

Gateway Park plan headed to board for approval

Preliminary plans include playground, equestrian area, trail access

BY KAREN MILLER

Staff writer

Plans for a new multi-use park on the Key Peninsula are beginning taking shape.

Key Pen Parks has completed the public input phase of the Gateway Park Master Plan. Now the department is working to get the land recognized as a park by Pierce County and will then begin to develop the land in phases.

"In the eyes of Pierce County, this property is not a park," Scott Gallacher, executive director of Key Pen Parks, said via phone.

The parks department purchased the 39-acre property off State Route 302 in Wauna in 2012. The completed park may cost \$7 to 8.5 million, according to estimates from Don Campbell, of Robert Droll Architects. The project, however, will be done in phases and paid for with the help of grants.

Once developed, the park may include a playground facility, equestrian arena, trail access and open space. It all comes down to permits and funding, Gallacher said.

Interested peninsula residents filled up a section of the Minter Creek Elementary gymnasium March 4 to hear about the park plans and the phases of construction at the final public workshop.

The department is working with Pierce County to get approval.

"There's various planning elements to make the master plan fit the county code," Gallacher said.

The master plan will go to the parks board in April.