

WHATCOM COUNTY


Parks & Recreation

3373 Mount Baker Highway
Bellingham, WA 98226-9097



Michael G. McFarlane, Director
Christ Thomsen, Operations Manager

MEMORANDUM

TO: Whatcom County Council Members and Executive Sidhu
FROM: Michael McFarlane, Director 
DATE: July 1st, 2021
RE: Acquisition Request at Squires Lake Park

I am requesting authorization for the County Executive to enter into a purchase and sale agreement in the amount of \$90,000 for the acquisition of 5.9 acres of undeveloped property adjoining Squires Lake Park. Funding is proposed to come from the Conservation Futures Fund and a requested budget supplemental has been submitted.

This property adjoins Squires Lake Park's trailhead and main access to the Lake. The Department attempted unsuccessfully to acquire this property when the park was purchased in 1995. Due to steep terrain and the lake's outfall, access is limited and the main trail leading to the lake is situated on the property line between this property and the park. The acquisition will maintain the forested buffer for the trailhead and trail, allow a small overlook to a seasonal waterfall, and secure the area below the lake's outfall and dam. In 2020, Squires Lake Park had over 35,000 visitations.

Please contact me at 5855 should you have any questions or require additional information.