

Longview Comprehensive Plan

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Sadly, it looks like this blight may indeed happen. These residential areas are not the best, but the people who live there do not deserve to live in an “industrial ghetto” sprinkled with poisonous emissions and marred by noise. Plus, if these neighborhoods are further degraded, even the residents of the pristine Old Westside neighborhood across from them on the other side of Lake Sacagawea will eventually see a decline in quality of life and house values. After all, the eastern edge of the Mint Farm is only eight city blocks from the lake. In addition, there are wider implications for the health of all downtown development.

On its face, the decision to designate the Mint Farm as “heavy industrial” in future drafts of the comprehensive plan looks like a disaster for Longview. However, a draft with this new designation is actually an opportunity for public debate about how this part of the city will be developed, a discussion that we could not otherwise have if industrial development just continued quietly. If enough citizens state their belief that heavy industrial development on the eastern edge of the Mint Farm close to residences should not happen, both the comprehensive plan AND zoning could be changed to “light industrial” for Phase 2, or for parts of it.

Longview members of WHAS can help to shape this debate by attending public workshops on the draft comprehensive plan that will be held this fall, writing comments on the plan, and writing letters to the editor. Keep emphasizing our need for parks and trails, but don't forget to comment on the new designation for the Mint Farm as “heavy industrial” and the effects this will have on downtown neighborhoods.

Defeat Initiative 933 “Property Fairness”

While we need to pay attention to local issues, this Washington state initiative poses an enormous threat which will eat away all efforts to protect our environment. Sponsored by the Farm Bureau, I-933 got enough signatures to be on Washington's November ballot. **Now we really need to get to work.** The enticing title and summary make it attractive to voters, and we will need to work hard to educate them about its real implications.

If passed, it will require state, city, and county governments to either reimburse landowners for regulations that reduce the value of the land, or to waive the regulations. Because there is no money to pay reimbursement, in practice I-933 will mean waiving city and county zoning, the Growth Management Act, stream protections, coastal management, and many other land use restrictions which protect farms, neighborhoods, and wildlife.

Processing claims in Oregon from Measure 37 has already cost millions for local governments, and resulted in waiving of zoning and environmental protections. While I-933 is similar to Measure 37, it is *worse*, because Measure 37 mostly affected future land development, but I-933 will affect current and future land development and also reaches back to 1996.

How can you help defeat this initiative?

- Learn more about it by attending the October 11 forum on its pros and cons at Lower Columbia College Student Center (3:30 and 7:00 p.m.).
- Volunteer! Go to www.noon933.org, click on “volunteer” and sign up for any number of volunteer jobs, from tasks as brain-taxing as writing a letter to the editor or as mindless as sign waving. Or call (206) 323-0520 to contact the No on 933 organization's Seattle office.
- Give money. Lots will be needed for print and media ads, and every small contribution adds up. Your donation now will prevent many millions that will need to be spent in future decades to process claims and in legal efforts to force governments to enforce laws and regulations.
- Put up a yard sign. Contact Charlotte Persons, WHAS secretary, to get one.

Support Birds and Habitat - Vote NO on I-933

From Audubon Washington

A power plant and pumice mine in a national volcanic monument. Potential park land converted to a 350-lot subdivision. Gravel mining in wine country. Tree farms becoming enormous housing developments. Orchards as golf courses.

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