

Harvey, Nancy

From: Suzanne Barker [sznnbarker@aol.com]
Sent: Sunday, July 19, 2009 4:52 PM
To: Fehrman, Pamela; Smith, Terry; Harvey, Nancy; Council
Subject: Eastgate OLA proposal

I support the 5 acre OLA on building site "A" in the Eastgate area properties park as proposed by POLR.

Suzanne Barker
2559 154th Ave. S.E.
Bellevue, Wa. 98007
425-746-7755

Harvey, Nancy

From: jack crowley [jackcrowley@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, July 20, 2009 10:32 AM
To: dondavidsondds@msn.com
Cc: Council; Fehrman, Pamela; Smith, Terry; Harvey, Nancy
Subject: Eastgate Park

I strongly support Off Leash Area on the five acre Site A, as proposed by POLR. Sincerely, Jack

J W Crowley 15612 SE 42nd Place Bellevue, WA 98006 425-746-1824 Fax 1-(419)-745-1824

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Harvey, Nancy

From: Richard Jones [jonesrichardd@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2009 11:04 PM
To: Fehrman, Pamela; Smith, Terry; Harvey, Nancy; Council
Cc: POLR
Subject: Eastgate Offleash

Dear Bellevue Park Council members:

I would like to voice my support for the five acre OLA on Building site "A" in the Eastgate Area Properties Park, as proposed by POLR.

The people of PLOR are knowledgeable of OLAs in our area, and even better, they are dog owners too!

Off leash areas are important to me. I was just there (eastgate property) today and enjoyed a great game of fetch and run with my dog.

My ultimate wish is that the ponds and trails are cleaned up, maybe put in some 4 foot rail type fencing, and leave the meadow alone. Every time I walk east on that trail from 156th to enter that meadow, I get chills watching my view as it expands through the trees of the trail and into the great meadow. My dog knows it's time the leash comes off and off she goes. We've been loving this meadow for several years now, and it's just a shame to lose it.

Our lives are full of compromises and I support this 5 acre option for proposal "A", and will be glad to use it for my dog's very important off leash time near home.

--
Richard Jones
Lake Hills

Harvey, Nancy

From: Kim Jordan [kbjordan@earthlink.net]
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2009 12:29 PM
To: Fehrman, Pamela; Smith, Terry; Harvey, Nancy; Council
Cc: 'POLR'
Subject: Eastside properties development proposals

Hello Bellevue City Council

I am writing you today to indicate my strong support for inclusion of a 5-acre OLA in the final plans for the **Eastgate Area Properties Park**. I am aware of a proposal from POLR which describes what I and many fellow Bellevue citizens would enjoy and use for recreation and healthy exercise. Just wanted to let you know how much we appreciate your ongoing consideration of an OLA at this site as a positive, healthy, neighborhood oriented place for anyone in the city to enjoy – regardless of age, income or association with organized sports. This would also be a great place that families with or without dogs could walk and exercise during a sports event at any future sports fields on the site. I remember growing up near Hamlin Park, and how great it was to have a safe park to explore and use when I got tired or hot, sitting in the stands at my brother's little games there. I can really see this as a great place that kids can walk the family dog before, during or after a game.

Thank you for listening and soliciting input,
Kim Jordan

Harvey, Nancy

From: Kathy Judkins [kathyjud46@comcast.net]
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2009 11:49 AM
To: Fehrman, Pamela; Smith, Terry; Harvey, Nancy; Council
Subject: Eastgate Area Properties Park suggestion

I support the 5 acre OLA on Building site "A" in the Eastgate Area Properties Park, as proposed by POLR.

I've sent notes before but I'm trying again. Thank you for your consideration. I take my dog to the off leash dog parks daily. She is a Golden Retriever and needs a lot of room to run off leash so 5 acres is a must.

**Kathy Judkins
4324 136th PI SE
Bellevue, WA 98006**

Harvey, Nancy

From: Frank Kuske [frankkuske@msn.com]
Sent: Saturday, July 18, 2009 12:50 PM
To: Fehrman, Pamela; Smith, Terry; Harvey, Nancy; Council
Cc: polr@earthlink.net
Subject: Eastgate Area Properties Park

I recommend and support the 5 acre Off Leash Area on building site "A" as proposed by the People For Off Leash Recreation (POLR).

I believe this to be a reasonable compromise that satisfies the needs and desires of both the neighborhood communities and the sports interests.

Frank Kuske

Resident of Spiritridge

Harvey, Nancy

From: Don Mackenzie [dfmfido@copper.net]
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2009 2:34 PM
To: Fehrman, Pamela; Smith, Terry; Harvey, Nancy; Council
Subject: Off leash

I agree with the idea of a 5 acre off leash facility at the proposed Eastgate Park.

Don Mackenzie.

Harvey, Nancy

From: Christine McKenna [christine-mckenna@comcast.net]
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2009 12:27 PM
To: Fehrman, Pamela; Smith, Terry; Harvey, Nancy; Council
Cc: barbara eisenstein
Subject: 5 acre Off leash area in Eastgate Area Properties

I support the 5 acre OLA on Building site "A" in the Eastgate Area Properties Park, as proposed by POLR

Christine McKenna

Harvey, Nancy

From: Bill Pavitt [bill.pavitt@comcast.net]
Sent: Monday, July 20, 2009 10:09 AM
To: Fehrman, Pamela; Smith, Terry; Harvey, Nancy; Council
Subject: OLA at Eastgate Park

I support the 5 acre OLA on Bldg site A at the Eastgate Proposed Park as proposed by POLR.

Bill Pavitt
15613 SE 42nd Place
Bellevue, WA 98006
425-746-7573

Harvey, Nancy

From: POLR [polr@earthlink.net]
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2009 11:05 AM
To: Kost, Glenn; Nissley, Jerry; Harvey, Nancy; Fehrman, Pamela; Smith, Terry; Council
Subject: A plan for off-leash activity in the Eastgate Area Properties Park

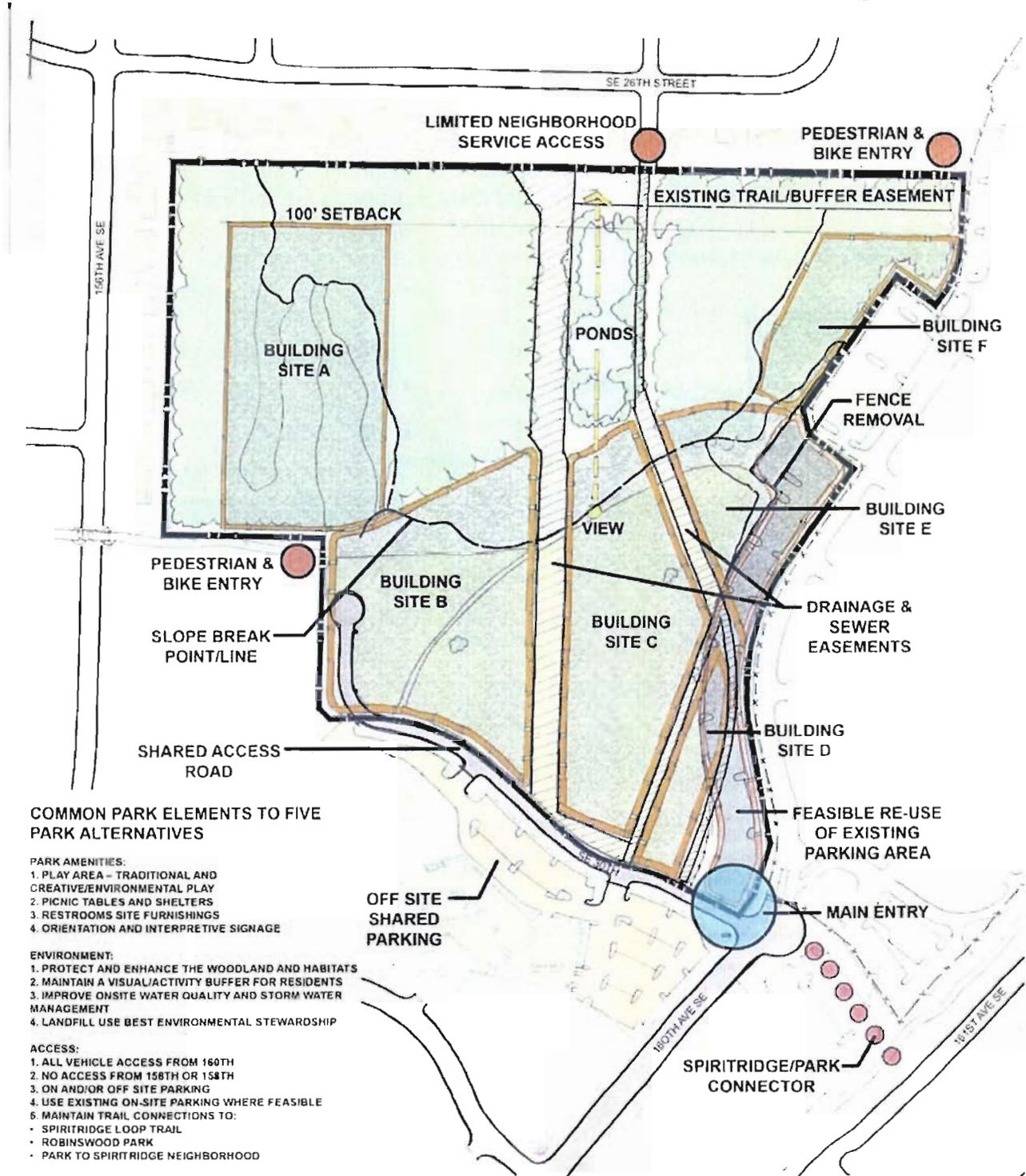
Dear City Park Planners;

Please open the attached PDF file. If you have problems opening it, please contact me and I will be happy to provide "hard" copies. The file contains a suggested configuration for an off-leash area at the Eastgate Area Properties Park (EAPP) which does not conflict with sporting interests. I am hoping that Bellevue dog owners will give their support to this option. It is a compromise plan, and as such may not receive the support of people abhorrent of fenced enclosures or people whose primary concern is protecting the EAP meadow as Bellevue's last great open space. Whenever I have surveyed dog owners, both in Bellevue and in Mercer Island, a clear majority prefer fenced enclosures that are available for use all day, as opposed to off-leash "hours" in an unfenced environment. They cite safety, availability, and freedom to "just relax" and not worry about their dog potentially bothering someone. That said, the size of an off-leash enclosure needs to be substantially larger than 1 acre to avoid over crowding and provide adequate space for dogs of differing energy levels. Every city should provide a variety of off-leash areas to meet the needs of it's citizens. People with very young dogs or dogs that are only partially trained, really do prefer smaller enclosures like the current Robinswood large corral. There is a need for both large and small off-leash areas. Please consider the plan presented in the attached PDF. It offers the best possibility for meeting the needs of Bellevue's dog owning citizens.

Sincerely,

Barbara Eisenstein
President, People for Off-Leash Recreation (POLR)
www.off-leash.org

12609 SE 29th St
Bellevue, WA 98005



COMMON PARK ELEMENTS TO FIVE PARK ALTERNATIVES

PARK AMENITIES:

1. PLAY AREA - TRADITIONAL AND CREATIVE/ENVIRONMENTAL PLAY
2. PICNIC TABLES AND SHELTERS
3. RESTROOMS SITE FURNISHINGS
4. ORIENTATION AND INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE

ENVIRONMENT:

1. PROTECT AND ENHANCE THE WOODLAND AND HABITATS
2. MAINTAIN A VISUAL/ACTIVITY BUFFER FOR RESIDENTS
3. IMPROVE ONSITE WATER QUALITY AND STORM WATER MANAGEMENT
4. LANDFILL USE BEST ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

ACCESS:

1. ALL VEHICLE ACCESS FROM 160TH
2. NO ACCESS FROM 158TH OR 154TH
3. ON AND/OR OFF SITE PARKING
4. USE EXISTING ON-SITE PARKING WHERE FEASIBLE
5. MAINTAIN TRAIL CONNECTIONS TO:
 - SPIRITRIDGE LOOP TRAIL
 - ROBINSWOOD PARK
 - PARK TO SPIRITRIDGE NEIGHBORHOOD



PLANNING/DESIGN FRAMEWORK MAP

MASTER PLAN FOR
EASTGATE AREA PROPERTIES



Nearly every option for EAPP presented by Portico has involved some clearing of this wooded area known as Building Site A. Let's not clear it for picnic tables that will only get used a few months in summer! This is where we can have a really great OLA, with 100 ft setbacks from homes, good isolation from the sports fields and access from both trails and parking lots.

We need to retain Robinswood OLA in its current configuration, but with some improvements. It is essential that dog owners have options! Many need a place small enough to physically catch their dogs, others need a much more open area conducive to human exercise as well. The small corral at Robinswood is the perfect size to designate for small, timid or physically impaired dogs. The idea of connecting the two corrals with a trail is just pointless! Right now the people that use the small area never use the large one, and vice versa! Trying to "link" them will ruin the separation that has been working well for years.

Expansion of Robinswood is not a reasonable option! None of the areas that have been identified as possible expansion sites for the Robinswood corrals by the Parks Department are even suitable for off-leash activity! One is not even contiguous with existing corrals, so what do we get? More small enclosures?

The wooded area to the south of the main corral is too sloped and heavily forested. It isn't really large enough to provide good walking trails through the woods. Inevitably, people and dogs would just trample everything. I really do know about these things from direct experience at the Northacres OLA in Seattle/Shoreline.

Clearing those woods to expand the corral would certainly raise public objections from the naturalists who currently enjoy it. It is particularly lovely. If cleared, we would still have the issue of the sloped terrain.

Park staff also suggested **expanding the small corral to the west, but that area is also a very steep hill.** Concentrating off-leash activity on slopes causes terrible erosion, it is similar to playing soccer on a surface 2 games per day, 350 days a year! Once the grass wears away, there is no surface treatment that can be held in place on a steep slope. Please Listen! We are not being stubborn; we are just trying to share what we know.

The presentation to the City Council included an additional area, not in the presentation to the park board or in the original written "off-leash area plan". This **area is east of the duck pond and west of the small corral, but again, this area is a very steep slope and not contiguous with existing OLAs.**

Retaining both Robinswood corrals and shifting the EAPP off-leash activity from the meadow to a new to a 5 acre fenced area will serve the needs of central and south Bellevue better than anything in the Park Department's "plan". While geographic distribution of off-leash activity is optimal, there are no studies indicating where the density of dog owners is greatest. Absent that crucial data, it makes more sense to locate them along excellent commuter lines. Realistically, a person living in Newport Shores will have a much easier time getting to EAPP than to Lakemont Park, the intended site to serve south Bellevue. (Lakemont Park "drainage basin" is not even a viable option. Despite what Mr. Foran may think, I challenge you to ask anyone living near it whether it is ever dry enough in winter to sustain ANY type of activity!)

Please consider the needs of Bellevue dog owners and support a 5 acre OLA in the EAPP. We simply can't be expected to drive to Marymoor every day. Our tax dollars have been

used to support every activity from Golf to Youth Theater. While those things are important, it must be recognized that our needs have largely been ignored. We have been quite silent in the past because we had several areas like the EAPP that have been available for off-leash activity. Bellevue is building so rapidly that these areas are now mostly gone. Losing what we currently have at the EAPP would be devastating.

Sincerely,

Barbara Eisenstein
President, People for Off-Leash Recreation (POLR)
www.off-leash.org

12609 SE 29th St
Bellevue, WA 98005

July 17, 2009