



Friends of Saltwater State Park

friends.saltwater.statepark@gmail.com

Washington Scuba Alliance
FBO Friends of Saltwater State Park
31811 Pacific Hwy S #B307
Federal Way, WA 98003

Dear Des Moines City Council Member JC Harris,

The Friends of Saltwater State Park is a volunteer organization in support of Saltwater State park for patrons and our environment. We have actively engaged with the park and our community for 5 years. Since our inception the Friends continues to make important contributions improving the park's environment, engaging and educating visitors, providing opportunities to volunteer and explore and preserve the natural environments of Saltwater Park. The Friends are unique consisting of dedicated volunteer stewards that specialize in the forest environment, McSorely creek watershed, marine environments and outreach for groups and schools. We advocate for public health by monitoring water quality in the marine park and in McSorely Creek. To improve our ability to connect with potential visitors and patrons we are applying for ARPA Stimulus Funds requesting \$7500. These funds will be used to hire a professional to design a website for us and maintain it for 5 years.

The work of the Friends greatly enhances the park value as a tourist destination for a variety of activities including, events such as Earth Day. Community safety such as access to the water, underwater maps, and safety features aide divers results in Oregon and Eastern Washington dive clubs enjoy the park. Native plants exploration attract people come from Issaquah to enjoy the forest trails and visitors that fly in make a point to visit Saltwater.

A website will improve our visibility in the community and promote a welcoming, inclusive environment for people of color and those who speak a language other than English. As one of our recruiting tools it will help us replenish our volunteer pool, provide resources for interactive education and events, guides and other experiences. Our goal is to make their next visit to the park inspiring. We want people to feel that Saltwater is their "go to" place to recreate, to be a positive part of the solution by volunteering and, when possible, to provide financial support.

Our attached proposal provides details. However, if there is any additional information needed, please let me know. We are excited to share our passion with you and the City council. We look forward to continuing to work together for the betterment of public, the park, the environment, the community and the city of Des Moines.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Rhoda H, Green

Rhoda Green
Chairperson, Friends of Saltwater State Park
(425)652-7699

Check us out on face book: <https://www.facebook.com/SWSPDesMoinesWA/>

Washington Scuba Alliance, FBO Friends of Saltwater State Park, is a non-profit organization and your donation is tax deductible. No goods or services were exchanged. TIN: 91-1568264

Website Proposal for Friends of Saltwater State Park

- Target
 - We want to improve our ability to connect with the community in a way that informs the public and generates volunteers and funding. This connection will enhance our mission of support to Saltwater State Park for the betterment of patrons and the environment.
- Who is affected?
 - The people of Des Moines and the surrounding community benefit from improved visibility of opportunities for recreation, renewal and volunteerism. The focus on increased diversity will include people of color and those who speak languages other than English.
- Why it is important?
 - The natural world around us is constantly being subjected to forces that degrade it. The state parks are part of the way that people can access the wonders of our beautiful state. Saltwater Park has the unique blessing of both land and saltwater natural areas that attract people from the community and from areas beyond. To keep these natural wonders in good shape and provide access, the volunteers work to improve conditions. The Friends group has a variety of activities that contribute to improvement and monitoring of the land and water ecosystems. Examples are McSorley Creek water monitoring, beach surveys, fish and invertebrate surveys, maintenance of the Marine Protected Area marker buoys, removing invasive species (with a special focus on ivy). We also provide environmental education for adults and children. These activities need to be supported with volunteers and funding. Informing the public of opportunities to connect with nature, volunteer and contribute funds is critical.
- Challenges
 - Website quality
 - Ease of use
 - Inclusion of other languages
 - Accessibility by handicapped will be an emphasis.
 - Providing regular updates of content
 - Maximizing our reach to the public, as well as potential volunteers and donors
- Proposed solution
 - Hire the work done by a professional and use elements from other websites that we think will fit best with our needs.
 - We propose finding a professional and contracting for initial build plus upkeep for five years. This includes maintenance and SEO (Search Engine Optimization).
- More details of the proposal
 - The website will tell the story of not only the Park but the evolution of the Friends volunteer group.
 - Our vision includes having four areas of focus:
 - Land

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- Creek
 - Marine world
 - Outreach
- Each of these will have background, ongoing projects and future opportunities
- Budget
 - \$5000 Initial design and development.
 - Annual maintenance of \$500/yr. Managed hosting which keeps all your plugins and the theme updated, Newsletter support, translations, calendar update, QR codes. Total \$2500
- Schedule
 - Let contract by October 31, 2021
 - Build completed build by February 28, 2022
 - Maintenance until February 28, 2027

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