



May 16, 2008

Dear Mayor Degginger and City Council Members,

Many thanks to you, Deputy Mayor Balducci and Council Member Noble for joining us Saturday May 10 for a Walk in Surrey Park. Our neighborhood enjoyed the opportunity to see the park with you; and for you, Mr. Foran and Mr. Keeney to see it through our eyes as well. The Bellevue Parks Board, City Staff and consultants have worked hard to present you with a plan that will surely strengthen Bellevue's reputation as a City in a Park, and a great place to live.

I am writing on behalf of the Surrey Downs Park Committee, a Surrey Downs Community Club (SDCC) Board sanctioned group. Our charge is to gather and share information with the neighborhood regarding the park project. We have conducted an internal park survey and many have participated in the Master Plan meetings. Our Park committee has reached consensus around the park being a community facility that will serve our nearby neighborhoods, including the downtown, for many years. The demographics of the surrounding area are changing, and we are excited that Bellevue has this new opportunity to create another jewel in the heart of our city.

We are in broad agreement with the general direction of the master plan design, as well as the development and operational parameters. In our discussions with City staff, consultants and the Parks Board we have been encouraged to share concerns and comments on specific elements being considered. The plan includes activities such as a skate spot and labyrinth that will be in closer proximity to bordering homes, with possible increases in noise and security issues. The planned orientation of the two ball fields present new issues of noise and proximity as well. As you review the plan, we ask that you consider these concerns. Perhaps in these issues there are few tweaks that might leave all parties satisfied.

After the presentation and discussion the Parks Board voted unanimously to approve the plan and move it forward to the next step. The approved plan included a provision that noise and proximity issues are mitigated. We appreciate their accommodation and willingness to listen.

This park is a tremendous investment by our city to nurture the downtown residential population; one that we enthusiastically support. Until it reaches it's final vision, it will merely heighten the excitement and endorsement of the park by the Surrey Downs neighborhood, knowing that their few concerns have been redressed.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ron Bennett, Chair, Surrey Downs Park Committee

Cc: Scott VanderHyden  
Patrick Foran

Glen Kost  
Bellevue Parks Board