive plant management throughout

Use existing trails where appropriate

Restore/daylight creek

Native Veg. Fence

Create sunny meadow knoll

Habitat/Visual improvements to Frog Pond connection

Restore/daylight Rock Creek

Invasive plant management

Lake Sawyer

Frog Lake

A

B

C



## Waterfront Area

A waterfront area will be developed in the northwest section of the property adjacent to Lake Sawyer. This area will include a swimming beach, parking and restrooms, a concession stand for food and small non-motorized boat rentals, grassy lawn, picnic sites, a boat dock that includes a public boat 'drop-off' zone (for loading/un-loading passengers - no public mooring) and a boathouse for the police department, and a small deck platform surrounded by a gently sloping grassy hillside overlooking the lake that could be used for small, non-amplified, events (e.g., weddings, acoustical concerts, community festivals, etc). The waterfront area will not include a public boat launch.

A site will be preserved further up from the waterfront area for a possible future activity/community center building. If built, the activity/community center would be a multi-purpose facility capable of hosting a wide variety of uses (e.g., senior services and classes, youth groups, recreation programming, private rentals, etc). It would include classrooms, an office, a large assembly room, kitchen, and public restrooms.







Goals for developing the waterfront area include:

1. Provide a safe and attractive swimming beach.

A section of shoreline in this area will be developed into a sandy beach with a roped-off swimming area. Motorboat access near this area will be restricted, thereby creating a safe location for a public swimming beach. (Note: this area floods during periods of high water events and will need to be designed/engineered to withstand such flooding).

2. Provide parking and accessibility.

A large parking lot area will be developed upland from the beach. It will include a drop-off area specially designed to accommodate handicapped individuals. The parking lot will be connected to the beach, boat dock, and other areas via sidewalks and/or paved trails. Picnic pads will also be designed for wheelchair access.

3. Provide a public boat dock that includes a covered boathouse for police use.

A public boat dock will be built to provide a place for motorboats to stop and drop-off or pick-up passengers (boat mooring will not be allowed). A portion of the boat dock will be fenced off and secured for a private boathouse to be used by the Black Diamond Police Department patrol boat. This will provide a Police Department presence at the waterfront and will help the park stay safe and secure.

4. Create a revenue source to help offset the cost of park management and operations.

A concession building will be included in the waterfront area. This building will be available for lease or contract with a private business for the purpose of selling food, snacks, and beverages and to rent small boats (e.g., canoes and rowboats). The revenue from the concession operation will be used to help offset the cost of park management and operations. Public



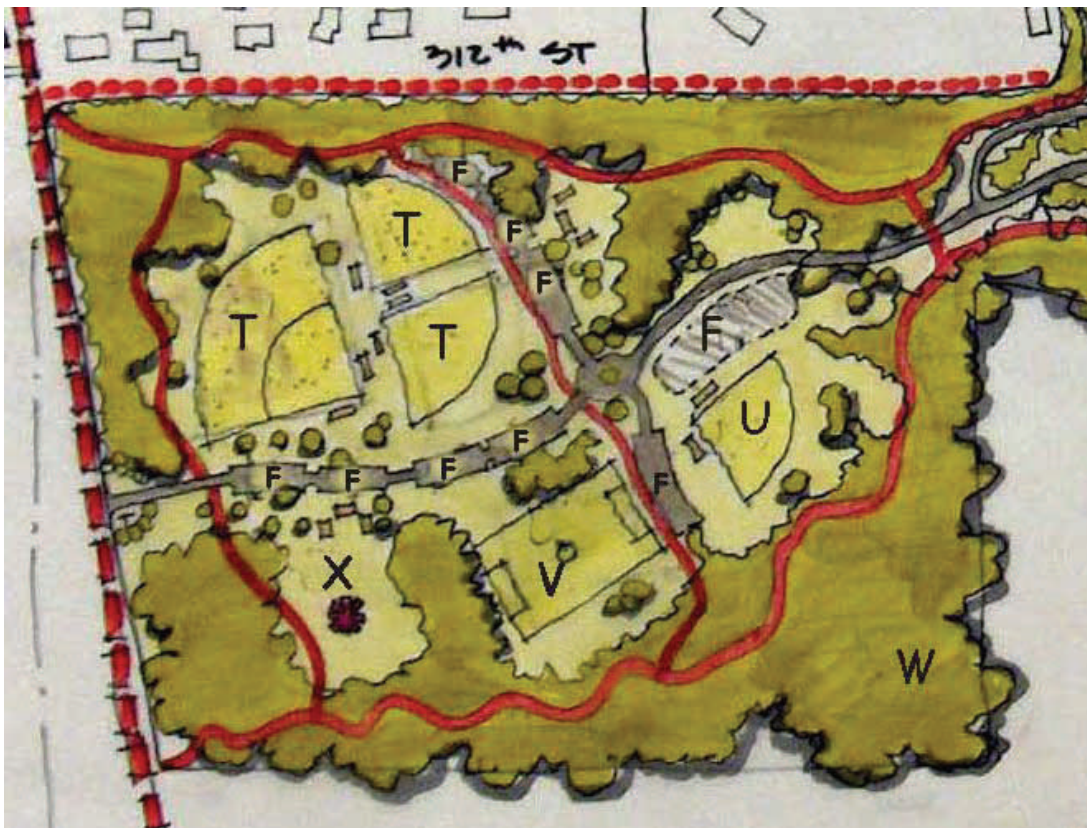
restrooms with changing rooms will be included as part of this building.

5. Create a small bandstand surrounded by a grassy hillside overlooking the lake (Community Commons).

The waterfront area will include a small deck platform surrounded by a gently sloping grassy hillside overlooking the lake that can be used for small, non-amplified, events (e.g., weddings, acoustical band concerts, community festivals, etc). This is not intended to be a large amphitheatre capable of hosting major concerts with large crowds. Rather it is intended to be a small facility ideally suited for quiet, non-intrusive events. The City of Black Diamond will develop policies for managing this area that include restricting noise levels and times when events can occur.

## Ball Fields

The western portion of the park, immediately adjacent to Lake Sawyer Road, contains about 40 acres of relatively flat land that will be developed into a complex of sports and athletic fields for baseball, softball, soccer, and football. These facilities will be designed to accommodate a wide range of users and interests and will include both tournament level quality fields as well as fields for the more casual 'pick-up' type games.





Goals for developing the ball fields area include:

1. Reduce and minimize the impacts from the ball fields on the surrounding community and other parts of the park.

A new road will be built off Lake Sawyer Road that will serve as the primary public access in and out of Lake Sawyer Park. No public access will be allowed along 312<sup>th</sup> Street which will retain privacy for residents along this street. A vegetative 'buffer' approximately 150 feet wide will be retained along 312<sup>th</sup> street to screen private residences from the ball fields.

Vegetative buffers will also be used in other areas to screen the ball fields from other parts of the park. In addition, gates will be installed on the road between the ball fields area and the rest of the park. This will allow the ball fields area to be left open at night while the rest of the park can be closed after dark.

2. Integrate ball field design with existing topography.

The topography of this 40 acre area consists of two relatively flat benches connected by a gently sloping hillside. A tournament quality complex of youth and adult baseball/softball fields will be developed in the northwest corner on the larger bench. A multiple-use soccer and football field will be developed on the smaller bench to the south, and a playfield for pick-up games of all types will be developed further east of that.

3. Create tournament quality youth and adult baseball/softball fields for revenue generation.

A tournament quality complex of youth and adult baseball/softball fields will be developed that will be available to host a variety of baseball and softball league games and tournaments. This is expected to be a significant source of income to Black Diamond to help offset the cost of park operations and maintenance. These fields will include directional field lighting that concentrates and focuses lighting down and to the field of play and limits the amount of light that 'escapes' up into the sky. The use of field lighting



allows the fields to be used and scheduled beyond daylight hours, thus maximizing the utility of a minimum number of fields. Without field lighting, more fields would have to be built and maintained to accommodate the same amount of use. Maximizing field use is an advantage because it minimizes the number of fields that have to be built and maintained at a tournament quality standard. This is a significant budget and operational consideration.

4. Maximize retention of vegetation around ball fields.

In addition to retention of vegetative buffers to screen the ball fields from residential and other parts of the park, vegetation will be retained as much as possible throughout this area. This will retain vegetation for environmental and aesthetic purposes, as well as creating a vegetative circle all around the ball fields.

5. Design facilities to accommodate a wide range of users.

In addition to tournament quality baseball and softball fields, the ball fields area will include fields for everyday park users. These will include a large multi-purpose soccer and football field as well as a baseball field for pick-up games and other purposes. In addition, trails and play areas with playground equipment will be sited in this section of the park.

6. Provide facilities to serve a mix of activities and interests.

The ball fields area will be developed to serve a mix of interests and activities ranging from organized, competitive leagues to family-oriented recreation outings. The ball fields area will be designed primarily for soccer, baseball, softball, and football, but will also include small play areas and sports courts, playground equipment, picnic facilities, and trails as well.





## Trails, Roadways, and Circulation Patterns

A road and trail system will be designed to safely and conveniently circulate motor vehicles and pedestrians through the park. The road system will provide motor vehicle access through the western half of the property from Lake Sawyer road to the ball field and waterfront areas of the park. Public motorized vehicle access will not be allowed into the eastern half of the property. Administrative vehicles will be allowed access into the eastern half of the property via the trail system for maintenance, operations, and/or emergency purposes. People will circulate throughout the park via an extensive network of trails.







Goals for building the roadway and trail system include:

Provide diverse trail experiences.

An extensive trail system will be developed to provide pedestrian access throughout the park. This system will include a variety of trail 'types' designed to accommodate various users and purposes. These include the following:

Sidewalks - typically cement sidewalks linking parking areas to major developed parts of the park (e.g., concession building, picnic pavilion, children's play areas, community center, etc.)

Bike lanes - 4 - 5 foot wide shoulders along roadway with the bike symbol applied and separated via a 4-inch wide solid white fog line

Paved multi-purpose trails - typically 12 foot wide paved asphalt for multi-purpose use (e.g., walking, running, bicycling, roller blading, etc). This will include the regional trail route to be constructed and maintained by King County as a deed condition through Lake Sawyer Park that functions as a link between the Green and Cedar River open space systems. This type of trail will also be typical in the peripheral areas around the ball fields and along the waterfront areas.

Equestrian Trails - horseback trail routes through Lake Sawyer Park that are linked to the existing regional equestrian trail system (note: it is not envisioned to develop major trailhead and parking for equestrian uses in Lake Sawyer Park. Rather, the intent is to maintain the continuity of existing equestrian trails through Lake Sawyer that are accessed elsewhere).

Mountain Biking Trails - typically 3 to 4 foot wide dirt paths designed primarily for mountain biking that are linked to the existing regional mountain biking trail system.



- Nature Paths and Boardwalks – typically 3 to 4 foot wide dirt paths designed for walkers and hikers with occasional stretches of wooden boardwalk near sensitive areas or leading to viewing/observation decks. This type of trail will primarily be found in the peripheral area around Frog Lake.

2. Balance goals for public use and access with goals for resource conservation.

The road and trail system will be used as a tool to manage public access to Lake Sawyer, Frog Lake, and other sensitive resource areas. Roads and parking lots will not be developed in the waterfront area; rather, the waterfront area will be designed for people and public access. The parking lot will be developed away from the waterfront on higher ground.

Sidewalks and 'hardened' asphalt trails will guide people through high traffic areas, over the lagoon, and to desirable viewing areas thereby keeping them on the trail and protecting sensitive resource areas for others to enjoy. In addition, the road will be gated between the ballfields area and the rest of the park to allow it to be closed off at night when the ballfields area is in use.

3. Minimize road construction and utilize low-impact engineering techniques.

The road and parking system will be designed and engineered to be as light on the land as possible. The total road distance will be kept to a minimum and numerous, smaller landscaped pullouts and parking spaces will be provided for aesthetic purposes. Consideration will be given to including low-impact engineering techniques to soften the imprint of roads and trails on the land (e.g., permeable surfaces, surface water runoff, etc).

4. Ensure accessibility and reasonable walking distances.

The park roads and trail system will be designed in conformance with all

applicable accessibility laws, regulations, and guidelines. Close attention will be paid to ensuring full accessibility from parking areas to the more intensely developed parts of the park. Reasonable walking distances will be maintained between developed sites and parking areas. The benefits of providing accessible facilities are twofold: 1) it provides safer and better conditions for all users, not just those with disabilities; and 2) it increases the possibility/opportunity for persons with disabilities to not only have access, but to do so along side their non-disabled family and friends.

5. Enable emergency access.

The trail system will be designed to accommodate administrative and/or emergency vehicle access along the paved, multi-purpose paths throughout the park. This will allow emergency personnel to get to within a reasonable distance of all parts of the park.





## Play Areas and Sports Courts

Numerous play areas and sports courts will be developed at strategic locations in and around the ballfields and waterfront areas. They will not be located in the eastern half of the property which will be more natural and open space. Play areas and sports courts will typically be smaller areas with facilities such as playground equipment, picnic tables, and/or courts for activities such as basketball, volleyball, four-square, etc.

Goals for play areas and sports courts include:

1. Provide a broad range of activities

Develop small play areas and sports courts at strategic locations that provide for a broad range of activities/interests (from passive to active) and that serve to disperse people and groups throughout the park.

2. Accommodate a wide range of ages.

Design play areas and sports courts to serve a range of age group interests from young to old.

3. Provide for group and individual areas.

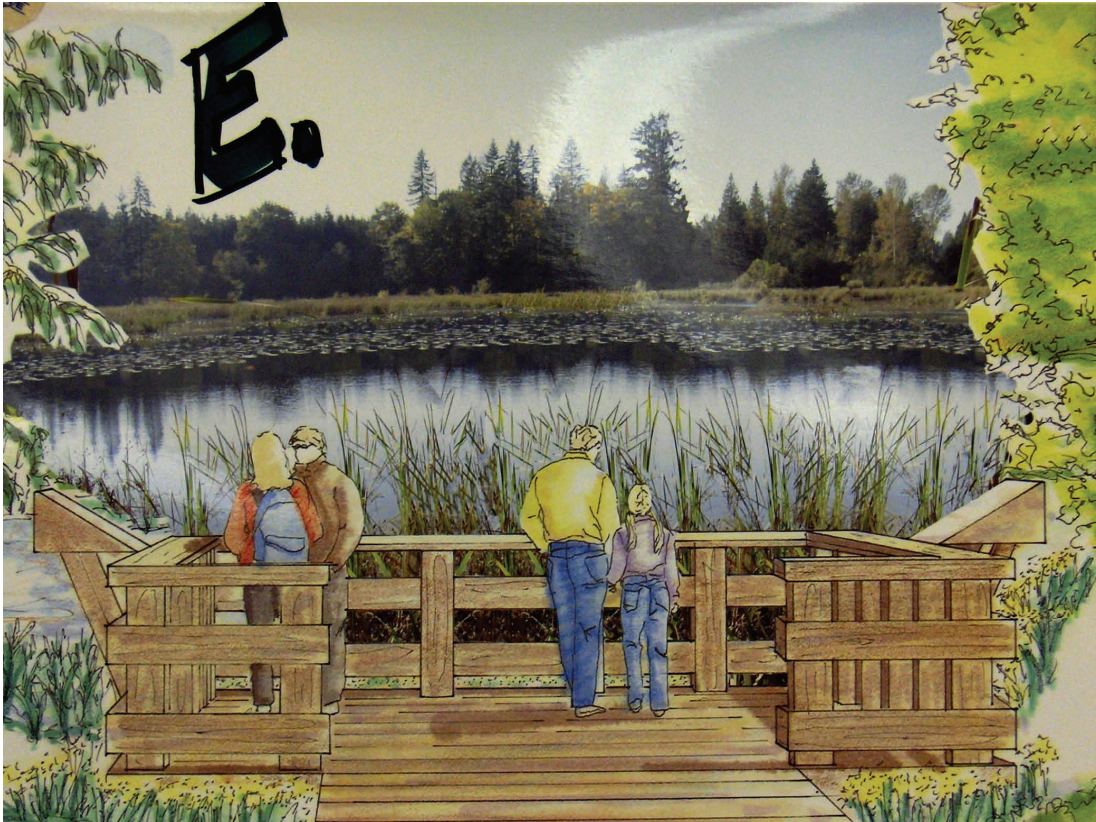
Develop play areas and sports courts in different sizes to accommodate large groups (e.g., multiple families, clubs, organizations, etc) and small groups or single families.

4. Maintain continuity among park features/elements.

Maintain continuity in design and appearance among park features and elements (e.g., signs, colors, landscaping, structures, etc).

## Environmental Education and Interpretation

An environmental education and interpretation program will be developed at Lake Sawyer Park that includes both facilities and programming. Facilities will include wildlife viewing areas, interpretive trails, interpretive signs and plant identification markers. Programming will include scheduled speakers, events, and/or activities to educate people about various subjects related to the areas' natural and cultural resources.





Goals for environmental education and interpretation programs and facilities include:

1. Disperse interpretive signs, information, and opportunities throughout the park.

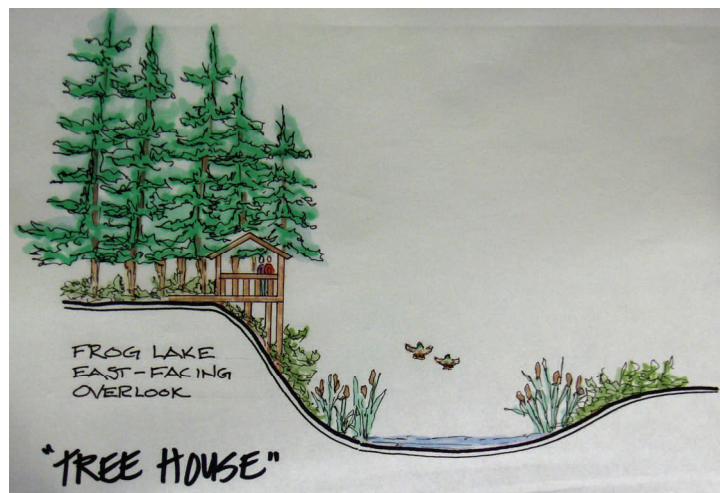
Strategically locate interpretive signs, information, and opportunities throughout the park and particularly in the eastern half of the park. Concentrate efforts around Frog Lake and along Ravensdale Creek.

2. Maintain continuity in design and appearance and integrate site design into the landscape.

Maintain continuity in design and appearance among interpretive features and integrate design into the landscape by using natural and native materials as much as possible.

3. Program a variety of interpretive and educational activities.

Offer a variety of educational/interpretive opportunities for various age groups and interests. Programs should be offered year round and should include activities such as: guided nature walks; plant identification; water quality monitoring; outdoor photography; guest speakers/lectures; etc.



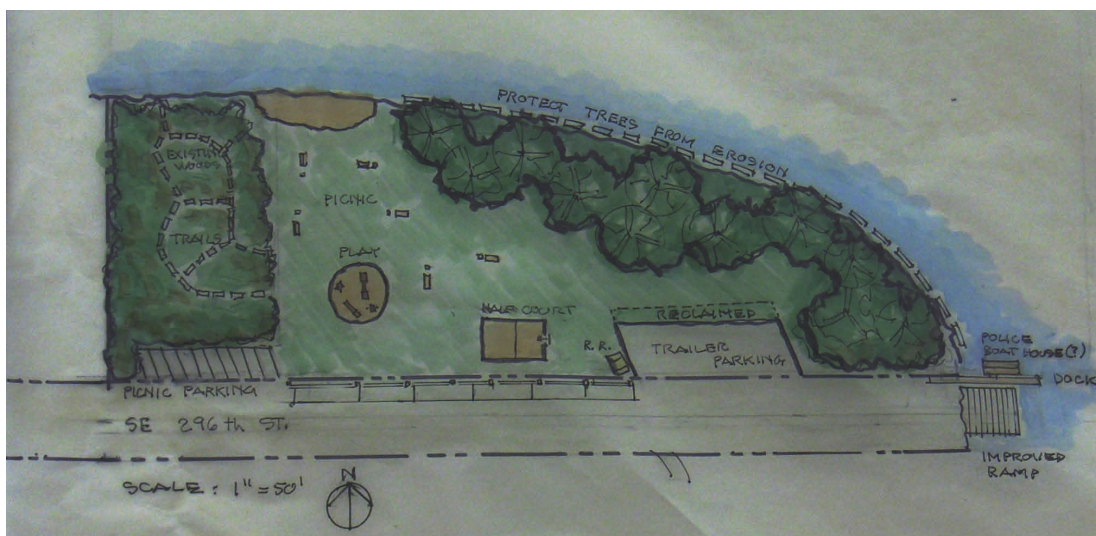


## Existing Boat Launch Park

The existing boat launch park on the west side of Lake Sawyer will be modernized and upgraded to include repair of the existing boat launch, construction of a finger pier for boat access and fishing, new playground equipment, restrooms, and provision of additional parking for vehicles without boat trailers.

Goals for the existing boat launch park include:

1. Modernize and repair the existing boat launch
2. Provide a public pier for boat access and fishing
3. Add playground equipment and upgrade restrooms
4. Reconfigure parking to provide for vehicles without boat trailers and encourage more use of the park







## Next Steps and Implementation

Following is a description of the most likely steps and actions that have to occur to develop and open Lake Sawyer Park. While these imply a general order, it is not intended to suggest they will occur in sequence. Many of the steps are interrelated and may occur simultaneously or in a different order than presented depending on opportunities that arise, funding obtained, etc.

### 1. Form a 'Friends of Lake Sawyer' group.

Formation of a local volunteer 'friends' group will greatly assist the City of Black Diamond in their efforts to develop and manage the park. Friends groups can perform a variety of functions such as organizing volunteers and work parties, fundraising, public relations, park patrol, etc.

### 2. Develop and maintain a 'punch list' of work to be done.

The City of Black Diamond should prepare a master list of the work that needs to be done in order to open the park to the public. Significant design, engineering, permitting, and construction needs to occur to build the roads, trails, ball fields, and waterfront area. Maintenance of a master 'punch list' helps guide efforts related to writing grants, fundraising, and coordinating the work of volunteers.

### 3. Apply for grants.

It is anticipated that most of the money for design, engineering, permitting, and construction projects will come from one or more grant sources. Local community groups and individuals should support these grant requests by submitting letters of support, fundraising for matching requirements, testifying at preliminary grant proposal hearings, etc. A list and description of potential grant programs that can assist in park development is contained in the 'Funding Opportunities' chapter of this document.



#### 4. Design and Engineering

The City of Black Diamond will most likely hire one or more consulting firms to do the design and engineering work for various components of the park. This will be the stage where some of the 'concepts' described in this plan could get modified, adjusted, and/or refined as more detailed information is obtained (e.g., soil structure, wetland delineation, hydrology, sensitive natural or cultural environments, etc.). Further refinements could occur during the permitting process in order to receive the necessary building and construction permits before work can actually begin.

#### 5. Permitting

Permitting can be a very lengthy process that can take one or more years to complete. It is important for local citizens to stay informed and involved during the permitting process and to take actions such as attending and speaking at hearings, writing letters of support for the proposed action, etc. It is also important to remember that permitting processes are in place for good reasons to protect the public's shared interest in and fundamental rights to clean air, water, a healthy environment, and protection of our historic/cultural heritage.

#### 6. Construction

The last stage will be the actual construction of park facilities and infrastructure. The City of Black Diamond will contract major work with construction companies, but some lighter work may also be coordinated and completed by volunteer efforts or by existing city crews and staff.



## Funding Opportunities

### Federal Funding Sources

#### *EPA Environmental Education Grants*

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) administers a grant program that supports environmental education projects that enhance the public's awareness, knowledge, and skills to help people make informed decisions that affect environmental quality. EPA awards grants each year based on funding appropriated by Congress. Annual funding for the program ranges between \$2 and \$3 million. More than 75% of the grants awarded by this program receive less than \$15,000.

**Contact:**

Sally Hanft  
EPA Region 10  
(206) 553-1207

#### *Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)*

The NRCS administers the 'Resource Conservation and Development Program' (RC&D). The purpose of the RC&D program is to accelerate the conservation, development and utilization of natural resources, improve the general level of economic activity, and to enhance the environment and standard of living in designated RC&D areas. It improves the capability of State, tribal and local units of government and local nonprofit organizations in rural areas to plan develop and carry out programs for resource conservation and development. Current program objectives focus on improvement of quality of life achieved through natural resources conservation and community development which leads to sustainable communities, prudent use (development), and the management and conservation of natural resources. RC&D areas are locally sponsored areas designated by the Secretary of Agriculture for RC&D technical and financial assistance program funds.

**Contact:**

Terry D'Addio  
National RC&D Program Manager



(202) 720-0557

For more information about this and other NCRS programs, see the Natural Resources Conservation Service's website at: [www.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov).

## **State Funding Sources**

### *Land and Water Conservation Fund*

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) was enacted by Congress in 1964 to establish a funding source for grants to state and local governments for land acquisition and/or development of outdoor recreation areas and facilities. LWCF is federally funded but administered in each state through a governor-appointed state agency. In Washington, LWCF is administered by the Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation (IAC). LWCF grants require a 50% match from state or local funds. Areas funded through LWCF assistance are required to be dedicated in perpetuity for public recreation use.

For complete information about all the grant programs administered by the IAC, see their website at: [www.iac.wa.gov](http://www.iac.wa.gov)

### **Contact:**

Darrell Jennings  
Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation  
1111 Washington Street SE  
Olympia, Washington 98501  
(360) 902-3020

### *Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP)*

The WWRP is a grant program authorized by the Washington State legislature to support acquisition and development of outdoor recreation and conservation lands. Eligible projects include state and local parks, water access sites, trails, critical



wildlife habitat, and natural areas. Grants require a 50% match. WWRP is managed by the Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation ([www.iac.wa.gov](http://www.iac.wa.gov)).

**Contact:**

Darrell Jennings  
Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation  
1111 Washington Street SE  
Olympia, Washington 98501  
(360) 902-3020

## **Private Businesses and Foundations**

There are a number of private businesses and foundations that provide grants for trails and environmental education projects. Grants given through these organizations are harder to track because in any given year some of the grant opportunities will have been discontinued and new opportunities from other organizations will have appeared. A sampler of grants offered is listed below. However due to the frequent changes, the best way to capitalize on these types of grants is to research grant opportunities close to the time of implementation through libraries and the internet. See Information Sources below, for publications/sites to use for completing the research.

### *The Conservation Fund*

Through the American Greenways Program, The Conservation Fund helps build a national network of linked open spaces and natural areas, connecting communities to the outdoors and to each other and forging partnerships for a sustainable future. The **Kodak American Greenways Awards**, a partnership project of the Eastman Kodak Company, The Conservation Fund, and the National Geographic Society, provides small grants to stimulate the planning and design of greenways in communities throughout America.



**Contact:**

The Conservation Fund  
(703) 525-6300  
[greenways@conservationfund.org](mailto:greenways@conservationfund.org)

*Starbucks Neighborhood Parks Program*

The Starbucks coffee company awards 30 grants each year of \$15,000 in support of local park projects. Grants are awarded to neighborhood based organizations with 501 (C)(3) tax exempt status.

**Contact:**

Contact the Store Manager at the Starbucks nearest Lake Sawyer Park  
[www.starbucks.com/aboutus/grantspark.asp](http://www.starbucks.com/aboutus/grantspark.asp)

*The Baseball Tomorrow Fund*

The Baseball Tomorrow Fund is designed to promote and enhance the growth of baseball throughout the world by funding programs, field improvements and equipment purchases to encourage and maintain youth participation in baseball and softball. Since its inception in 1999, the Baseball Tomorrow Fund has awarded grants totaling more than \$9 million to Little League organizations benefiting nearly 109,000 youth participating in more than 180 youth baseball and softball programs across the United States, Canada, Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, U.S. Virgin Islands and Europe.

**Contact:**

Jim Gerstenslager  
Western Region Director  
Little League Western Region Headquarters  
6707 Little League Drive  
San Bernardino, CA 92407  
(909) 887-6444  
[jgerstenslager@littleleague.org](mailto:jgerstenslager@littleleague.org)





### *The Bikes Belong Coalition*

Bikes Belong is a national coalition of bicycle suppliers and retailers working together to put more people on bicycles more often. Bikes Belong awards grants of up to \$10,000 for facility and advocacy projects.

#### **Contact:**

Elizabeth Train, Grants & Research Director  
Bikes Belong Coalition  
1920 13th Street, Suite A  
Boulder, Colorado 80302  
(303) 449-4893  
[elizabeth@bikesbelong.org](mailto:elizabeth@bikesbelong.org)

## **Community Fundraising, Donations, and In-Kind Contributions**

*Community Fundraising:* Local service clubs and organizations can be significant contributors to park development, and their active support could assist the development of Lake Sawyer Park. These groups can assist with a wide range of activities to generate revenue for construction and maintenance. Examples include auctions, car washes, rummage sales, etc.

*Donations:* Donations can be a big part of funding park projects. Individual and/or corporate sponsors can potentially contribute significant funds through direct contributions, endowments, employee challenge/match programs, or donations of necessary construction materials and maintenance supplies. Potential corporate donors for Lake Sawyer Park include REI, Boeing, Starbucks, and the Seattle Mariners.

*In-Kind Contributions:* Many grant programs require a local match to help demonstrate the community's commitment to the project. Often this 'match' requirement can be met with what is referred to as an 'in-kind' contribution. In-kind contributions are non-monetary donations of labor, equipment and materials to the overall cost of completing a project that can be translated to a dollar value used to meet the matching requirement. Volunteer labor for tasks such as clearing, grading, and construction can go a long way



## Information Sources

A valuable source of information for all federal grant programs is the “**Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Programs**”. The catalog is a compendium of federal programs, projects, services, and activities that provide assistance or benefits to the American public. It is organized by agency, function, subject, and applicant eligibility. The catalog is available at most libraries. Also, a website has been developed that describes Federal Assistance Grants, called e-grants; visit <http://www.grants.gov> . The “Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance” can be found there.

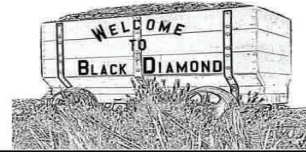
Another source of information is the ‘**Trails and Greenways Clearinghouse**’ that provides technical assistance and information about creating trails and greenways. The clearinghouse is jointly sponsored by the ‘Rails-to-Trails Conservancy’ and ‘The Conservation Fund’.

### Contact:

Betsy Goodrich, Manager  
Trails and Greenways Clearinghouse  
(202) 974-5123  
<http://www.trailsandgreenways.org>.



## Appendix I — Black Diamond Recreation Survey Questionnaire

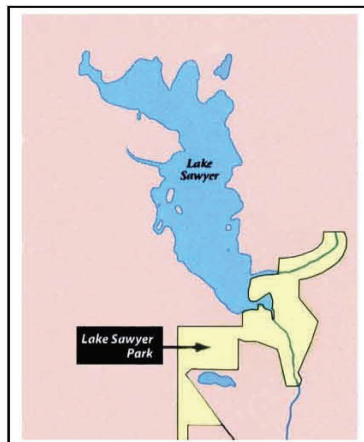


### Park Survey 2006

The City of Black Diamond is currently in the early stages of designing and creating a public recreation area consisting of 150 acres located at the south end of Lake Sawyer. Later this fall, the advisory group and a team of park planners will be teamed with invited citizens to prepare conceptual drawings for the park. In advance of those meetings, the City is gathering data to help facilitate this process. Please take a moment to respond to the following questions. Completed surveys should be mailed or dropped off at City Hall, PO Box 599, 25510 Lawson Street, by August 11<sup>th</sup>.

1. In the last 12 months, how many times have you visited any public park? Please select one of the following:

☐ 0-5      ☐ 6-9      ☐ 10 or more



2. Parks can be very serene or very active. Please circle your preference for the general type of park use that you prefer for Lake Sawyer Park.

1      2      3      4      5  
Serene      Somewhat active      Very active

3. How much natural habitat do you think should be left undisturbed at this location? Please circle one below.

0%  
25%  
50%  
75%  
100%

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



4. From the list below, please indicate your level of interest in the following amenities being provided at Lake Sawyer Park:

Potential Parks Amenities	Very Important	Important	Not Important
Picnic Areas			
Covered Picnic Areas for Groups			
Roped off Swimming Area			
Playground			
Paved Running and Walking Trails			
Natural Footpaths, Nature Trails, & Boardwalks			
Wildlife Viewing Area			
Dog Walking Area			
Open Lawn Areas			
Area for Canoes/Kayaks/Un-powered Boats			
Fishing Dock(s)			
Youth Athletic Fields			
Softball Fields			
Soccer/Football Fields			
Regulated Lights on Fields			
Activity Center/Multiple Use Building			
Interpretive Signs			
Environmental Education Center			
Concession Stand			
Other:			

5. Of the following potential impacts, please circle the ones that concern you the most:

Removal of Trees	Shoreline Development
Trail construction	Stream & Habitat Preservation
Lighting of Ball Fields	Parking
Traffic	Law enforcement
Loitering	Noise
Other (please specify) _____	

Please prioritize your circled selections with number 1 being your greatest concern.

6. Are you a resident of Lake Sawyer? \_\_\_\_\_

7. Name (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Please mark your calendar for Sunday, October 22, 2006. There will be a public meeting at the Black Diamond Community Center to preview the drawings and design ideas generated by the design teams.

**Thank you.**

Please return completed surveys by August 11<sup>th</sup>, to Scott Jones, City Planner, Black Diamond City Hall, PO Box 599 or drop them off at City Hall, 25510 Lawson Street.



## Appendix II — Newsletter One

### **Lake Sawyer Park Newsletter Development**



#### Our Draft Vision Statement

Lake Sawyer Park is a premier recreation area that fosters a sense of stewardship and community for all residents and visitors in the Black Diamond area.

The park is designed to support:

- A variety of appropriate activities for individuals and groups
- A healthy and thriving natural environment
- Spiritual and mental health renewal
- A safe, inviting family atmosphere
- Educational and interpretive programs and activities
- Accessibility and basic needs for park enjoyment.



#### Introduction & Background

The City of Black Diamond is implementing a project to prepare a "Development Concept Plan" for the future Lake Sawyer Park. This is the first of a series of newsletters designed to inform and engage the public in this process. Future newsletters will be produced at key points throughout the project.

The property consists of 150 acres at the south end of Lake Sawyer and was recently given to Black Diamond from King County through an agreement specifying that it would be used for public park purposes. In the agreement, the City of Black Diamond agreed to implement a process to develop a master plan for the park and, ultimately, develop and manage it.

The "Development Concept Plan" resulting from this project will be a written document describing the community vision for developing the park. It will include the overall context and character of the park relative to the region; the type of use and proposed facilities to develop in different areas of the park; maps, illustrations, and graphics; a discussion of potential management and operation needs; a description of potential funding sources; and an implementation section that recommends how to complete the project.

#### Bringing Needed Resources Together

To help facilitate the planning process, the City of Black Diamond applied for planning assistance from the Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program of the National Park Service. The grant was approved and a planning process has been organized to prepare a "Development Concept Plan" for Lake Sawyer Park.

A Planning Team and a Citizens' Advisory Group have been formed to help guide the process.

Planning Team: Howard Botts, Mayor; Scott Jones, City Planner; Becky Olness, Black Diamond City Council; Mike Cline, Black Diamond City Council; Jason Paulsen, Community Development Director; Bryan Bowden, National Park Service, Rivers, Trails, & Conservation Assistance Program.

Advisory Committee: Courtney Brown, Helen Bittner, Steven Garvich, Kevin Myette, Doug Nyberg, Mark Davis, Bob Eaton, Leah Grant, Elise Hanson, Allison Newcomb, Ernie Richardson, Glenn Ross, Cindy Wheeler.





## Our Process



### Stage 1: Info Gathering

The first stage consists of researching and preparing baseline information. It will include the following:

- A regional recreation inventory listing the availability and condition of recreation facilities in the region.
- Short papers summarizing the history of the project and the natural and historic resources of the Black Diamond/Lake Sawyer area.
- Base maps, sensitive area delineation, and aerial photography.
- Summarized information from a community-wide survey. The survey form is being designed and should be mailed by late July to every household in Black Diamond.
- Survey results will be summarized and used in the analysis stage of the project to determine program elements to develop at Lake Sawyer Park. Your opinion counts! Please return the completed questionnaire per instructions on the form.

### Stage 2: Analysis

Fall, 2006

All of the information gathered in Stage 1 will be analyzed and decisions will be made regarding the major type of facilities and activities to incorporate at the site.

### Stage 3: Design Charette

October 20-22, 2006

The cornerstone event in this project will be a design charette that will occur over a three-day weekend in October. A charette is a creative brainstorming event in which design professionals and community members participate to rapidly develop design ideas, sketches, and maps for a project.

The charette is being organized with the assistance of the Washington Chapter, American Society of Landscape Architects. Teams will be assembled consisting of volunteer landscape architects combined with community representatives from various agencies, organizations, and interest groups. The teams will meet Friday afternoon with an orientation tour of the park site and a review of the background information and analysis information completed in stages 1 and 2. Teams will work all day Saturday and on Sunday morning preparing design ideas and graphic illustrations. A public presentation will be held Sunday afternoon to report on various design ideas and preview the drawings.

### Stage 4: Draft & Final Plan Production, Public Review & Adoption

November, 2006—Spring 2007

The final stage of the project will be preparation of a draft plan, circulation for public review and comment, final plan production, and adoption by the City Council.







### Public Involvement

One of the goals of the park project is for broad public involvement. Throughout the planning process there will be many opportunities to be kept informed and to take part. The various elements of the public involvement component are:

**Advisory Committee:** An advisory committee of interested citizens and agencies has been chosen to provide advice and to help with the project. The advisory committee will serve as a link between the community and the City of Black Diamond.

**Newsletter:** This is the first of a series of newsletters. Others will be prepared and distributed at key points in the planning process.

**Charette:** Community members will be invited to participate on teams with volunteer landscape architects during the charette weekend.

**Public Meetings:** Two public meetings will be held to provide residents of the area an opportunity to learn about and give feedback on the project.

**October 22, 2006:** A public meeting will be held at the conclusion of the charette to preview the drawings and report on design ideas generated by the teams. Mark your calendar now to attend!

**Winter, 2007:** The draft plan will be released for review and public comment. An open meeting will be held to discuss the draft plan and announce its availability for public review.

### American Society of Landscape Architects Washington State Chapter (WASLA)

An added value of National Park Service Rivers and Trails' involvement in this project comes from a "Memorandum of Understanding" between the National Park Service and WASLA. The agreement provides the framework for WASLA collaboration on selected Rivers and Trails projects that mutually benefit both organizations. Communities benefit from the pairing of Rivers and Trails organizational resources with the technical skills of WASLA's landscape architects.

WASLA participates in such efforts to raise the visibility of the profession of landscape architecture and to provide community service, at no cost, as part of the organization's community stewardship program. A WASLA board member is participating in planning the design charette component of this project and WASLA members from throughout the state will donate a 3-day weekend of their personal time.



This newsletter is sponsored by the City of Black Diamond and the National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program.

## Appendix III — Newsletter Two



### Background

This is the second in a series of newsletters designed to keep you informed about the progress of a *Concept Development Plan* for the future Lake Sawyer Park. The first newsletter described the project, planning process, timeline, and provided the names of the "Planning Team" and "Citizen Advisory Committee". This newsletter provides summary information about the *Information Gathering* and *Analysis* stages and explains the upcoming *Design Charette* that will be the cornerstone event in the entire process.



### You Are Invited!

Please join us at a public meeting for a presentation and discussion of design ideas for the future Lake Sawyer Park.

*Sunday, October 22, 2006*

*1:00 pm—3:00 pm*

*Black Diamond Community Center*

Refreshments will be served and there will be fabulous door prizes, thanks to generous contributions from local businesses and sponsors. You must be present to win.

### Information Gathering

The first stage of the project was to research and prepare baseline information. This work included the preparation of base maps showing topography and wetlands, researching the history of the Black Diamond area, conducting a community-wide survey, performing an inventory of existing recreation areas and facilities in the region, and documentation of previous planning and deed conditions from when King County owned the property.

### Property Characterization

The total acreage of the property is 150 acres. Of that, approximately 1/3 is regulated wetland or wetland buffer (mostly around Frog Lake). There are approximately 116 acres of upland forest; 9 acres of upland meadow; 4000 lineal feet of shoreline on Lake Sawyer; about 1 mile of existing gravel road; and about 1 mile of existing trails.

This newsletter is sponsored by the City of Black Diamond and the National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program.



## Deed Restrictions

King County originally acquired the property for a regional park to serve three functions:

- Provide a link in the regional trail and open space system between Maple Valley and Flaming Geyser State Park (connecting the Green and Cedar River Open Space Systems).
- Provide active sports fields
- Provide passive open space, featuring wetlands and shoreline access.

King County acquired the property through a combination of grants and various county funding sources that required legal and contractual commitments to develop and manage parts of the property in certain ways. To obtain funding, King County prepared a preliminary development plan that provided for the functions listed above. These legal conditions and requirements transferred to the City of Black Diamond with the property. Specifically, they include the following:

- The City must finalize and adopt a plan substantially the same as the County's preliminary plan.
- The City must fully develop for active regional recreation, including athletic fields on the 38.6 acre portion of the site identified by the County's preliminary plan.
- The property around Frog Lake contains wetlands, streams, and riparian habitat. This property was acquired with Open Space Bond funds and must be managed for open space purposes.
- The City must maintain a trail route through the property that functions as part of a regional trail link between the Green and Cedar River open space systems.

## Survey Results

In July, a survey was designed and mailed to every household in Black Diamond. 155 responded, half of whom live on Lake Sawyer. The vast majority of responses preferred serene or semi-active uses (85 %) and at least half of the park left in its current natural state (84%). The top five activities rated "Very Important" were nature paths; picnic areas; wildlife viewing; swimming; and paved trails.

## Regional Recreation Inventory

Site visits were made to four parks in the area to gain an understanding of existing facilities and their condition. The four parks visited were Lake Wilderness Park in Maple Valley; Lake Meridian Park in Kent; Tiffany Park in Renton, and Flaming Geyser State Park in Auburn. Facilities at each park appear to be in good condition and well used. All have picnic facilities, playground equipment, restrooms, and walking paths. Three of the parks include waterfront and two of these include developed swimming and fishing areas. Tiffany Park includes tennis courts and Flaming Geyser State Park offers interpretive elements.



## Design Charette

October 20—22, 2006

The cornerstone event currently in the planning process is a creative design brainstorming workshop (called a charette) that will occur over a three-day weekend in October. The charette is being organized with the assistance of the Washington Chapter, American Society of Landscape Architects.

A charette is an "invitation only" event. Teams are chosen according to expertise and interest in order to create a broad representation of community members, who will be paired with volunteer landscape architects. These teams will prepare design ideas and conceptual graphic illustrations for the future Lake Sawyer Park.

A public presentation will be held Sunday afternoon, October 22, at the Black Diamond Community Center. All interested citizens are invited and encouraged to attend. The charette teams will report on various design ideas and the public will be able to preview the drawings. Refreshments will be served and there will be fantastic door prizes. You must be present to win.





## Analysis of Information

The Planning Team and Advisory Committee met in early September to review all of the information gathered and to make recommendations about facilities to include at the future park. These recommendations will be used by the design teams at the upcoming charrette as the springboard for preparing detailed graphic design ideas for various program areas at the park. Following is a list of their recommendations:

### Waterfront Area

- Swimming beach
- Amphitheatre
- Fishing dock/Boathouse for police boat
- Canoe/Kayak area
- Concession stand

### Athletic Fields

- Youth baseball fields
- Adult softball fields
- Soccer field(s)
- Multi-purpose playfields/open lawn areas
- Sports courts

### Natural Areas/Open Space

- Habitat preservation/enhancement
- Wildlife viewing
- Interpretive signs
- Forested buffer between active recreation and all other areas.

### Trails

- Mountain bike trails
- Multi-use trails (connecting to Green and Cedar River open space systems) and into Black Diamond
- Nature paths & boardwalks
- Equestrian trail(s) connecting to adjacent equestrian trail systems

### Miscellaneous

- Picnic areas
- Covered picnic area

- Playground equipment/bouldering wall
- Dog walking (dogs allowed on leash with plastic bags and waste disposal areas)
- Activity center (preserve space for future building)
- Fresh look at existing boat launch park

### Infrastructure

- Roads & traffic patterns
- Parking
- Sidewalks/paved pathways linking activity areas

## Thank You!

We wish to thank the many businesses and sponsors whose generous contributions support the upcoming charrette. The City of Black Diamond could not have hosted an event of this scale on its own. Following is a list of those who have donated as of this time:

**Black Diamond Community Center**

**Black Diamond Bakery**

**The Nail Gallery & Spa**

**Bee's Florist & Décor**

**Curran Mendoza Law Firm**

**Mama Passarelli's Dinner House**

**Papa John's Pizza**

**CJ's Bakery**

**MetroMint**

**Starbucks**

**Cenex**

**Designed Diners**

**Palmer Coking Coal**

## Next Steps

After the charrette, the project will move into the final stage, *Draft and Final Plan Production*. A draft plan will be prepared and released for public review and comment by early winter, 2007. A public meeting will be held at that time to discuss the draft plan and announce its availability for public review. After the public review and comment period is complete, final edits will be made and the finished plan will be printed and adopted by the City Council. The expected completion date is spring, 2007.



## Appendix IV — Newsletter Three

# **Lake Sawyer Park Newsletter Development**



### Introduction & Background

The City of Black Diamond, along with a Citizen Advisory Committee, has developed a draft plan for the future Lake Sawyer Park on the south end of Lake Sawyer. This is the third of three newsletters produced during this project to inform and engage you in the planning process. The primary purpose of this project is the preparation of a 'Development Concept Plan' that describes the community vision for future development of the park.

The Advisory Committee has been working with City staff and elected officials since the spring of 2006 to meld concepts and ideas into a plan for the future development of the park. In the fall of 2006, committee members and other invited community representatives participated in a design workshop, facilitated by volunteer landscape architects, to develop graphic design ideas and illustrations for future park development.

All of this work has culminated in the production of a draft 'Development Concept Plan' that is ready for public review and comment. The draft plan consists of chapters on the following subjects:

- Project Background, History, & Planning Process
- Vision & Goals
- Natural & Cultural Resources
- Regional & Cultural Inventory
- Community Recreation Inventory
- Facility Recommendations/Development Concepts
- Next Steps & Implementation
- Funding Opportunities



### Planning Team & Committee Members

#### Planning Team

Howard Botts, Mayor  
 Bryan Bowden, National Park Service—Rivers, Trails,  
 & Conservation Assistance Program  
 M. Scott Jones, former City Planner  
 Rebecca Olness, City Council/Chair, Parks Committee

#### Citizen Advisory Committee Members

Helen Bittner, Black Diamond Community Center  
 Mark Davis, King County Lake Stewardship Program  
 Bob Eaton, Lake Sawyer Community Club  
 Steven Garvich, Lake Sawyer Community Club  
 Leah Grant, King County Water Quality Committee  
 Elise Hanson, Black Diamond Resident  
 Kevin Myette, REI/Lake Sawyer Resident  
 Allison Newcomb, Black Diamond Resident/PTA  
 Ernie Richardson, Black Diamond Resident  
 Cindy Wheeler, Lake Sawyer Community Club

## You are Invited

Please join us at a public meeting for a  
 presentation and discussion  
 of the draft plan for the future

### Lake Sawyer Park

Wednesday, September 26th

7:00—8:30 pm

Black Diamond Community Center

31605 Third Avenue

Black Diamond, WA



### Public Review

The draft plan will be available for public review and comment from September 26, 2007, to October 26, 2007. You may request a CD by calling Black Diamond City Hall at 886-2560.

Additionally, a limited number of copies of the draft plan will be available for people to check out at the following locations:

- Black Diamond City Hall
- Black Diamond Community Center
- Black Diamond Library

### Draft Vision & Goals

The Advisory Committee drafted a 'Vision & Goals' statement for the park. This statement documents the community-wide vision for park development and will help Black Diamond's future efforts to obtain grants for implementation. Following are the vision and goals statements contained in the draft plan.

#### Vision & Goals

Lake Sawyer Park is a premier recreation area that fosters a sense of stewardship and community for all residents and visitors in the Black Diamond area. The park is designed to support:

- A variety of appropriate activities for individuals and groups
- A healthy and thriving natural environment
- Spiritual and mental health renewal
- A safe, inviting family atmosphere
- Educational and interpretive programs and activities
- Accessibility and basic needs for park enjoyment.

### Natural & Cultural Resources

The draft 'Natural & Cultural Resources' chapter provides a general overview of Black Diamond's natural and cultural heritage. It also provides specific historical information about Lake Sawyer. This section also provides a basis of resource information that can be used as a starting point for future educational and interpretive purposes. Specifically, it provides summary information about:

- Geology & Hydrology
- Vegetation
- Fish & Wildlife
- Native Americans
- European Settlement
- Lake Sawyer History

### Facility Recommendations/Development Concepts

The draft 'Development Concepts' chapter describes how various parts of the park will be developed and managed. These include the following:

#### Open Space/Natural Areas

Approximately half of the Lake Sawyer site will be left in a relatively natural (or enhanced) state to provide for fish, wildlife, water quality, and other environmental purposes, as well as passive recreational use. This is the eastern half of the property which contains Frog Lake, Rock Creek, and Ravensdale Creek.

#### Waterfront Area

A waterfront area will be developed adjacent to Lake Sawyer. This area will include a swimming beach, parking, restrooms, grassy lawn, picnic sites, and a concession stand for food and small, non-motorized boat rentals. A boat dock will include a public 'drop-off' zone (for loading/unloading passengers only; no public moorage) and a boathouse for the police boat. A small deck/platform, surrounded by a gently sloping grassy hillside overlooking the lake, will provide for small, non-amplified events (weddings, acoustical band and orchestra concerts, festivals, etc.). The park will have no public boat launch.





### Ball Fields

The western portion of the park, immediately adjacent to Lake Sawyer Road, contains about 40 acres of relatively flat land that will be developed into a complex of sports and athletic fields for baseball, softball, soccer, and football. These facilities will be designed to accommodate a wide range of users and interests and will include both tournament level quality fields as well as fields for the more casual 'pick-up' type games.

### Trails/Roadways/Circulation Patterns

A road and trail system will be designed to safely and conveniently circulate motor vehicles and pedestrians through the park. The road system will provide motor vehicle access through the western half of the property from Lake Sawyer Road to the ball field and waterfront areas of the park. Public motorized vehicle access will not be allowed into the eastern half of the property. People will circulate throughout the park via an extensive network of trails.

### Play Areas & Sports Courts

Numerous play areas and sports courts will be developed at strategic locations in and around the ball fields and waterfront areas. Play areas and sports courts will typically be smaller areas with facilities such as playground equipment, picnic tables, and/or courts for activities such as basketball, volleyball, four-square, etc.

### Environmental Education & Interpretation

An environmental education and interpretation program will be developed that includes both facilities and programming. Facilities will include wildlife viewing areas, interpretive trails, interpretive signs, and plant identification markers.

Programming will include scheduled speakers, events, and/or activities to educate people about various subjects related to the park's natural and cultural resources.

### Existing Boat Launch Park

The existing boat launch park on the west side of Lake Sawyer will be modernized and upgraded to include repair of the existing boat launch, construction of a finger pier for boat access and fishing, new playground equipment, restrooms, and provision for additional parking for vehicles without boat trailers.

This newsletter is sponsored by the City of Black Diamond and the National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program.





## **Appendix V — Summary of Public Comments on the Draft Plan, with Responses**

A preliminary draft of this plan was released for public review and comment from September 26 to October 26, 2007. This appendix summarizes all comments that were received during that timeframe and includes a response from the planning team and Citizen Advisory Committee.

Comments were received in the following ways:

### ***Written Comments***

1. Letter from Jacqueline P. Taeschner
2. Letter from Richard Weaver
3. Unsigned letter left at City Hall

### ***Email Comments***

1. Email comment from David MacDuff, Yarrow Bay Communities

### ***Verbal Comments***

Seven verbal comments were provided by members of the audience in attendance at the September 26, 2007, public meeting to present the draft plan and kick-off the public review timeframe.

Comments varied in length and ranged in coverage from a single item to many subjects. There were several comments expressing similar concerns. Therefore, to reduce repetition, the comments and responses in the pages that follow were grouped by topic. Similar comments within each topic are summarized and the sources of that comment are identified. A response is then given to each comment.



## Comments and Responses

**Comment:** You have only included three tournament quality fields for organized youth and adult softball and baseball. I have been involved for many years in organized Little League and I can tell you that a three-field complex will not be sufficient to attract the type of interest that you envision from Little League or similar organizations to organize and host tournament events. If, however, you include a four-field complex, it will be in high demand, attract a lot of attention from groups and organizations that host softball and/or baseball tournaments, and be a significant source of revenue generation for the City. In addition, these types of organizations may be interested in partnering with the City to help build and develop the complex if the concept is expanded to include a four-field complex. (Source: verbal comment #1 at public meeting)

**Response:** Good comment. This plan is conceptual only and we encourage the City to seriously consider the possibility of developing a four-field complex if possible and without compromising the multiple objectives and criteria established for this area. During the design charrette, the team assigned to the ball fields area was instructed to include a tournament quality ball field complex, a field for casual pick-up games, a field for soccer and football, and to reduce and minimize the impacts from the ball fields on the surrounding community and other parts of the park. Based on the instructions provided, the compressed timeframe of a charrette process, and the topography of the site (i.e., two relatively flat benches separated by a gently sloping hillside) the design team came up with a concept they felt could work in that location. If a four-field complex can be accommodated as this site is further designed and engineered, while retaining appropriate vegetative buffers, then we endorse it.

**Comment:** Mention in the final plan the possible need to move the swimming beach further east due to the increased lake water levels in the fall and winter months. (Source: verbal comment #2 at public meeting).

**Response:** Comment noted. A detailed hydrological study/analysis of the waterfront area will be necessary as this site is further designed and engineered. The decision on the final location of the swimming beach will be based on the results of that study.



**Comment:** Add a sentence in the final plan recommending that any revenues generated at the park be placed in a dedicated fund at the City and used exclusively for maintenance and operations. (Source: verbal comment #3 at public meeting)

**Response:** Good Comment. We agree 100% - so recommended!

**Comment:** With the expected growth and development to occur in the region, many new parks will be developed. Lake Sawyer Park has the potential to be one of the 'crown jewels' in a regional park system. But, this does not mean it can, or should be, everything to everyone. For example, new schools with ball fields are coming to Black Diamond so we don't need to satisfy all the City's needs for ball fields onto this one site. (Source: verbal comment #4 at public meeting and email comment from David MacDuff)

**Response:** We concur with this larger vision for an emerging regional park system where many parks provide for a wide range of recreation opportunities. The planning team and advisory committee worked hard to get input from various sources, balance input, and come up with a plan for Lake Sawyer Park that can be widely supported by the community.

**Comment:** The planning process has deliberately avoided and excluded any consideration of providing a site in the plan for radio controlled airplanes. We are requesting that you include such a site in the final plan (the speaker then presented a petition containing over 500 signatures supporting the request. [Note: only one signature was from a Black Diamond resident]. (Source: verbal comment #5 at public meeting, Richard Weaver letter, and petition)

**Response:** During the planning process, the planning team and advisory committee had considered, but rejected, the idea of including a runway facility to support radio controlled model airplanes in the park. This decision was based on two factors. First, there is an existing facility already in place at nearby Flaming Geyser State Park. Second, in the earlier planning King County had begun for Lake Sawyer, this request had been considered but ruled out for this park.

This was such a substantive comment, however, that the Planning Team and Advisory Committee set up a special meeting on October 16, 2007, to meet with representatives from the Lake Sawyer Hawks Radio Control Fliers to gain a better understanding



of their issue and request. At that meeting, it became clear that what they want is the opportunity to fly radio controlled **float** planes, which requires a lake for take-offs and landing. They are not asking for a runway facility. What they want is a permit from the City to use the Miner's Fishing Point Pier (letter M on the master plan in this document) for a few hours a day, a few days per week. The representatives stated they could not fly float planes from the swimming beach area because of the layout of the lake and surrounding terrain in that area.

The decision whether or not to issue a permit allowing radio controlled float planes from Miner's Point is a management decision the City of Black Diamond will have to make. We do not recommend the approval of such a permit, however, because we feel this activity is incompatible with park resources and the proposed use of the park in the Miner's Point area. As stated in the 'Open Space/Natural Areas' chapter of this plan, "Approximately half of the Lake Sawyer site will be left in a relatively natural, or enhanced, state to provide for fish, wildlife, water quality, and other environmental purposes, as well as passive recreational use. This is the eastern half of the property which contains Frog Lake, Rock Creek, and Ravensdale Creek." In addition, the advisory committee plotted the fly-zone area over the lake (based on the standards provided by the RC Fliers) which raised safety concerns that would also have to be addressed.

**Comment:** Requests were made to allow electric radio controlled boats on Lake Sawyer and to include a triathlon at the Park. Another commenter warned to be wary of the possibility of children drowning while wading out too far to retrieve their boats. (Source: verbal comments #6 and #7 at public meeting and Jacqueline Paolucci Taeschner letter)

**Response:** These are management decisions the City will have to consider and address along with a host of other potential requests for use of the future park. The advisory committee has no comment one way or the other on these requests.

**Comment:** The planning for the Lake Sawyer Park was flawed from the very beginning. Only Black Diamond residents were selected for the planning committee. No one from the rest of King County, the people who paid for the park property, was asked to be on the committee. (Source: Richard Weaver letter)



**Response:** King County divested itself of many park and recreation properties over the past decade because of significant budget constraints and financial problems. Many of those properties were deeded to local cities and towns for park development and management, including the 150-acre Lake Sawyer property to the City of Black Diamond. Black Diamond owns the property and is responsible for the development and management of Lake Sawyer Park. Black Diamond is financially responsible for developing the park and it was appropriate for the City to recruit Black Diamond residents to serve on the citizen advisory planning committee.

**Comment:** Only Black Diamond residents were asked for input for the design of the park.

(Source: Richard Weaver letter)

**Response:** The City of Black Diamond intends to develop Lake Sawyer Park as a regional asset and efforts were made during the planning process to reach out to the broader surrounding region. Many of the participants in the 3-day charrette came from areas outside of Black Diamond. Two public meetings were held to inform people about the planning and to solicit their ideas and comments. Announcements for these meetings were printed in the regional newspaper and anyone was welcome to attend and comment.

**Comment:** The three day charrette was surely not adequate to design a park who's land alone cost \$9.35 million, with no idea of the cost to develop it. (Source: Richard Weaver letter)

**Response:** The 3-day charrette should not be viewed as a stand alone event in the planning that has occurred. The planning team and advisory committee worked for over six months prior to the charrette researching, developing, and analyzing information in a logical, thoughtful, and deliberate process that resulted in the development of a list of facilities to include in the park. This did not happen overnight and the steps involved were clearly described in the draft plan. Charettes, by design, are intended to occur within tight time constraints in order to encourage creativity and rapidly develop conceptual design ideas. The design ideas presented in the draft plan are concepts, not final designs, which is why the plan is called a 'Development Concept Plan'. It should be expected that these ideas will be refined and edited as the City of Black Diamond obtains grants for the preparation of detailed blueprints and construction drawings for different parts of the park. Please reference the information on page 5 of the draft plan called "A Word about Development Concept Plans".





**Comment:** There have been no public hearings to allow public input on the design or use. Only a meeting to show the committees ideas and a meeting to present a written draft of their ideas. (Source: Richard Weaver letter)

**Response:** The City Council of Black Diamond will conduct a formal public hearing in accordance with the law before they consider a resolution to approve and/or adopt the final plan. The planning team and advisory committee held two public meetings while the plan was being developed to share and discuss their preliminary ideas and solicit ideas, reactions, and comments from the public before preparing the final plan. These public meetings occurred at the conclusion of the charette and when the draft plan was released for a 30-day public review and comment period. In addition a communitywide survey was conducted to gather public input on how to develop the park.

**Comment:** It was great that ten Landscape Architects volunteered to help with the planning, but this puts the cart before the horse. This was very self serving, for the architects and the workers they hire to do the work. You are not designing an arboretum, but a park that the people of King County can put to its best use. With their design, way too much money will be spent on the landscaping and not on what is really needed for park patrons. That is the **maximum number** of ball fields and adequate parking, not only for the ball players families, but for other park patrons as well. This is the only way that there would be adequate return on investment. The little league park in Issaquah has 5 baseball fields and 4 tennis courts. It only uses 21 acres. (Source: Richard Weaver letter)

**Response:** There is overwhelming public consensus that Lake Sawyer Park should not be over-developed. All of the Landscape Architects who volunteered their time are members of the Washington Chapter American Society of Landscape Architects (WASLA). One of the primary reasons WASLA supports these efforts is to promote the profession of Landscape Architecture to help people understand they are not just about planting trees, but rather they are professionals in regional land use planning and community design. The Landscape Architects who participated in the charette were deliberately recruited for their particular skills in certain areas, specifically ball fields, waterfront recreation, trails, open space, and environmental education. These skills were sought because of the planning that had occurred over the previous six months that identified the types of facilities to develop in the park. Instructions were provided to all of the charette participants at the beginning of the charette that one of the goals was to buffer activity areas from other areas of the park and from adjacent landowners.

**Comment:** No one with full knowledge of the operation of the Little League was part of the planning committee. The funds that paid for the 40 acres dictates that it be used for ball fields, not a boulevard entrance to the whole park. The current access along 312<sup>th</sup> should be used and all of the 40 acres should be used for ball fields and parking. If the property had not been purchased for a park, it would have become an extension of the gravel operation to the south and after years of gravel trucks running in and out, it would have been developed with 160 or more homes that would add even more traffic. Little League activities do not go on 24 hours a day. The City of Black Diamond is under no obligation to leave a buffer between the ball fields and 312<sup>th</sup>. The home owners on the north side of 312<sup>th</sup> have no ownership of the park area and have no more say in how it is configured than any other King County resident. If you leave a row of tall trees standing between the ball fields and 312<sup>th</sup>, the first big wind storm will just blow them down onto the street and the homes.  
(Source: Richard Weaver letter)

**Response:** We agree that had the property not been purchased for a park that extensive development and additional congestion would have been the most likely outcome. However, we disagree that it is reason to develop the subject 40 acres with no regard for possible impacts on adjacent property owners. Rather, we see this as an opportunity for quality land use planning and development that provides for the required ball fields/activity areas, maintains open space, alleviates congestion, protects the environment and otherwise creates the kind of community and environment that we all treasure but so often don't get. When the City of Black Diamond acquired the property they made a commitment to the residents along 312<sup>th</sup> street to keep it a residential street and not use it as the park entrance road.

With that in mind, some of the instructions provided to the ball fields design team during the charette were to:

- Reduce and minimize the impacts from the ball fields on the surrounding community and other parts of the park
- Integrate ball field design with existing topography
- Maximize retention of vegetation around ball fields

The design team came up with a concept that meets these goals. They purposely included a new road into the park to minimize the impact and retain privacy for the residents along 312<sup>th</sup> street. They included a tournament quality complex of lighted



fields with a minimum number of fields. Minimizing fields allows the City of Black Diamond to maximize scheduling of fields into the evening (after dark) while minimizing the number of fields that have to be built and maintained. Note: the idea of minimizing fields and maximizing their scheduling was recommended to the planning team in interviews conducted with other regional park directors with experience in managing tournament quality complexes.

**Comment:** One of the suggestions of the committee is to have a business rent canoes to generate funds for the park. You only have to visit Gene Coulon Memorial Park in Renton to see that the canoe house is now an Ivar's Restaurant. (Source: Richard Weaver letter)

**Response:** The suggestion for a canoe rental concession is simply one idea to promote the concept of including facilities in the park that can support concession operations in order to generate revenue to offset the cost of park maintenance and operations. If canoe rentals don't work, perhaps another business opportunity would succeed.

**Comment:** The committee talks about removing culverts between Frog Lake and Lake Sawyer and replacing them with pedestrian bridges. If this is done the level of Frog Lake will drop by a foot or more and be nothing but a mud puddle. Frog Lake is not a natural lake. It is created by the roadway dam with the culverts. (Source: Richard Weaver letter)

**Response:** The concept plan clearly states that any project intended to restore the natural hydrologic functions between Frog Lake and Lake Sawyer needs further evaluation. The idea to remove the culverts came up during the design charrette but requires professional hydrologic evaluation and study before making any decisions.

**Comment:** The redesign of the boat launch park was obviously done by residents around the lake who want to restrict the number of boats using the lake. The boat launch park was given to Black Diamond to manage for all the residents of King County. The boat launch park area should be reconfigured to maximize the number of trailer parking spaces, as well as single spaces for those with car top boats and kayaks or canoes. The largest number of spaces possible will generate the largest return on the investment in the rebuild. The marine patrol dock should be located at the



boat launch, close to the boat activity and as a reminder to boaters that there is a police department presence on the lake. One dock would serve both the marine patrol and people launching their boats. (Source: Richard Weaver letter)

**Response:** The Boat Launch Park was transferred to the City of Black Diamond on January 1, 1998, when Lake Sawyer was annexed into the City. The only restriction on this transfer was that the boat launch remains open to the general public.

The existing paid parking lot system for boats with trailers was established by the Black Diamond City Council according to recommendations from the Water Safety Committee to maintain safety standards on the lake by limiting the number of boats launching at that site. This is still the goal of the City.

With that in mind, the planning team and advisory committee decided to include a design team during the charrette charged with the task of taking a fresh look at the existing boat launch park with an eye towards improving the function and utility of the park for non-boating park users. While it's a small piece of property, we feel the design team (which consisted of both lake and non-lake residents) did a good job of showing how the site could be improved to provide increased day-use utility to a broader range of park users. The team recommended a few additional free parking spaces on the southwest side of the park for vehicles without trailers. This is to accommodate non-boating day-use park visitors. The Boat Launch Park was considered as a possible location for the police boat dock, but in the end, the Advisory Committee recommends it be located at Lake Sawyer Park to establish a police presence at this new park because it will receive greater public use.

**Comment:** A suggestion was made that a kids' play structure should be added to the boat launch park. I don't think a kids play area is compatible with trucks and trailers turning and backing into the boat launch. The play area or structure belongs in the new park, so the kids will be safe and so the play area parking does not displace boats, both fishing and water sport. (Source: Richard Weaver letter)

**Response:** The planning team and advisory committee considered this comment but still think the park can be safely designed to accommodate multiple users, thereby increasing its utility and function. The point is that this is a **park** with a boat launch, not just a boat launch. Multiple play structure areas will be incorporated in Lake Sawyer Park. Please reference the information on page 59 'Play Areas & Sports Courts' in the draft plan.



**Comment:** The gift of a \$9.35 million park to the City of Black Diamond should not be taken lightly. The City of Black Diamond has an obligation to create a park that can be used by all King County residents who care to visit. It is not a private park for the residents around Lake Sawyer. (Source: Richard Weaver letter)

**Response:** We agree it is not to be a private park. This plan provides the vision for a regional park (as stipulated in the deed conditions) which will be developed, managed, and maintained by the City of Black Diamond. It is important to remember that the entire region in southeast King County will experience rapid growth and development over the next few decades. As this growth occurs there will be requirements for setting aside open space and the development of many other parks of various sizes and function. Lake Sawyer Park should be considered in the context of a broader regional park system, not the only park that will ever be developed in this part of the county. The plan integrates Lake Sawyer Park with the emerging countywide trail system and provides regional linkage for bicycle and equestrian users.

**Comment:** The nearby residents will have to put up with a little extra traffic, but I have to put up with the smell of their garbage that is dumped at the Cedar Hills land fill, not too far from my home. If you don't want neighborhood traffic, then go buy 20 acres and build your house in the middle of it. If you don't want a little league ball park next door, then you will have a gravel pit and then a large housing development. (Source: Richard Weaver letter)

**Response:** The planning team and advisory committee feel that professional land use planning and design is possible that provides a premiere park, avoids impacts to adjacent landowners, and avoids creating the kind of neighborhood described above.

**Comment:** The people who seem to be concerned about the displaced wildlife when the park is developed, were not too concerned about displaced wildlife when they bought homes in the Black Diamond area. Everybody seems to want the last tree cut down...to be used to build their house. (Source: Richard Weaver letter)



**Response:** As the plan indicates, every effort will be made to protect and conserve natural and cultural resources. In fact, the plan calls for leaving approximately 50% of the property in a relatively natural state. This was true in the earlier planning King County began but never finished. Funding for this part of the property came from King County open space funds.

**Comment:** First, and most pressing to us, is the issue of trees. Enclosed are a few sample pages from the City of Lynnwood's Plan for tree preservation and protection. We understand that the City of Seattle is about to adopt a similar plan, this information coming to us from the Fish and Wildlife Service. Because of the dire need for the protection and conservation of historic and legacy trees and because of the urgent need to protect the eagle habitat that we have, we ask the planning committee and City of Black Diamond to consider adopting a similar plan for the city itself which would include, of course, the Lake Sawyer Park. (Source: Jacqueline Paolucci Taeschner letter)

**Response:** There is overwhelming public interest and support for protecting and conserving Lake Sawyer's natural and cultural resources to provide for fish, wildlife, water quality, and other environmental purposes, as well as passive recreational use. We concur with your recommendation for the City to consider adopting a plan for tree preservation and protection that would include Lake Sawyer Park and hereby recommend it to the City Council. (Note: the Planning Team has no authority to adopt such a plan).

**Comment:** Many petitioned that a play area be created for miniature, motorized cars. Please consider that already paved parking lots of nearby schools could supply this need at off-hours when the school day is over and no community gatherings are planned. If one such area has to be part of Lake Sawyer Park, make it into a basin-like area to stifle the noise, please. People want this area to remain as natural as possible. (Source: Jacqueline Paolucci Taeschner letter)

**Response:** We did not receive any requests for a miniature, motorized car play area during the planning process. The plan does not include this type of facility.





**Comment:** Thank you for the Lake Sawyer Park Plan. I appreciate the hard work and thoughtfulness that went into this effort. I am generally satisfied with the plan on the whole. The only concern that I have is lighting the athletic fields. There are two potential negative issues:

1. Light pollution. One of the great things about living in Black Diamond, particularly on Lake Sawyer, has been the opportunity to enjoy the night sky.
2. I believe that the lights will attract adult teams later into the evening, which will inevitably lead to problem behaviors such as noise.

If the plan to provide lighting becomes part of the final proposal, please schedule the fields so the lights go out at 9:00 p.m. on weeknights and 10:00 p.m. on weekends. (Source: unsigned letter turned in to City Hall)

**Response:** Regarding light pollution, the plan includes two recommendations to minimize the impact of lighted fields on adjacent neighborhoods. These include vegetative buffers as wide as 150 feet and the use of directional field lighting that concentrates and focuses lighting down to the field of play and limits the amount of light that 'escapes' to the night sky.

We concur with your thoughts about the need to schedule and manage the use of the fields, which are management details the City will have to work out after the facility is built. This is common practice in parks departments around the country when it comes to managing tournament quality ball field complexes. Your recommendation is hereby passed along to the City with our concurrence.