

JAN TVETEN  
Director



STATE OF WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON STATE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

7150 Cleanwater Lane, KY-11 • Olympia, Washington 98504-5711 • (206) 753-5755

March 25, 1986

Mr. Harvey Manning, President  
Issaquah Alps Trails Club  
P.O. Box 351  
Issaquah, Washington 98027

Dear Mr. Manning:

Thank you for your March 20 letter. A copy has been forwarded to each Commissioner per your request.

I will respond briefly by saying that I believe your mission is clearly understood and stated by the good works that you and your organization have successfully accomplished over the years. However, if lack of information has made you fearful and suspicious of State Parks staff, I suggest that we meet to discuss issues of mutual concern. I only ask that you be more open and direct than you have been in your recent correspondence.

Let me assure you that there is no perfect understanding with a notorious "fixer" of Issaquah affairs. If you agree to meet, we would expect to answer your questions but we would also expect you to substantiate several of your carefully designed innuendos such as "However, the statements made to a number of different people by State Parks staff are not inconsistent with what the 'fixer' claims."

Should you agree to a meeting, we would be prepared to discuss Lake Sammamish and other issues addressed in your March 20 letter.

Your strenuous objection to the Commission as much as taking a look at any environmental impact statement or list the project on the agenda is totally without justification and merit. As a state agency we will allow all public agencies, organizations and individuals to make proposals and address the Commission. However, the final decision on any proposal for use of park land will be made by the Commission.

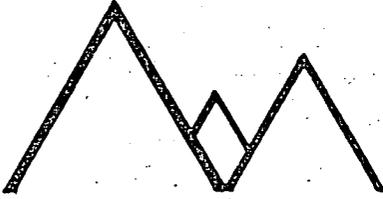
I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jan Tveten".

Jan Tveten  
Director

If



## ISSAQUAH ALPS TRAILS CLUB

P.O. BOX 351 • ISSAQUAH, WA 98027

March 31, 1986

Jan Tveten, Director  
Washington State Parks  
7150 Cleanwater Lane, KY-11  
Olympia, WA 98504

Dear Mr. Tveten,

today ^  
At last Friday's meeting of the Inter-Agency Committee, when you asked if I wanted to sit down and talk, you doubtless assumed I'd received your letter of March 28, suggesting such a meeting. In fact, what with it being forwarded to my home address, I've only just received it. My reply to you Friday perhaps seemed cool; it really was just surprised.

Lack of information about each others' positions may, indeed, make people fearful and suspicious, even in cases where they have a longtime friendly relationship. Meetings can save a great many misunderstandings -- and letters.

That the Trails Club did not voice objection to the first intrusion of local playfields into Lake Sammamish State Park, in 1981, was at least in part due to the faith we have had in State Parks as a careful trustee of the public trust. As a temporary invasion, and one that did not entail hardening of the site, it was excusable, temporarily. Had you then announced it was to be a permanent transfer we would have, even in the busy times of 1981, found time to make a strong protest. In resisting the whole body of the camel, we now wish to see its nose kicked out of the tent, as well.

~~I suppose~~ the State Parks Commission ~~is supposed to~~ serve State Parks Staff as a reference point to public concerns. Obviously, Commission-Staff meetings do not serve the whole purpose. Had Staff at any time over recent years met with the Trails Club to discuss the failure of the City of Issaquah to support gaining an in-city trailhead to Squak Mountain State Park, we would have mounted a local campaign. As it was, we sat back, not invited to participate, not kept informed, but thinking State Parks was doing the best that could be done, and trusting. Had Staff made early contact with citizens groups about Twin Falls, it would have found strong allies in protecting the site. Had Staff publicly announced its plans to log (again) in State Parks, the public would have had an opportunity to help sort out the perhaps justified logging from the unnecessary. If a State Parks manager were to consult with local wildlife experts before sending out his tidying-up crews, he would not wantonly destroy nesting sites along waterways.

There must be very few State Parks indeed which lack a natural constituency -- the Auduboners who bird in certain spots regularly, the Mountaineers who have trail trips to the same place every year, the local residents for whom certain Parks are their backyards. The Sierra Club, I know, has a specific State Parks Committee; I wonder if Staff routinely and regularly informs this committee of its plans.

By all means, let there be meetings -- let them become built in to State Parks operations.

I wonder how much more "open and direct" I can become without driving the Trails Club legal counsel to distraction?

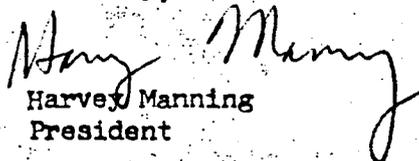
I do not believe I accused State Parks of corruption; I never have thought, for a moment, that any person in State Parks is corrupt. However, when State Parks and a fixer agree -- if and when they do -- then the outsider may be permitted to interpret this as meaning they ~~are in agreement~~ understand each other.

There is no innuendo about "...statements made to a number of different people by State Parks staff are not inconsistent with what the 'fixer' claims." The fixer claims that State Parks Staff supports the conversion of Park wildlife habitat to Issaquah playgrounds. At the IAC meeting last Friday you took an opportunity to publicly underscore the shortage of soccer fields on the East Side (of Lake Washington). In one Staff letter, it is pointed out that "the sportsfield complex serves the Seattle/Bellevue region and ~~xxxx~~ not only the city of Issaquah." One gains the impression that State Parks sees its emerging role of serving urban needs as ~~meeting~~ meeting urban requests for playfields, even though this means reducing wildlife habitat -- in a vicinity where wildlife habitat is being reduced near zero on City of Issaquah lands.

The close involvement of State Parks Staff with the City of Issaquah, and the matching lack of involvement of State Parks ~~Staff~~ Staff with citizen groups, can lead an observer to either of two conclusions. I prefer to choose the one that assumes State Parks simply doesn't know what a nest of worms it has gotten in to at Issaquah. There is no way State Parks can proceed on its course of accommodation without suffering great damage.

Frankly, I am appalled at the implications of your statement that State Parks will countenance any proposal. There has to be a line, drawn by State Parks Commission/Staff, beyond which fair warning is given, "Thou Shalt Not." In this era, for State Parks to be willing to listen to a proposal for destroying wildlife habitat is shocking.

Sincerely,

  
Harvey Manning  
President

Presumably you will share this with the Commission members?

IAN TVETEN  
Director



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
WASHINGTON STATE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

7150 Cleanwater Lane, KY-11 • Olympia, Washington 98504-5711 • (206) 753-5755

December 16, 1985

Constance D. Dow  
13737 240th Avenue S.E.  
Issaquah, Washington 98027

Dear Ms. Dow:

Thank you for your December 11 letter opposing the use of Lake Sammamish State Park for soccer fields.

Lake Sammamish State Park consists of approximately 460 acres; most of the land is presently undeveloped and includes large natural meadows which support native wildlife and plants. The area previously approved by the Commission for sportsfields is located adjacent to 56th Street and south of Issaquah Creek. The city of Issaquah is now preparing a proposed site plan for that area and evaluating its impact. The city's planning process does allow for public input and additional plan consideration by the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission will take place in an open public meeting.

Please note that the sportsfield complex serves the Seattle/Bellevue region and not only the city of Issaquah.

Thank you for sharing your concern with us. I am forwarding a copy of your letter to each Commissioner.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Jan Tveten in cursive.

Jan Tveten  
Director

If  
cc: Commissioners

Letter to Marny from St. Parks  
3/25/86



Mrs. Constance D. Dow  
13737 240th S.E.  
Issaquah, WA. 98027



Betty Manning  
15819 SE 44th St.  
Bellevue, WA 98006