

**From:**

**Sent:** Saturday, March 07, 2015 10:45 AM

**To:** Smith, Terry

**Cc:** Grindeland, Sherry; Kost, Glenn; Harvey, Nancy; Parker, Camron

**Subject:** Ashwood Park Photos of Dead Zones Due to Inadequate Maintenance Re: Keep Ashwood Park Green

Dear Parks Board Members & Bellevue Staff: [\(e-mail Submittal for Parks Board Review & Discussions\)](#)

Last month at your February Parks Board Session we gave public comments about needs for better Master Planning progress for Ashwood Park.

We requested that this urgent topic become an Agenda Item for March's Parks Board meeting. Hopefully this will become a priority for discussion and consideration. Meanwhile, there are other needs that should also be considered and rectified for Ashwood Park, as well.

**This month we'd like to request action to properly maintain Ashwood Park's grounds (see attached [pdf photo taken this week](#)).** We believe Parks Board members and Park's Department staff should visit the Park for a walk thru and look at the very large, bare "Dead Zones" that have developed when the grass died out over the last few months. Drainage is inadequate, pools of stagnant water have been killing the grass and creating huge bare soil areas where pools of water stand. This is not a healthy or desirable situation to allow to continue year after year for at least five years, ongoing.

For some reason this Parks Land is not being maintained at a reasonable level. Are funds available to fix this problem? City Policy should be adhered to. Large stagnant pools of dirty water form and stay for days when it rains. Seagulls gather each morning to feed on whatever life is growing in the dead zones. This situation is unsanitary and not acceptable for health or hygienic safety of little children who often play in the barren soil zones on their hands and knees.

Please give more focus and attention to fixing up this Community's beloved neighborhood park. With Spring weather already upon us, it's time to make progress and do the maintenance required for Ashwood Park's busy sports and summer visitor season. Act in a timely fashion to urge repairs and fixing the drainage that causes these types of unhealthy situations in our heavily used park adjacent to the King County Library and KidsQuest museum.

Sincerely, Dwight & Mary Schrag  
Ashwood Neighborhood Residents

**From:** Smith, Terry

**Sent:** Friday, March 20, 2015 2:56 PM

**To:**

**Cc:** Grindeland, Sherry; Kost, Glenn; Harvey, Nancy; Smith, Terry

**Subject:** RE: Ashwood Park Photos of Dead Zones Due to Inadequate Maintenance Re: Keep Ashwood Park Green

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Schrag,

I am following-up with your email below. I talked with our Parks Resource Manager and here is his response:

The existing dead and damaged turf areas in the middle of the Ashwood field are attributable to high casual winter use of the playing field and limited capacity by our staff to adequately complete seasonal turf renovation due to a lack of irrigation and regular and frequent use of the field. The frequency of mowing and regular horticultural practices are the same at Ashwood as they are at other park sites. Because of the lack of irrigation, once the turf is worn down, it does not come back for extended periods of time, particularly in summer and fall months.

The degradation of the turf is a result of almost daily use of the field by groups wearing cleats that use the field for Frisbee football. The cleats damage the turf roots, which creates worn areas of turf. To fully renovate the Ashwood field and have grass seed successfully germinate, staff would need to have the field closed for an extended period, which isn't realistic, given the frequent use of this field for non-programmed recreational use. This spring, as we do every year, we will be overseeding, aerifying and fertilizing the Ashwood field with the hope that at least some of the turf will grow in before the summer months.

Hope you have a great weekend.

*Terry*