



Q & A Lincoln Park Master Plan

Q:
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Why does the Port need to remove any trees? Why can't the runway be extended to the west instead?

In order to operate the airport safely, planes must have an area clear of any obstructions for take-off and landing. Currently the trees in Lincoln Park create an obstruction that affects a pilot's ability to land safely. The Port has studied different alternatives to avoid the obstructions, including expanding the runway to the west. Costs for such an expansion would be in excess of \$30 million dollars, impact the Dry Creek water shed, and require additional acquisition of privately- owned property. It would more than likely not be completed in time before trees reached a height whereby requiring a further reduction in runway length. Ultimately, the City Council will make the final decision if the obstructions in Lincoln Park can be removed. A separate Fact Sheet is available with more information on the relationship between airport operations and Lincoln Park, available at the project web site www.cityofpa.us/parksrec-lincolnprk.htm.

Q:
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How old are the trees in the Park and which trees does the Port want to remove?

The name Lincoln Park is a tribute to President Abraham Lincoln who established Port Angeles as a town site in 1862 with most of the land, including Lincoln Park, held as a United States Military Reserve. The park was dedicated to public use in 1904 through the efforts of Dr. Freeborn Stanton Lewis, pioneer physician, and then mayor of Port Angeles.

The trees in the park part of a second or third growth forest. Some of the trees in the west half of the park may be retained, but the majority of trees east of the pond would be removed in order to create a safe landing zone for the airport. There is currently no approved plan for tree removal or clear cutting in the park.

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What is a low-growth forest?

The current Douglas Fir and Western Red Cedar trees in the forest at Lincoln Park can reach a mature height of eighty to over one hundred feet tall, creating an obstruction for aircraft landing on the adjacent airport runway. If the City Council agrees to allow the Port to remove the trees that cause this obstruction, a low-growth forest could be planted in its place. A low-growth forest would typically include more deciduous trees and evergreen tree varieties with a lower canopy height. These may include both native and non-native varieties.

Visit the project website at: www.cityofpa.us/parksrec-lincolnprk.htm

For comments or additional questions, please contact Richard Bonine at the City of Port Angeles, rbonine@cityofpa.us or (360) 417-4551.



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Q:
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Will the Port remove any trees on private property, even if they are tall enough to be an obstruction as well?

No trees on private property will be removed without the consent of the private property owner, even if they are currently tall enough to be an obstruction. A single tree obstruction has less impact to airport safety than a large grouping of trees obstructing the landing path, like the current condition within Lincoln Park.

Q:
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What is the Master Plan and when will there be opportunities for me to comment?

A master plan is a document that will be used to plan for future improvements to the park. It will document the public process, provide a visual plan for how the park could look in the future with uses and improvements identified, and provide an estimated cost of construction.

The master plan is based on a public process with input received from nearby residents and the greater Port Angeles community. The first open house was held on November 30, 2011 to generate ideas on what could be included or improved in the park. There will be two more open houses to review master plan alternatives and a preferred master plan. There will also be numerous Parks Board, Port Commission and City Council meetings where public comments can be provided. Ultimately, the City Council makes the final decision to approve the master plan. You can contact Richard Bonine at the City of Port Angeles if you would like to be notified of these events at rbonine@cityofpa.us or (360) 417-4551.

Q:
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How can I review previously submitted comments?

Comments and materials related to the master plan process will be available on the city's web site at www.cityofpa.us/parkrec-lincolnprk.htm.

Q:
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If City Council agrees to adopt the final Master Plan, where will funding for improvements come from?

Funding for the master plan process was provided by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) on July 22, 2010. Funding for implementing the master plan has not been fully secured, but will likely come from a variety of sources. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) will provide funding for removing any obstructions approved by City Council and revegetation with a lower height canopy and buffer planting. Funding for other improvements may come from a variety of state or federal grant programs, revenue from any tree removal, and other city or port funding sources. Programmed activities but not yet funded under the current FAA grant include an Environmental Impact Assessment in 2013 and acquiring an Avigation (airspace) Easement for tree removal in 2013 and 2014. Revegetation of a low canopy forest as mitigation for tree removal would occur in 2014 and 2015.

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