



Pierce County

Office of the County Council

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JK- Read - file - Sprinker
BARBARA GELMAN
Councilmember, District No 5

April 26, 2010

The Honorable Norm Dicks
United States Congress
173 Russell Senate Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Marie Cantwell
United States Senate
717 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Adam Smith
United States Congress
402 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Patty Murray
United States Senate
173 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Washington State Delegation:

Pierce County is like the nursery rhyme. "The Old Woman in the Shoe." where we have so many unfunded necessities we don't know what to do.

I'm aware that you are all currently involved in Wall Street banking reform. However, we are hoping that you won't forget those of us on Main Street. Because of severe budget reductions, we are in danger of losing those neighborhood parks that are so important to the families, youth and seniors of our communities, and to all of us on Main Street!

This year, Pierce County will be closing several smaller parks — Dawson, Gonyea, Mayfair, Bresemann Forest, and South Hill — in the communities of Midland, Parkland, Spanaway and Puyallup. It takes approximately \$10,000 to maintain each of these parks at a minimal level of grass mowing, restroom maintenance and garbage service for a five-month summer season. I, along with all Councilmembers, are working with the communities involved, Waste Connections, and the County Parks & Recreation Division to try and keep these neighborhood parks open. However, the prospects are bleak.

In addition, the Sprinker Recreation Center Regional Park is in urgent need of \$30 million for critical upgrades and renovation. If this facility cannot be upgraded, it may also have to close. With a Federal grant of \$10 million, we believe we could secure the necessary matching funds along with a bond obligation action, to move this project forward and ensure continued operation of this regional asset for decades to come.



Washington State Delegation
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Please tell me whether there is any possibility of your help with this vital project in Pierce County.

Thank you in advance for any possible assistance you can provide.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Barbara Gelman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Barbara Gelman
Pierce County Councilmember, District 5

C: Chair Roger Bush and Members of the Pierce County Council
Pierce County Executive Pat McCarthy
Pierce County Deputy Executive Kevin Phelps