

AGENDA PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION February 14, 2024

Hybrid Meeting In-person and via Zoom



Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85600318240>

Meeting ID: 856 0031 8240

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

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**CITY OF ELLENSBURG
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION AGENDA
Council Conference Room
501 North Anderson Street
Ellensburg, WA 98926
And remotely via Zoom
Wednesday, February 14, 2024
5:30 PM - Regular Meeting**

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Introduction of New Council Liaisons & Representative from Adult Activity Center**
- 3. Election of Chair and Vice Chair**
- 4. Approval of Minutes**
 - 4.A Approve the Minutes from the November 8, 2023 Meeting
- 5. Citizen Comment**
- 6. New Business**
 - 6.A Wetland Mitigation at Paul Rogers Park
 - 6.B Dr. Vernie Playground Dedication at North Alder Street Park
 - 6.C Commission Member Adopted Parks
- 7. Unfinished Business**
- 8. Items for the March 13, 2024 Meeting**
- 9. Member Updates**
- 10. Staff Reports**
- 11. Adjournment**

Purpose: Allow the public to address the Commission on subjects not on the regular Agenda at this particular meeting. Comments must concern the City's business or a matter over which the commission has control.

Procedure for Public Participation:

- When recognized, please state your name, and the subject to be discussed.
- 3 minute time limit for citizen comment on non-agenda items (without interruption). Commission will not act on issue. 5 minute time limit for the introduction of new business items, unless extended by a by a majority of Commission members present.

- Submit written comments to Staff representative.
- Speakers are cautioned not to make comments of a personal, impertinent or derogatory nature.
- The Commission does not take action at the meeting at which a subject is first introduced during the public comment period. You may wish to concisely state your concern and request placement of your matter on a future agenda.
- On agenda items each speaker's comments will be limited to 3 minutes.



For more information on the Ellensburg Parks and Recreation Commission, contact Parks and Recreation Director Brad Case at 509-925-8639.

The Contents of this agenda have been photocopied on recycled paper.

**Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission
Meeting Minutes – November 8, 2023**

DATE OF MEETING: November 8, 2023
MEMBERS PRESENT: Nikki Pollock, Frana Milan (remote), Nick Zentner, Ali Brown (remote), Casey Fiske (remote), Marion Gonzalez, Jackie Adams
OTHERS PRESENT: Parks & Recreation Director Case, City Manager Heidi Behrends
LOCATION: Cerniwey, approximately 45 members of the public
Meeting was held in the City Council Chambers and Remotely

CALL TO ORDER – Meeting called to order at 5:30pm

MEETING MINUTES – Minutes from the October 11, 2023 meeting were approved as submitted.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Reed Park Master Plan Recommendation –Staff reviewed with Commission Reed Park Plan Option A, the preferred plan for consideration. This plan most closely mirrors the current layout of Reed Park, while creating a pedestrian path, flush restrooms and seating areas.

The Commission opened the floor for public testimony on the Reed Park Plan Option A. Most of the community feedback focused on not making any changes to the overlook parking, preserving the parking near the American Legion, safety concerns about the location of the park restroom, concerns that the Commission and City weren't following the 1933 deed restrictions, and a continued general desire for the City not make any changes to the park.

A motion and second was made to the recommend adoption of concept plan A noting the Commissions concern with trees being planted on the edge of the viewpoint.

Motion passed 6-0 with one abstention.

Rotary Park Master Plan Recommendation

Staff reviewed the Rotary Park the preferred final plan. The Commission voiced some concerns over the field turf soccer and baseball/softball infields, specifically the use of crumb rubber infill.

The Commission passes a motion approving the Rotary Park Master Plan with a request to review options for the field turf.

STAFF REPORTS

1. Parks have been winterized, portable restrooms will be placed over the winter at the following parks; West Ellensburg, Rotary, North Alder, Mt. View, McElroy, and the skatepark.
2. The Unity Park project is out to bid.

Meeting adjourned at 7:32pm.



December 9, 2023

Jon Morrow
City of Ellensburg
501 N. Anderson St.
Ellensburg, WA 98926
(509) 925-8619

RE: Gateway II Project – Wetland Mitigation

The City of Ellensburg’s proposed Gateway II Project (Project) is anticipated to incur 0.106 acres (ac) of permanent wetland impacts for which compensatory mitigation is required under Section 15.620.040 of the Ellensburg City Code (ECC) and Sections 404/401 of the federal Clean Water Act.

Per ECC 15.620.040, a Compensatory Mitigation Plan shall be consistent with *Wetland Mitigation in Washington State—Part 2: Developing Mitigation Plans* (Ecology 2006).¹

As a follow-up to the December 7, 2023 site visit, attended by representatives with the City of Ellensburg (City), Department of Ecology (Ecology), Aspect Consulting, and GG Environmental, this memorandum is submitted, at the City’s request, to list the advantages of mitigating at Paul Rodgers Wildlife Park (Park) (**Attachment 1**) and discloses the commitments that would be required.

Benefits of mitigating at the Park:

- The Park is owned and operated by the City which precludes the need to identify and acquire a suitable mitigation site on private property. This saves time and cost.
- Two existing wetlands are present at the Park (**Attachments 2 and 3**) which are suitable for enhancement and/or enlargement. An existing wetland baseline condition has been documented which increases the probability of successful mitigation. This saves time and cost.
- The Park is located within the same watershed (along Lyle Creek) as Project wetland impacts. This spatial correlation is strongly recommended by Ecology for wetland mitigation sites.

¹ The Ecology guidance document *Wetland Mitigation in Washington State – Part 1: Agency Policies and Guidance* is referenced by Ecology (2006) for wetland mitigation site buffer guidance. Part 1 was subsequently updated (Version 2) in April 2021.

- Enhancing/enlarging the existing wetlands at the Park is expected to produce sufficient wetland functional credits to offset the functional debits incurred by Project wetland impacts.

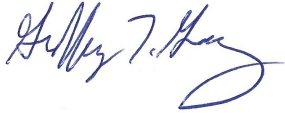
Commitments required to mitigate at the Park:

- **Cultural resources:** Prior to ground disturbance, it is important to coordinate with local tribal governments (including the Tribal Historic Preservation Office) and the State Historic Preservation Office to determine if there are any cultural resources present at the potential mitigation sites.
- **Geotechnical data:** Soil test pits are recommended to describe the upper soil profile (~6 ft) adjacent to the existing Park wetlands. These data would help determine whether pervious soil layers might underlie the vicinity that could drain the wetlands if breached.
- **Source of Water:** The existing mitigation sites are supported by Park irrigation and, likely, seasonal-high groundwater. It is important that the City guarantees a perpetual source of water and perpetual irrigation management such that wetland conditions are supported in the long term.
- **Mitigation Site Buffers:** The mitigation sites would need to be protected from encroachment to ensure that future Park development does not affect wetland functions. Per Table 6C-2 (p. 152) of *Wetland Mitigation in Washington State – Part 1 (Version 2)* (April 2021), wetland buffer radii would range from 25 to 100 feet, depending on the Ecology rating of the constructed mitigation wetland. It is anticipated that existing Park use (pedestrian trails, park vegetation management, and irrigation practices) would be allowed within the buffer radius, but higher-intensity development, including future structures, paved parking areas, etc. would be discouraged.
- **Post-construction Monitoring:** Once a mitigation site is constructed, an as-built report, including map, is produced, followed by up to ten (10) years of annual monitoring and reporting to ensure that mitigation success standards are met. Should site development not proceed as planned, contingency actions proposed in the Compensatory Mitigation Plan would be implemented.
- **Long-term Protection:** Mitigation sites must be protected in the long term. Ownership of the Park by the City is not anticipated to change and may be sufficient to ensure perpetual protection, per se. However, a deed restriction or conservation easement may need to be recorded to document the spatial

location of wetland mitigation sites, including buffer offsets, within the Park to guarantee their perpetual protection.

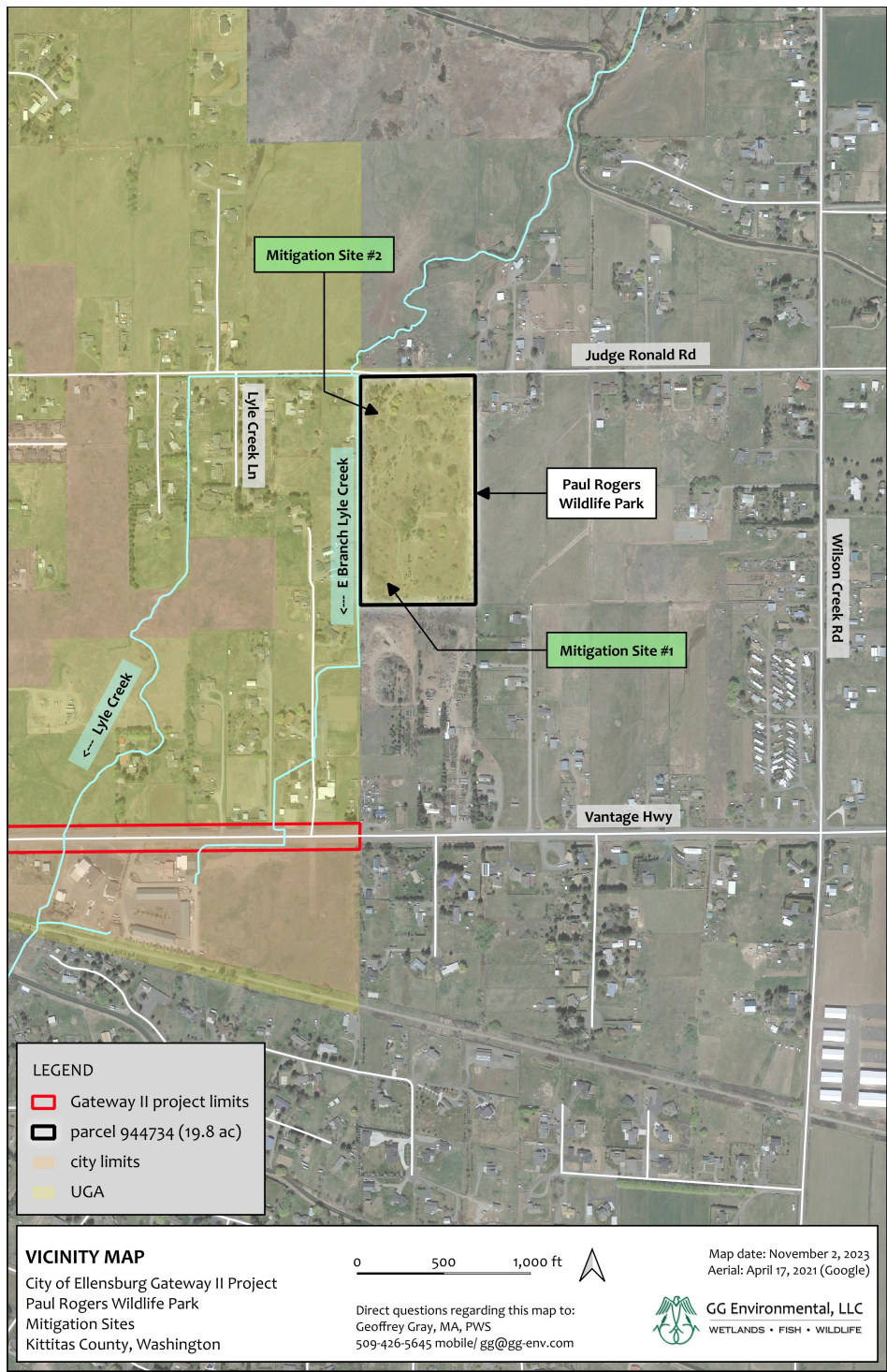
If you have any questions, I welcome the opportunity to speak with you.

Cheers,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Geoffrey Gray".

Geoffrey Gray, MA, PWS
GG Environmental, LLC

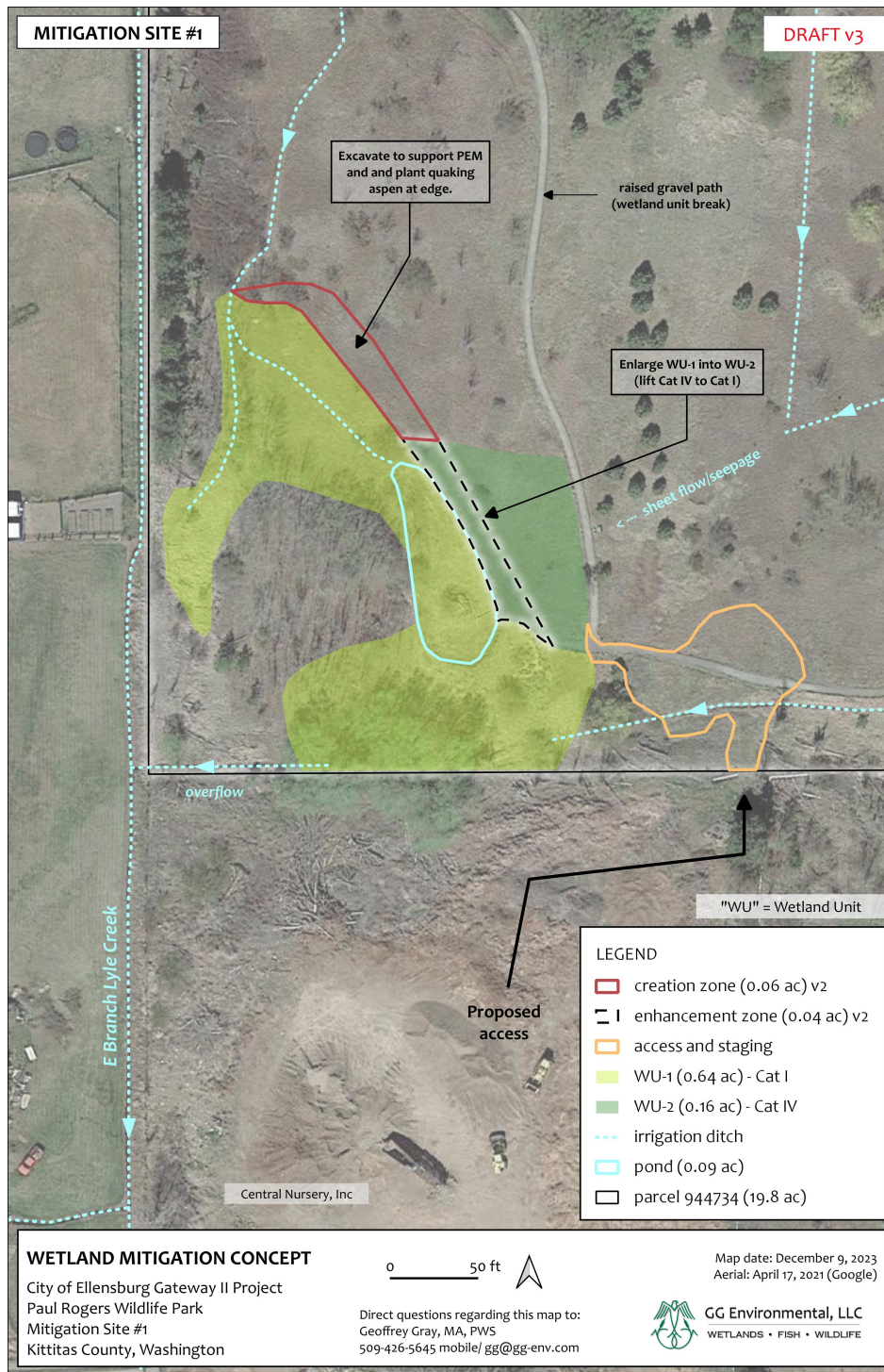
Attachment 1. Location Map for Project, Park, and Mitigation Sites



Gateway II Project – Wetland Mitigation
City of Ellensburg
Benefits and Commitments for Mitigating at Paul Rodgers Wildlife Park
December 9, 2023

GG Environmental, LLC
151 Poulin Rd. Selah, WA 98942
598.426.5645 cell
gg@gg-env.com. www.gg-env.com

Attachment 2. Proposed Wetland Mitigation Site #1 – Park Southwest Corner



Attachment 3. Proposed Wetland Mitigation Site #2 – Park Northwest Corner



Gateway II Project – Wetland Mitigation
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Memorandum

Date: January 10, 2024
To: Parks & Recreation Commission
From: Brad Case, Parks & Recreation Director
Subject: Dr. Rudolph Vernie Playground Dedication

Staff is requesting support in naming the playground at North Alder Street Playground 'Dr. Vernie Playground' in honor of Rudolph Vernie, a long-time doctor who treated countless kids in Ellensburg.

This recommendation was originally made back in 2007 when the City was going through the process of naming of North Alder Street Park. The recommendation was approved by City Council but never implemented at the park, which wasn't constructed until 2013.

Dr. Vernie recently passed away and the playground dedication was brought back to the attention of City staff. Staff is requesting that the naming of the playground in honor of Dr. Vernie be supported by the Commission.

Memorandum

Date: September 13, 2023
To: Parks & Recreation Commission
From: Brad Case, Parks & Recreation Director
Subject: Adopted Parks

For the last few years Commission members have adopted parks that they can visit and report back to the Commission. With recent turnover on the Commission we have quite a few parks that are not adopted, below is the most current list of Commission member adopted parks:

Commissioner Adams	-	Irene Rinehart Riverfront Park, Rotary Park
Commissioner Zentner	-	Reed Park, Veterans Memorial Park
Commissioner Pollock	-	McElroy Park, Kleinberg Park
Commission Chair Brown-		Kiwanis Park, West Ellensburg Park

The following parks are not currently adopted; Paul Rogers Park, Lions Mt. View Park, Whipple Park, Palouse to Cascades Reconnection Route, North Alder Street Park