

Re: Bellevue Parks and Open Space System Update (Draft) 2-9-2016

Dear Camron Parker:

This morning we received good news that Bellevue's City Council has endorsed the Parks and Open Space System Plan; and that the top three priorities were established based on public inputs and Parks Planner's suggestions. Thanks for listening to communities and residents to give more focus to Green Spaces as a high priority. In our Ashwood Downtown neighborhood, especially for Ashwood Park, you and Parks Board plus Parks Department have received many years of public testimony, oral and written, with strong recommendations to "Keep Ashwood Park Green".

Now, with Council's okay of the Plan Update, it seems timely priority must now be given (as approved by City Council in 2014) to finalize Ashwood Park's Master Plan, professionally with full public transparency, so this delightful park green space can be made useable for outdoor public enjoyment. Is it time to do it right this year?

Bottom Line: Ashwood Park space should be made accessible and useful for the public, families, young people, elderly and children who would benefit from an outdoor space with amenities **as all other park spaces in Bellevue**. As you know, Ashwood Park has no such (zero) amenities for people to use and enjoy. Why not?

As previously submitted to the City Council and Parks Board, amenities can we include major improvements as submitted by neighborhood residents 2014 & 2015?

Ashwood Neighborhood Needs

Gain timely inputs from the community and neighborhood residents for accomplishing greatly needed improvements at Ashwood Park as a priority:

- Safe & Accessible for children, disabled and make senior friendly
- Reliable Access – maintain sufficient parking spaces for park patrons
- Health & Hygiene Standards – provide restroom facilities
- Family Friendly – park benches for seating and picnic tables
- Pleasant Grounds – plant compatible trees, shrubs and flowers
- Clean Environment for Users – sufficient waste receptacles
- Signage – typical park rules and hours, dogs on leash, dog runs
- Required Access Usability – walk paths, child's play toy area; ample seating; access for KidsQuest children/family use and enjoyment; elderly use
- Meet Code - compliance for health and safety

Furthermore, major new approved and permitted buildings are planned or already in construction immediately adjacent to Ashwood Park. Namely, a 19-story apartment building, a 19-story retirement center; plus a 19-story office building and 6-story Hilton Hotel, all within a half block of Ashwood Park. All green space in the surrounding Ashwood neighborhood will soon be built out. Population densities

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will increase dramatically in the coming two to three years with no other park green spaces nearby to be had. Are Parks Planners considering this factor in order to make Ashwood Park more accessible and useable for outdoor public enjoyment?

So why not move now, allocate some priority capital investment to make Ashwood Park's Green Space useful so residents, retirees, children and the Downtown employees and taxpayers can finally begin to enjoy Ashwood Park?

Thank you for considering these important matters.

Sincerely,

Dwight & Mary Schrag
1106 108th Ave NE #302
Ashwood Neighborhood Residents
Bellevue, WA 98004

cc: Bellevue City Council & Parks Board Chair