

Sportsmens Memorial Park

Incorporated Dec. 26, 1944. A non profit, tax exempt Corporation, donations to which are deductible from income taxes under the heading of "Contributions Paid". Title to this Park property rests in the name of Yakima County. Every donation of \$5.00 or more entitles the donar to one share and one vote in the Park Corporation. This Corporation, thru the medium of a Board of 15 Trustees has complete charge of the Park and its management. The original Board of Trustees, who were also the incorporators, were appointed by the following co-sponsoring organizations, the Chamber of Commerce, the Junior Chamber of Commerce, the American Legion, the Yakima Pomona Grange No. 19, the Elks Lodge, the Knights of Columbus, the Kiwanis Club, the Gyro Club, the Optimist Club, the Eagles Lodge, the Moose Lodge, the I.O.O.F. Lodge, and the Yakima Valley Sportsmens Assn. These organizations made this Park possible.

The men who represented these co-sponsoring organizations on the incorporating board were as follows, in order as above: George V. Rankin, Norman Richardson, Lester S. Shaw, Paul Dodge, Floyd Lewis, M. E. Evanson, William M. Yeaman, W. O. Wikstrom, E. M. Keeper, Henry G. Day, Gilbert W. Burns, Fred W. Morton, Jr., I. H. Dills, Harold H. Schultz, and John H. Mack.

There are seven lakes and ponds covering a total area of 9 acres. There are five creeks or small branches of the Yakima River flowing thru this property and it has a frontage of about 2000 feet on the Yakima River. The location is on the Keys Road, east of the Yakima River and is only 3 miles from the Yakima City Post Office either by way of the Terrace Heights Bridge or by way of the Moxee Bridge and highway.

This property and all adjoining farms has been declared to be a Game Reserve by the Washington State Department of Game, so that no hunting or fire arms will be allowed at any time of the year. The State Game Department will feed migratory water fowl on these lakes thruout the winter months. Where this is done, these birds become as tame as domestic birds.

The lakes, ponds and creeks will be kept well stocked with fish and reserved for the exclusive fishing privilege of the teen age children, with some areas set aside for the very small children. Did you ever see the expression of satisfaction on the face of a small boy when he caught his first fish? Perhaps you may remember when you proudly displayed your first fish, even though it may have been only a sucker or other cull fish. The exultation felt by a small boy or girl when they catch their first fish seems to be much greater than when they first accomplish almost anything else. We may well encourage these youngsters in fishing and in following other natural pursuits which will absorb their energy and spare time and thus help to keep them out of mischief.

In a proposed Zoo and wild life habitat, the teen age sportsmen of the future would learn to identify our various song and game birds, small animals and fur bearing animals as well as deer, elk and bear, and to learn something of their life and habits. Here they would learn what kind of birds and animals are predatory to other forms of wild life, and what is even more important, would learn what birds and animals are beneficial to mankind. A Zoo is a very attractive magnet for the old and the young alike.

Picnic spots under large shade trees with fireplaces and grills, also tables and benches will be arranged on the shores of the many lakes and along both banks of the creeks and on the river bank. You and your family, or your Club may enjoy a hot afternoon or an evening here in a setting which will nearly duplicate that of

a picnic spot by a small stream in the mountains. This community needs such a picnic ground where you may entertain visitors and tourists who will surely come as soon as this war is over. Returning service men will need a quiet place like this where they may take their families and know that they are welcome.

A playground with swings and other devices should be provided so as to encourage healthful exercise. We even dare to hope, that in the not too distant future, we may have a chlorinated swimming pool, not constructed after the conventional designs, but rather like a natural lake with gradual sloping bottom and sides with rocks set in concrete for a lining. Many people prefer to swim in a natural lake rather than in the obviously artificial swimming pools.

Because these lakes are very deep in some places and because the bottoms of the lakes are very uneven, making for sudden changes from shallow to very deep, it is dangerous to any but experienced swimmers. Therefore it has been necessary to prohibit swimming altogether. Prominent signs have been posted stating that quote: "SWIMMING PROHIBITED...DANGEROUS...DEEP WATER!"

A large island has been set aside for the use of the Boy Scouts. Here they hold their yearly "Camporee" and any Scout group is free to use this island for any outing or overnight camping trip, as they wish. Areas will be set aside for the use of the Camp Fire Girls and the Girl Reserves, or any other similar organizations.

This project when ultimately completed should provide a place where all members of a family, old and young alike, should find interest, recreation, and entertainment. A place which will provide the opportunity, so that the parents will be brought into closer contact with their children, instead of, as the tendency is these days, to give the children greater freedom by taking them out of the home and away from parental influence. Pardon us if we seem to be a bit old fashioned. We believe that the training of youth in the formative years is definitely a responsibility of the parents.

All of these proposed projects will have to wait until money is available to do the work. The by-laws of this Corporation provide that no work or development can be started until the estimated cost of the project is available in cash.

The following is a resume of the expenditures to date and a program of further development for this year provided that the necessary donations are available.

Yakima County paid \$5,250.00 for the 67.95 acres for this Park. The County proposes to spread crushed rock on the entrance drive way and on the 5 acre car parking lot, at a cost of about \$3,000.00. The County also provides a guard to handle the prisoner labor and a truck and driver to take them to and from the Park. This is at an expense of about \$250.00 per month. By the end of this summer's work, say four months, this will mean another \$1,000.00 cost to the County or a total expenditure by Yakima County of \$9,250.00 for this year.

The Park Board has had about 6,700 cubic yards of rock and earth moved at a cost of \$2,754.75. This material was used in a dike 660 feet long and in filling in two large excavations, as well as in spreading soil over rock surfaces where it was badly needed. In obtaining this rock and soil, we leveled the land where needed and also enlarged our lakes where that was feasible. Another bulldozer was used to clear the land at a cost of \$10.00 per hour for 162 hours; total cost of this is \$1,620.00; the ditching and laying of concrete culvert pipe cost us \$192.00. The driving of two wells cost \$107.52. Extra labor \$535.00. Concrete culvert pipe, tools, meals for prisoners, tobacco, gloves and fittings and supplies cost us about \$1200.00. For a total of \$6,409.27 spent by the Park Board.

Expenditures by the County and the Park Board therefore will total \$15,659.27 for work that has already been started.

Since the 18th day of May, we have had from 9 or 10 to as many as 14 County and City prisoners working at the Park. We pay for three meals per day for these men at 50¢ per meal and furnish them with smoking tobacco and work gloves. This has been a very satisfactory arrangement because for a little more than \$1.50 per man per day, we find that we get as much work done as the hired men previously did for us at 85¢ per hour.

G. D. Hall, Engineer with offices in the Larson Bldg., after much negotiation, has finally obtained permission to and has taken, aerial photographs of the Park site. He will now complete plans and specifications for the Park. His field crew completed the physical survey of the property some time ago.

The Park Trustees have adopted the following program of work for the rest of this year and have budgeted the expense as listed below. A drive is now underway to raise \$5,725.00 to finance this work. With the \$15,659.27 already spent or contracted for, the Park will represent a total investment at the end of this year of \$21,384.27

Program of development and estimated cost.

150 - 2" to 4" long slender fir poles for rustic bridges)	
200 - larger poles for rustic bridges and rustic shelters)	\$ 225.00
Completion of seven rustic bridges	\$ 350.00
Construction of 10 fire places and grills	500 ⁰⁰
Construction and materials for 20 long tables with seats attached on.	\$1200.00
Install screens above and below and between the lakes to confine fish.	\$ 50.00
Fertilizing of the lakes	\$ 100.00
Obtaining and planting bass, blue gill and cat fish	\$ 250.00
Cultivating the cleared land, clearing more land, leveling land	
destroying weed growths, burning brush and logs and preparing seed bed for grass seed this fall.	\$ 800.00
Grass seed and planting	\$ 500.00
Maps, photographs, plans and surveys	\$ 250.00
Fencing parking area	\$ 500.00
	<hr/>
	\$5,725.00

THIS \$5,725.00 MUST BE RAISED IMMEDIATELY, OR else this badly needed development will be delayed until next year.

At the recent annual meeting of the membership of this Park Corporation, they voted favorably to changing the name to "Sportsmens Memorial Park". The intention being to dedicate this Park as a Living War Memorial commemorating our boys who aren't going hunting and fishing with us anymore. A Living War Memorial seems to us to mean just what it says. Living implies something alive and useful. The more useful a memorial is to any individual and the more individuals who make use of it assures a longer life of the memorial. A cannon in a park, or a statue or a monument is something dead and almost useless. It will be neglected and perhaps forgotten in a short time. A swimming pool would benefit some. A play ground would benefit some others. A picnic ground would benefit still more people. A Zoo would draw the attention of all ages of people. Special privilege fishing would attract all sizes of teen age children. This Park would just naturally be attractive and useful to practically every man, woman and child in Yakima County, not just once but often and year in and year out. It would be very difficult to even imagine any kind of a project which could possess so many attributes of a truly Living War Memorial.

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This community, all of Yakima County, owes such an enormous debt to our many heroes of this war, that they should, in their grief, be big enough to forget any local prejudices and selfishness and all join together in supporting one and only one Living War Memorial. It would be a terrible mistake to divide the community support between two or more Living War Memorials.

This Park project is only nicely started, however it represents ~~an~~ expenditure of more than \$20,000.00. When another Living War Memorial is suggested, it would seem that, that suggestion carried with it the idea of the abandonment of this Park project. The Park cannot now be abandoned. There is already too much invested and there is also too great a demand for the use of the facilities which are proposed for it.

We respectfully request every citizen of this County to get wholeheartedly behind this project so that it may be completed at the earliest possible date.

STATE OF WASHINGTON



THE DEPARTMENT OF GAME

DON W. CLARKE, DIRECTOR

515 SMITH TOWER
SEATTLE 4

May 7, 1947

Mr. Don W. Clarke, Director
The Department of Game
515 Smith Tower
Seattle 4, Washington

Dear Don:

I received a communication this morning, which I enclose to you, from the Yakima Valley Sportsmen's Park, Inc. by John H. Mack, Pres.

I believe you are familiar with the Yakima Valley Sportsmen's Park and know somewhat of its creation which I am sure all members of the Game Department understand is primarily for teen-agers, and we have as the Department of Game been planting the artificially made lakes with the idea that these would be used exclusively by the youngsters. I have been of the opinion since this area was made a reservation so to speak, that that would prohibit adults from fishing in these waters, but apparently we placed in our regulations as open water to fishing the Sportsmen's Park. Hence, those in charge of the Park are unable to exclude adults from this water.

Now, what I would like to have you do if you feel you can is to close these artificially made lakes within the boundary of the Park to all adult fishing and I believe to protect the fish that the Game Department has planted this should be done as soon as possible. And, I believe under the new Game Code, you have this authority.

If there is any other information you would like, either contact me or write Mr. Mack whose address is 609 South 1st Street, this city.

Very truly yours,

J. A. Loudon, Chairman
State Game Commission

JAL:gh
cc - John H. Mack

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SPORTSMENS PARK continued.

This community needs a picnic ground because at the present time there is no other place short of the National Forest where such facilities are made available to the public.

The County Commissioners have the legal right to provide a Park, and after reviewing our proposition, they stated that they would buy the land for this Park just as soon as a majority of the Service Clubs and other organizations had agreed to get behind it. We therefore need your moral support as a co-sponsoring group to make this park project a truly County wide proposition so as to justify the County Commissioners in this expenditure. The County now holds options on this land and the title will always rest in the name of Yakima County. The County Commissioners have agreed to turn over the management of the Park to this proposed Park Board.

We have canvassed the situation in a small way and find that donations from individuals sufficient for this project can be obtained. Some for as much as \$500.00 and a larger number from \$50.00 to \$250.00. We find that almost any man who does some hunting or fishing or who has children or grand children and at times wants to go out for a picnic lunch, will donate from \$10.00 to \$25.00 to assure himself of a place for that picnic where he will be welcome.

We are now working with the Department of Internal Revenue, to so set up this project, that it will qualify on income tax, under the heading of "Contributions Paid" so as to make donations to this Park deductible from net income, where one is allowed to deduct up to 15% of the net earnings. This arrangement has not as yet been accomplished.

When we use the term "Sportsmens Park" we do so advisedly. We all hunt and we all fish, so therefore we are all sportsmen.

The question of contamination of the water in these lakes has been brought up. All open water in this valley may become contaminated and water for a swimming pool must be treated.

Some of this land is subject to flooding in case of extremely high water. but it is only due to back water from the river and has little or no current. Even then only extremely high water, which occurs very seldom, will come in on the lower end of the place.

The Park needs your personal interest and the Community needs the Park. Thru co-operation we may have a Park and a picnic ground which will be a credit to this County.

We are now asking your moral support of this project and this is your invitation to place your representative on the Board of Directors of this Park.

Please contact the temporary park board by addressing John H. Mack, 609 South First Street, Yakima, Wash. Phones 9990 or 9087.