

# Hawks Prairie Park & Ride Fact Sheet

An innovative and unique public park & ride facility, built atop a closed portion of an old landfill in Thurston County, Washington, supports regional transportation throughout south Puget Sound. The new Hawks Prairie Park & Ride Lot was recognized as the 2013 Washington State Project of the Year by the American Public Works Association.\*



**What?** A much-needed facility for car-pool, vanpool, and transit service, opened in 2013. The five-year project resulted in Thurston County's largest park & ride facility that doubled the region's park & ride capacity.

Intercity Transit, Olympia/Thurston County's public transportation provider, built, operates, and maintains the 8.1-acre facility on the northwest corner of the closed portion of the Thurston County Waste and Recovery Center (WARC). Features include:

- 332 parking spaces;
- 10 ADA parking spaces;
- A transit island for fixed-route and Dial-A-Lift service;
- Security lighting;
- 24/7 video surveillance camera system;
- Five electric vehicle charging stations; and
- Environmentally friendly landscaping.

Three Intercity Transit administered park & ride facilities in the county can accommodate 759 cars and support ride-sharing throughout the region. The



other two park & ride lots include Martin Way & I-5 at exit 109 and Amtrak Centennial Station on Yelm Highway. Users can park free at any of these lots.

**Why?** Traffic in the region has dramatically increased, particularly between Lacey and Lakewood, due to the rapid expansion of Joint Base Lewis-McChord. This park & ride facility, located adjacent to one of the most congested portions of I-5 in the state, helps reduce the number of cars on the interstate and improves mobility between Thurston and Pierce Counties. The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) estimates the lot will reduce vehicle trips in the region by over 155,000 in its first year of operation.

**Background** Demand for a park & ride facility in north-east Thurston County increased after the well-used lot at Marvin Road closed for commercial development in December 2004. Thereafter, a portion of the Thurston County Waste and Recovery Center, closed for over 20 years, was identified as a possible site for future park & ride development. In 2008, a feasibility analysis of the site was conducted, which helped secure project funding.

The Intercity Transit Authority embraced the project for its innovative use of existing public land and for freeing up other land in the fast-growing area for other purposes. Most importantly, the project enhances transportation infrastructure and supports the region's residents and commuters.

# Sustainability Innovation

The Hawks Prairie Park & Ride facility, a unique and innovative project, helped Intercity Transit become the first transit system in the nation to receive the Gold-level sustainability commitment rating by the American Public Transportation Association (2012). The park & ride project was also recognized as the 2013 Washington State Project of the Year by the American Public Works Association.\*



## Funding

The \$8.1 million project was made feasible largely by \$6,565,676 in WSDOT Regional Mobility grants and \$591,419 in local funds from Intercity Transit. The value of the land, owned by Thurston County – a key project partner – was also included in the local match.

## Construction

The project developed in a series of stages, beginning with a feasibility study in 2008. Phase 1, begun in 2009, consisted of modifying the gas collection system and landfill cover to prepare the site for 148,000 tons of fill to compact the subsurface refuse and stabilize the site. Phase 2, the actual construction of the facility, began in spring 2012 and was completed late that year.



## Acknowledgements

A collaborative partnership of public and private entities resulted in the successful completion of the project, on time and under budget.

**Project Partners:** Thurston County Commissioners, Thurston County Public Works, Thurston County Waste and Recovery Center, City of Lacey, and Meridian Campus Commercial Owners Association

**Contractors:** KPFF Consulting Engineers (feasibility study, site development, planning, and construction management), Tucci and Sons (preload, phase 1), Scarsella Bros (construction, phase 2)

**Project Funding:** Washington State Department of Transportation Regional Mobility Grant program and Intercity Transit



## Hawks Prairie Park & Ride

Located off I-5, exit 111.  
2548 Hogum Bay Road Northeast  
Olympia, WA 98516

*\*The American Public Works Association designation of the Hawks Prairie Park & Ride as Project of the Year was in the transportation category for projects \$5 to \$20 million.*

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## Contact Us

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