

City of Edmonds Media Release

Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

To: Media

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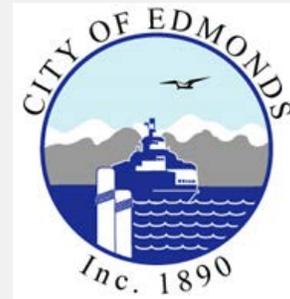
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Date: June 1, 2018

Re: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Washington Recreation
& Park Association



Parks & Recreation Organization and City Team Up to Recognize Rep. Peterson for 2018 Capital Budget Efforts

Edmonds, Wash., June 1, 2018 – In a Council ceremony set for Tuesday, the City of Edmonds and the Washington Recreation & Park Association (WRPA) will combine to recognize State Rep. Strom Peterson (D-Edmonds/21st Dist.) for his efforts on a 2018 Capital Budget that funded 22 water-access projects worth \$12.3 million – including an important waterfront

development and restoration project in his home community.

The ceremony on Tuesday will start at 6:40 p.m. and will take place in the City Hall Council Chambers, 121 Fifth Ave. N. Rep. Peterson will be awarded an appreciation plaque from the WRPA for his work on what is known as the "Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account" (ALEA). ALEA monies come to the state from two sources of funding: leases that marinas have with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) on state aquatics lands; and leases provided to those who dig for geoduck clams. Some of the ALEA funds – typically between \$5 million and \$7 million each biennium -- are then granted on a competitive basis to local agencies which build projects to preserve and enhance important waterfront areas throughout the state.

In the 2017 Session of the Legislature, lawmakers failed to adopt any two-year Capital Budget at all. When the two-year budget ultimately was adopted, early in the 2018 Session, it contained only \$1 million in ALEA funding – leaving numerous local governments empty-handed, even though they had successfully applied for projects, put up local matching funds, and received a scoring and ranking that entitled them to state ALEA funds.

The 2018 Capital Budget remedied the problem and in fact allocated a historic \$12.285 million for ALEA. That allowed 22 projects – including the Edmonds waterfront project – to receive much-needed funding. Edmonds Parks Director Carrie Hite was one of the parks and recreation professionals who advocated strongly for the restored funding.

"I'm extremely proud to have been one of the House Capital Budget negotiators who pushed for this funding, allowing us to do right by waterfront projects in Edmonds and all over our state," said Rep. Peterson. "It's very nice to be honored, but in fact we were just doing the right thing."

"We know that without the efforts of Strom and a few other key lawmakers, Edmonds would have been left without state funding it had successfully competed for," said Edmonds Mayor Dave Earling. "It's our great pleasure to recognize and reward Rep. Peterson for his outstanding efforts."

"This is a good day for Edmonds, and for communities throughout Washington who recognize the immense value of preserving cherished waterfront access," said Eric Friedli, who serves as President of the WRPA and also is Parks and Recreation Director for the City of Shoreline.

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About WRPA: The Washington Recreation and Park Association, a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization, was established in 1947. The 2,100-member organization seeks to protect and advance the interests of parks and recreation professionals through advocacy, networking, and education.

About Edmonds: Edmonds, a vibrant community located 15 miles north of Seattle and 18 miles south of Everett, is one of the state's most scenic cities. The community's location along the west-facing slopes of Puget Sound provides many amenities, including extensive views of the water and Olympic Mountains, access to four beaches and waterfront parks, and convenient access to a compact, walkable downtown area.