

John (Jack) R. Venrick

From: "Jack Venrick" <jacksranch@skynetbb.com>
To: "AJack R. Venrick" <jacksranch@skynetbb.com>
Sent: Friday, October 24, 2008 12:23 PM
Subject: Stepford Towns USA

----- Original Message -----

From: [Jack Venrick](#)
To: [Ron Ewart \(NARLO\)](#)
Sent: Tuesday, December 12, 2006 10:58 AM
Subject: Fw: Stepford Towns USA

----- Original Message -----

From: [Pete Lewis](#)
To: [Jack Venrick](#) ; [Bob Ferguson KingCountyCouncil](#) ; [Dow Constantine KingCountyCouncil](#) ; [Jane Hague KingCountyCouncil](#) ; [Kathy Lambert KingCountyCouncil](#) ; [Larry Gossett KingCountyCouncil](#) ; [Larry Phillips KingCountyCouncil](#) ; [Pete von Reichbauer KingCountyCouncil](#) ; [Reagan Dunn KingCountyCouncil](#) ; [Ron Sims KingCountyExecutive](#)
Cc: [Environmental Nonsense AuburnCity](#)
Sent: Monday, December 11, 2006 7:37 PM
Subject: RE: Stepford Towns USA

Ron - Mayor Lewis of Auburn gave me this reply. There is a lot of spin in here and Auburn fought I933. Can you see through his first para. regarding the water problems? He claims they and King County were sued several times. This sounds like the same problem with our poster elder where her basement was flooding and she wanted to do something.

I asked Rod for the source of the info that Auburn is pushing out 60 some businesses on several hundred acres. I could not find anything on it by Googling.

Thanks. I am preparing a response.

Jack

Since Auburn was a central feature of this communication I will try to respond especially when so many different facts were distorted. These are totally different events separated by time and intent.

When I first came on the Auburn City Council in 1997 there was an area west of downtown bordered on the west by State highway 167, on the east by the Union Pacific Railroad and the interurban trail, Main Street on the south and 15th Street NW on the north. Water in that area moves to the west. When SR 167 was built in the sixties it created a dam to the flow of water across the valley. Over the next forty years water continued to gravitate to the west up against the dam. Homes and farms along that area continued to get wetter and wetter. The state and county and Auburn were all sued several times and lost because houses and farms were being flooded. We could not find any way to stop the water coming in so instead we began to look at bringing the water in, treating it and then sending it into what would amount to an environmental park for all to use. We are one of the poorer cities in the county so tax payer's money isn't a possibility and have instead asked that environmental groups contribute, that environmentally based companies locate in the area and contribute. Instead of a taking we've tried to find a way to prevent other property owners in that area from losing their properties and help correct a problem we had no hand in creating.

The comment about the Property Fairness Initiative and grabbing people's land is again distorted. Since 2005 the Chamber of Commerce, the Auburn Downtown Association and community groups including the faith community were involved in an effort to provide zoning and comprehensive plan changes for our city. We took no land by these changes and of the 'hundreds of acres' most of the changes were about changing isolated pockets of industrial surrounded by either commercial or residential and changing that use to the surrounding use. Under these changes an owner of an industrial property can keep that business forever. They can sell it to another firm doing the same type of business - again forever. They can expand the use by going through the City Council. The only restriction is if they want to try to sell that industrial property to a different industrial use.

Separately in our downtown the City of Auburn had purchased land at market value on several different downtown blocks. The city paid market rate for the land and did so with the full support of the downtown community. This was done without any threats but instead to show the city's commitment to downtown redevelopment.

6/1/2011

On a block next to City Hall we did begin condemnation on several old taverns as the city- the Auburn Downtown Association, the Chamber of Commerce and others planned for a City Plaza and Annex. No more than that.

As far as traffic cameras go for red light traffic enforcement – we have two intersections with cameras. We would like to have more but right now there are just two. We aren't going to apologize for bad drivers. Our response as a city to those people who don't live or work in Auburn that are making up more than 50% of those getting tickets – don't run a red light in Auburn. We are tired of putting our men, women and children at risk because you won't obey one of the simplest traffic laws.

Pete Lewis, Mayor of Auburn

Dear Stepford Town USA:

Here is a classic example of what happens when an out of control city government mayor and council takes money from environmental extremists from my knot hole. See Auburn Environmental Park Project Story below or attachment above.

The green squeeze works so well for government and environmental movements because it takes private property with public tax money to make land grabs to expand the city and environmental control. Here is a city that is creating a "swamp" park for the bird people. The city say the people love it. I expect its more romantic whimsy spun from green distortion just like King County and the State say we all love the GMA, CAO, Agricultural Preservation Act, DDES, etc .

The Audubon Society is famous for stealing private property for free just like they did trying to block the titling of the Property Fairness Initiative I933. The government is famous for stealing anything they can get their hands on for free while ignoring the State and US constitution. Its funny how thievery continues when it is free for the taking. The Audubon gives a little so the City of Auburn can take a lot. The Auburn council is eager to take tax payers money to park out a little swamp complete with a cute bird tower. Of course it will take years and millions to do this, but no problem for the City of Auburn and the bird people.

If the government and the bird brains had their way, which they do, they will turn all the rural property into birding towers. Never mind there is no watch tower to see our individual freedoms and rights to own and operate our land the way the founding fathers intended. Never mind there is no public money being used to drive a stake into these bird brains in the Audubon Society and the City of Auburn from over regulating and taking over the entire State. Never mind there is no cost benefit study of how much revenue this will bird brain project will "park" out of this land not being fully utilized. Never mind there is no common sense!

The City of Auburn couldn't wait for the Property Fairness Initiative to fail before they ran out and grabbed several hundred acres of land against the wishes of a large group of business people. Eminent domain has a much more "progressive" meaning to cities and counties now. This is what happens when the basic founding documents to protect freedom are taken liberally, i.e. progressively. There is not a fine line between using eminent domain to acquire very very basic public needs and what the City of Auburn is doing.

I hear, the City of Auburn Mayor is aggressively forcing small non boutique businesses out of the center of Auburn to clear more land to bring in big commercial tax revenue generating business, i.e. doing the "Kelo" that New London got away with. As long as liberal court judges continue to get reelected and the majority of city people do not connect all these private property takings to stealing, it will continue. Just as locker room bullies exercise their eminent domain until they are jerked up, this will continue. As long as the urban people do not connect these governmental suffocating acts to their own private property rights, it will continue. It seems the city people have to learn their lessons the hard way. Meanwhile we will suffer along with them, until they wake up and connect the dam dots.

6/1/2011

The City of Auburn has turned itself into a Stalag 13 complete with cameras on nearly every corner watching you drive. Of course this would not be done if it cost the City any money. They will tell you its all about safety. If they had to spend a dime for your "safety" they would not be so concerned. Whether it is King County DDES trespassing on everyone's property, or the county governments & environmental extremists going to court to take away your land use rights or to force a county or city to comply or the City of Auburn making itself into a "Little Town of Horrors, it's called the same name.

What you have here is a insidious unconstitutional take over of all private property for the sake of the green triangle, i.e. the environmental extremists who get their selfish green way, the local governments who use these bird brain tactics to increase their revenue and the few green contractors who profit. It is a green government orchestration to take more public money. When you see cities and bird brains expanding their bird houses and sand boxes at the expense of small private property owners, you are seeing communism at its budding best.

Let me make it clear for those of you who have not connected enough dots yet. There is nothing wrong with a few parks. What is wrong is the "parking" process that is being used at the expense of the private property rights, little business owners, little rural land owners, i.e. little people. This does not exclude the government "parking" out the big boys either. This is why, in part, Boeing moved its headquarters to Chicago. The City of Everett raped Boeing continually. This is the reason why Boeing will be in large part gone from Puget "Unsound" within 10 years. The cities, counties and states have become incestuous mutating into "Little Shops of Horrors! They are carnivorous plant like cancers that can never be fed enough.

The public comment periods are a staged ceremony only. King County Council did the same thing during the so called "critical area ordinance" fiasco. People must start to look at all cities now as sharks. Cities, counties, states will do anything they have too, to feed themselves. The days of the quiet little committees is over because of the urban people are sleeping while all our freedoms are atrophying.

If you think my words are too harsh do a little research on your own. Turn off ALL media forever. Read some books by independent thinkers.

We all must wake up and stop America from becoming "A Stepford Town". This movement of green communism and government encroachment into every corner of our property and lives, reminds me of the old TV/movie "The Stepford Wives", i.e. The premise involves the male inhabitants of the fictional town of Stepford, CT who all have eager-to-please, overly-submissive, and impossibly beautiful wives (towns/counties). http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Stepford_Wives

This is what many cities and counties are trying to do across America as our basic founding constitutional laws are ravaged. They are trying to create a "Stepford Town" while not seeing the "Little Shop of Horrors" they are simultaneously creating which are ravaging our private property freedoms and liberties.

WEC, Autobahn Society, 1000 Friends of WA, CELP, Ron Sims and the Mayor of Auburn will make sure you do this, even if they have to sue you or your county or your town. Think green or we will sue you until you do.

What kind of Freedom Loving and Godly nation have we eroded into? What kind of freedom is this? Why can no one else see this cloak of darkness being pulled over America?

Jack Venrick

Rural in Stepford King County

6/1/2011

Fed Up With Being a Stepford Property Owner

Enumclaw, WA

Funding

The City is currently reviewing several opportunities for funding. Funding sources vary from federal and state agencies to non-profit organizations and foundations. While there appears to be many sources to choose for funding assistance, the City reviews opportunities that will best fit the objectives and goals of the Auburn Environmental Park.

Eco-Tourism and Partnership Discussion

A Rainier Audubon Society spokesperson described the partnership opportunities associated with the project and presented a check to the City in support of the project. With 500 members, the Rainier Audubon Society represents a significant source of financial and grassroots support. Birding enthusiasts are the largest group of environmental tourists in the country, totaling 71 million and spending \$29.2 billion annually on the hobby and \$9.4 billion on trip-related expenses. In Washington State, more money is spent on birding than hunting, and 47% of residents participate in some sort of birding activity.

Recent changes in the funding of these projects at the State and Federal level has allowed for more options. The State of Washington is currently looking for local projects that could used for the concept of creating wetland mitigation banks. Auburn Environmental Park, because of its magnitude, qualifies as a potential wetland mitigation bank. Further research is ongoing in determining the feasibility of making the Auburn Environmental Park a wetland mitigation bank. At this time, it's clear that wetland mitigation banks have been difficult to establish in the past and only one currently exists within the State of Washington (Snohomish River Valley). Discussion with the regulatory community and others continue in hopes that this process can be streamlined and made available to organizations without expending an exurbanite amount of resources.

6/1/2011

Birding Tower

Birding towers have been used in many bird habitat areas to provide a longer view over tree vegetation. The features within these towers can vary greatly.

Information Kiosk

An important part of the Auburn Environmental Park is providing educational information to visitors. Kiosks provide a means of providing basic information about features and activities around the site.

Paved Trail

An asphalt paved trail 8-feet wide is typical in parks. It consists of a small amount of fill covered with a small amount of crushed rock then 2-inches of asphalt paving over the top. This is usually relatively easy to install and maintain. These types of trails will be limited within the Auburn Environmental Park so as to decrease the need for mitigation.

Elevated Wooden Trail

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Current Issue:
The [Winter 2007](#) issue includes information on the Project and how you can get involved in this exciting process.

Previous Issues:

- [Summer 2006](#)
- [Spring 2006](#)
- [Fall 2005](#)
- [Winter 2005](#)

Project Background

The Auburn Environmental Park (AEP) Project is an innovative project that seeks to create open space in an urbanized area while offering opportunities for economic development, water quality improvement, stormwater detention and flood control, fish and wildlife enhancement, public education, and recreation, including hiking trails and bird viewing amenities.

Project Area

The project area is bounded by 15 th Street NW to the north, the Interurban Trail to the east, West Main Street to the south and State Route 167 to the west. The vicinity west of SR 167 encompasses a segment of Mill Creek and is being studied for inclusion in the next phase of the AEP Project.

Process and Next Steps



Auburn has completed a feasibility study and begun early consultation with agencies, community groups, and the public. During the next year, the City will develop a master plan for the AEP Project while simultaneously looking for grant and other funding resources.



The next steps will include detailed planning and project engineering, ongoing grant writing and fundraising, ongoing development of public-private partnership opportunities, and more land acquisition. Once the master plan is complete and funding is secured, Auburn will be ready to begin implementing the project.

How can you get involved?

The City hosted a public kick-off celebration on June 16 th, (click here for meeting summary) introducing the AEP Project and inviting community members to participate on a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). The TAC will meet periodically to guide project staff as they develop the master plan.



To get involved in this exciting project, you can:

- Invite a project team member to speak to your neighborhood or organization
- Sign up for the project mailing list to receive periodic updates and invitations to public events (email your request AEP@auburnwa.gov)
- Continue checking this website for updates



For more information, click to download the following documents:



[Auburn Environmental Park Master Plan](#) 26 page pdf

[AEP Historical Overview](#)

[AEP Area Map](#)

[2/80/06 Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Summary](#)

[10/20/05 Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Summary](#)

[09/15/05 Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Summary](#)



[Auburn Environmental Park Project: Imagine the Possibilities](#)

Your comments are important to the success of the Auburn Environmental Project!

If you have any questions or comments regarding the AEP project, please Email Staff at AEP@auburnwa.gov.

For more information please contact the Planning and Community Development Department at 253-931-3090.

Imagine the Possibilities

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