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From: Sue Marshall
Subject: Comp Plan Public Access Oswego Lake
Message Body:
Dec. 8, 2011

Lake Oswego Comprehensive Planning Committee, Planning Commission and City Council Members

Dear Committee, Commission and Council Members:

I urge you to consider public access to Oswego Lake as part of the comprehensive planning process that is now underway.

Understanding that this is a complex and controversial issue that does not lend itself to a quick resolution within the immediate timing for the recreational component of the comp plan, I suggest establishing a workgroup with the following scope:

1. Develop findings on the history of public access to Oswego Lake.
2. Summarize the legal issues: federal, state and local and where these laws and rules may be in conflict.
3. Develop a range of options for possible expansion of public access to the Lake.
4. Recommend zoning options for the Lake.

These findings and recommendations should be brought back to the Comp. Plan Committee, Planning Commission and City Council within one year and then, with a common understanding of the issues, make recommendations about public access options and zoning within the comprehensive plan prior to its final adoption. As well the public should have access to the information and provided public involvement opportunities.

There has been significant community concern raised about the Oswego Lake and its status as a private lake - something of an anomaly in Oregon. This community – those with access to the lake, those with limited access and those with no access – deserve a full airing of the issue and an understanding of what public access options could be available.

We all share a responsibility and have a stake in the water quality of Oswego Lake - through fees on surface water management, millions spent on the clean up of the Tualatin River, protections on flood plains, wetlands and riparian areas. Collectively these surface waters are the source of the Lake.

I have lived in Lake Oswego for over 30 years and have heard repeated conflict and confusion about the lake's status, management responsibilities and access to information about water quality data. As the issue of public access to Oswego Lake has now been raised in the early stages of this comprehensive planning process, the City should take this opportunity to address what is a glaring equity issue in our community.

Respectfully,

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