

Every month since February 1987 the Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation has produced one-hour TV programs on issues related to peace, social justice, economics, the environment, and nonviolence.

The Olympia FOR's program airs several times every week for the entire month on Thurston Community Television (TCTV), channel 22 for Thurston County's cable TV subscribers. You can see TCTV's schedule at www.tctv.net.

You can also watch the program described below (and more than 90 of our previous interview programs and special programs) at the Olympia FOR's website, www.olympiafor.org. Simply click the TV programs link to reach www.olympiafor.org/tv_programs.htm, scroll down, and click the program you want to watch.

Many of our website's TV program listings also include a .pdf document describing the program.

SEPTEMBER 2011

"A Public Park for Olympia's Isthmus"

by GLEN ANDERSON, PRODUCER AND HOST OF THIS TV SERIES

Overwhelming public opinion supports having a public park instead of privately owned high-rise condominiums on the isthmus that connects downtown Olympia and West Olympia. This much beloved strip of land at the southernmost tip of Puget Sound has a great view of the Capitol Building and the Olympic Mountains. The isthmus is in the heart of an area where people love to hang out.

The community struggle to protect this land for public enjoyment turned more positive in July, when Thurston County Commissioners Karen Valenzuela, Sandra Romero, and Cathy Wolfe unanimously offered financial support for the Olympia Capitol Park Foundation's efforts to buy land for a Capitol/Olympic Vista Park. The Thurston County Conservation Futures program had recently recommended that the Thurston County Commissioners award a \$600,000 grant to the project. On July 5 the Thurston County Commissioners took the first step in awarding a \$600,000 Conservation Futures grant to the Olympia Capitol Park Foundation to support their efforts to acquire some of the land for the park.

The grant has two conditions: (1) The Olympia Capitol Park Foundation will need to raise an additional \$1 million within one year of the award; and (2) The Foundation will need to raise the entire amount (now estimated at \$3 million) needed for Phase I of the development plan within two years. The Foundation is confident that – with continued cooperation and hard work with the City of Olympia, the Trust for Public Land, and community supporters – they will meet the County Commissioner's reasonable expectations.

The Olympia FOR's September TV program will provide background information, bring the community up to date on this exciting civic project, and look ahead to next steps.

Our guests are three members of the Olympia Capitol Park Foundation: Jerry Reilly, Sarah Segal, Rob Ahlschwede.

For information contact the Foundation's Chair, Jerry Reilly, at 561 4212 and see www.olycapitolparkfoundation.org

The 9-story tall Capitol Center Building (shown in the center with windows) was built in 1965 but has been vacant for years. High-rise condominiums and other projected buildings (drawn into the photo) would have destroyed the space. This plan was stopped.



Until 1965 the view from the Capitol Building looked like this. A park could restore the view and make this precious land available for the public to enjoy:

