

# MEMORANDUM

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**TO:** Comprehensive Plan Citizen Advisory Committee

**FROM:** Work Group on Oswego Lake Access Public Comment  
Katie Abbott, Nancy Gronowski, Tim Mather, David White

**DATE:** January 20, 2012

**SUBJECT:** Recommendation to the CAC from the Work Group on Oswego Lake Access Public Comment

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## Background

The purpose of the Work Group was to review public comments regarding Oswego Lake access received by the City through December 14, 2011 and develop a recommendation to the CAC regarding:

- a) Whether lake access should be addressed through the Comprehensive Plan update process, and
- b) If it is to be addressed, how and on what topics.

The work group reviewed comments that were received through the following channels:

- Community Values and Vision Survey (August – September 2010)
- October Community Workshops, group discussions (October 12 and 16, 2010)
- Community Culture Summit, group discussions (November 3, 2011)
- Community Culture Virtual Summit (November 1-13, 2011)
- E-mails to the CAC received via [welovelo@ci.oswego.or.us](mailto:welovelo@ci.oswego.or.us) or via staff (through December 14, 2011)

## Discussion

The work group considered the following questions in developing their recommendation:

*What level of interest has been received regarding Lake access, both in favor of and opposed to, through the public engagement process?*

Work group response: There has been interest in the lake access topic both in favor and opposed. However, it is difficult to evaluate the level of interest received in comparison to other Comprehensive Plan topics, because specific questions regarding lake access have not been posed to the public.

*How is the subject addressed or not addressed in the existing Comprehensive Plan?*

Work group response: The lake is addressed in the plan, however access to the lake is not.

*Does the proposal fall under the tasks required as part of the City's periodic review work program?*

Work group response: No.

*Is the proposal consistent with, or does it help to implement, the 2035 Vision statement?*

Work group response: This consideration does not apply because a specific lake access proposal has not been defined.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

The Work Group's overall recommendation on the question presented is that the issue of lake access should not be addressed through the Comprehensive Plan update process, except as described below.

- Although there has been a level of interest in the lake access topic; however, as a work group, we feel that the public lake access issue as it has been presented is too narrow and the focus of the CAC should be at a higher goal and policy level.
- The CAC should not focus on lake access specifically, but on the broader scope of how other elements (zoning, visual values, existing recreational opportunities, natural resources, etc.) of Oswego Lake are addressed in the Comprehensive Plan. The values reflected in many of the public comments can be incorporated into goals and policies without addressing lake access.
- To the extent our work requires an assumption on the issue, the CAC should assume the same level of access that is available to residents now (swimming at the City swim park which is currently allowed) and focus on ways that might be improved as a reflection of the parks-related goals and policies that focus on existing facilities rather than acquiring new facilities. However, given our conclusion that the narrow issue presented of lake access should not be part of the Comprehensive Plan update process, we recommend that the CAC establish goals and policies that are at such a level that they do not require a position on the specific issue of lake access (i.e, whether lake access should be enhanced from the current level).
- The CAC is not the appropriate body to discuss the legal issue of lake access.

## **Next Steps**

Once the work group has discussed the recommendation with the CAC at their January 25, 2012 meeting, the recommendation (as it is or revised) will be forwarded to the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission has reserved time on their February 13 meeting agenda to discuss the recommendation.

## **References**

Available on the We Love Lake Oswego website:

<http://welovelakeoswego.com/citizen-committees/oswego-lake-work-group/>

[Work group charge statement.](#)

[January 18 Work Group Meeting Agenda](#)

[Work Group Meeting Memo](#)

[Attach A. Oswego Lake Access Public Comment Work Group Charge Statement](#)

[Attach B. Oswego Lake comments through December 14, 2011](#)

[Attach C. Summary of Virtual Open House comments](#)