



**Building and Planning Department**  
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**City of Chehalis Historic Preservation Commission**  
**Staff Report for HPC 22.003**  
**March 17, 2022**

To: Historic Preservation Commission  
From: Amelia Schwartz, City Planner  
Date: March 17, 2022

Subject: Westside Park Consideration for Historic District and Addition to City Register  
Location: 800 Block NW West Ave

**Introduction:**

The organization Friends of Westside Park are proposing to the Commission that Westside Park be included in the Westside Historic District. The park is a .84-acre park set directly adjacent to the west of Pennsylvania-Westside Historic District, and is a publicly owned park, maintained by the City of Chehalis. The parcel number is 004873000000 and lies directly between NW Hood Place and NW West Street to the south and north, and NW New York Ave and NW Ohio Ave to the west and east. The park used to be the site of Westside School, and now currently contains playground equipment, basketball courts, green space, and a covered picnic area.

**Public Notification and Comment:**

Public notice issued March 3, 2022 in The Chronicle and on the City of Chehalis public notice webpage.

**Environmental Review:**

A Determination of Non-Significance is not required for this proposal.

**Staff Findings and Recommendation:**

Staff finds that the proposal is consistent with the requirements in CMC 2.66.110 for determining designation in the city register. The site is over 50 years old, had a significant role in part of the development and culture of Chehalis. Staff further finds that the nomination is consistent with the City of Chehalis Comprehensive Plan CF 3.1, which states, "Park and open space acquisition, development, and redevelopment should be actively sought through a variety of methods." Funding for park redevelopment is more likely to be granted should the property in question be on a historic register.

Staff recommends approval of changing the boundaries of Pennsylvania-Westside Historic District to include Westside Park and add it to the city Historic Register. According to CMC 2.66.130, the commission shall consider the city inventory of historic places and the city comprehensive plan in making their decision. The decision on the nomination to the historic register will be recorded with the Lewis County Auditor upon expiration of the 30-day appeal period.

**Suggested Language:**

*To Approve*

Make the motion to accept the HPC 22.003 Westside Park nomination to the city Historic District and Register (subject to the following condition(s)):

*To Deny*

Make the motion to reject the HPC 22.003 Westside Park nomination to the city Historic District and Register for the following reason(s):

*To Table*

Make the motion to TABLE HPC 22.003 Westside Park for the following reason(s):

Exhibit A: Nomination Emails from Jacky Vance on behalf of Friends of Westside Park

Exhibit B: Notice of Public Hearing published in the Chronicle, February 3, 2022

Exhibit C: Images of Westside Park, March 2022

# EXHIBIT A

**Amelia Schwartz**

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**From:** Jacky Vance <vancejaculy@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 25, 2022 9:33 PM  
**To:** Amelia Schwartz  
**Cc:** friendsofwestsidepark@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Westside Park

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

**NOTICE:** This message originated outside of the City network - **DO NOT CLICK** on links or open **attachments** unless you are sure the content is safe!

Amelia,

I would just like to share the information I have on Westside Park & why the Friends of Westside Park believe it to be considered as part of the Historic District of Chehalis.

Our park, historically, was associated with the Westside School which served the community from 1894 to its final downfall due to an earthquake in 1949. According to an article in the February 11, 1910 Chehalis Bee Nugget, Volume XXVII, "The Westside School Burned" in a disastrous fire of unknown origin. Firefighters were only able to safeguard other nearby properties, leaving the school as a total loss.

In the April 29, 1910 edition of the Bee Nugget, a case of arson of the Westside School against George Averill, Walter Bray, Walter Kraft, James Raymond, Earl McHenry & Marion Craig had been dismissed due to lack of direct evidence. The boys had been accused of smoking on the steps of the schoolhouse immediately prior to the report of the school being on fire, making them prime arson suspects.

In another Bee Nugget article dated September 16, 1910, Westside school was slated to open "next Monday" & was deemed one of the best of its kind in Southwest Washington. All pupils living on the West side of the railroad tracks would attend the Westside School.

The April 13, 1949 earthquake caused such damage that the school was deemed a total loss since, even with repairs, it would still be obsolete.

Students were transferred to Cascade and Forest schools. Chehalis School District sold the school itself to a farmer from Adna who repurposed the materials to build a barn. The property was sold in 3 lots to persons who were required to move homes for the "Pacific Highway right-of-way". The West Street right-of-way was deeded to the city to continue West Street through the old school site.

I was unable to retrieve any information to-date regarding the opening of Westside Park as a stand-alone park, however I have personally spoken with many long-time community members who have fond memories of playing at the park over the years & both they and myself are astounded that the park did not make it into the historic district of Chehalis.

Please let me know if there is further research I should look into or if this information I have compiled from articles found in The Chehalis Bee Nugget may be enough for you to be able to reconsider the zoning of Westside Park.

Your time and consideration is very appreciated!

# EXHIBIT A

Best,

Jacky Vance  
Secretary  
Friends of Westside Park



# EXHIBIT B

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Applicant: City of Chehalis, 1321 S Market Blvd, Chehalis WA 98532

Topic: Westside Park Consideration for Historic District and Addition to City Register

Date and Location: March 17, 2022. 5:30PM. Chehalis City Hall Council Chambers:  
350 N. Market Blvd, Chehalis WA 98532

City Contact: To view the complete application online:  
<https://www.ci.chehalis.wa.us/building/public-notices-development-review-committee-drc>  
To contact Amelia Schwartz, City Planner:  
Phone: 360.485.0373 (8am-4:30pm)  
Email: [aschwartz@ci.chehalis.wa.us](mailto:aschwartz@ci.chehalis.wa.us)  
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Chehalis WA 98532

Anyone interested may appear and be heard. The decision of the City Council will be sent to all those who submit comments, testify at the hearing, or request the decision in writing. Any aggrieved party of record can file an appeal with Lewis County Superior Court.

**\*\*WRITTEN PUBLIC COMMENTS CAN BE ACCEPTED UNTIL 4:30 PM ON MARCH 17, 2022\*\***



# EXHIBIT C



Proposal Site



## Vicinity Map for Westside Park







