
Fw: Parks Plan

1 message

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Tue, Feb 22, 2022 at 12:17 PM

for the packet under coorespondence for the city council meeting.

Paulina

From: sharon kloepfer <shkloepfer@gmail.com>**Sent:** Tuesday, February 22, 2022 11:42 AM**To:** Paulina Cockrum <peasea51@hotmail.com>; Kerry Smith <councilposition1@cityofgearhart.com>; Reita Fackerell <councilorfackerell@cityofgearhart.com>; councilorwarren@cityofgearhart.com <councilorwarren@cityofgearhart.com>; councilortomlinson@cityofgearhart.com <councilortomlinson@cityofgearhart.com>**Subject:** Parks Plan

To the Mayor and Councilors:

I voted for the Master Parks Plan because overall I think it is a good plan. However, I have some reservations about it that I wanted to share with you.

Policy #4 C: the wording in parentheses- "including views of the ocean and beaches...". I do not think the city should be involved in helping or guaranteeing any homeowner an ocean or beach view. This will leave the city open to future lawsuits.

Policy #19 A: I think applying pesticides to any public land used by people, children and pets is extremely foolish and harmful.

B: The tree ordinance adopted for the BAD zone has been problematic in its enforcement. Many trees were cut down in the BAD areas that were larger than the specified size in the ordinance. There was no proof of their size because measurement was taken at 4.5 feet above ground and that had been cut off and hauled away. Measurement at ground level is the only sure way to know the removed tree's size. Secondly, this ordinance allowed for severe chopping of the tops of the spruce, essentially leaving only a thin leader. Windowpaning would be much more in keeping with the spruces' aesthetics and health. I object to this ordinances' specifications being adopted for any parkland.

enclosed is the original Policy #19

Thank-you for your consideration, Sharon Kloepfer

 parks policy environmental integrity.pdf
40K

Parks Master Plan Policy # 1

The overall tenor of the Comprehensive Plan, as stated in numerous sections, prioritizes the protection of vegetation and wildlife habitat throughout Gearhart. The City will manage its Parks vegetation and wildlife habitat as an important asset in accordance with this mandate.

In order to keep the parks healthy for both wildlife and those who visit, the City will not apply any pesticide/herbicide/fungicide to these areas. Should an herbicide be needed, 20-30% agricultural grade vinegar may be spot applied. Any area treated as such will be flagged.

Trees will be maintained as is wherever possible. No trees over 6" diameter measured at the base will be removed unless posing an eminent threat. Decisions regarding tree removal will be made by the city manager as advised by an arborist who has no financial gain in the matter. Trimming and pruning will be limited to hazardous/obstructive limbs (e.g. line of sight for traffic) and windowpaning of no more than $\frac{1}{4}$ of the limb growth every three years. The City will not allow any top down cutting. Bushes and thickets will remain, to be trimmed back only to allow paths to remain passable. Mowing of dune areas will only occur September-March in order to allow nesting birds to be undisturbed.

A Riparian Zone of 50 feet (as measured horizontally from the high water line) will be maintained along the park area that borders the Estuary.

Any landscaping other than grass seeding/turf installation will be done with native plants. Trees will be added wherever possible with any new landscaping. Annual flowers as décor may also be used. Soil disturbance in the form of grading/digging/soil removal will not extend into the root protection zone of existing trees. (Root protection zone is equal to one foot radius around the tree for each one inch of tree diameter measured at 4 and $\frac{1}{2}$ feet above the ground.) As much as possible, surface and ground water runoff will be minimized to prevent erosion.