

From: webmaster@shorelinewa.gov
To: [agenda comments](#)
Subject: City of Shoreline: Agenda Comments
Date: Monday, May 15, 2017 3:50:00 PM

A new entry to a form/survey has been submitted.

Form Name: Comment on Agenda Items
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Survey Details: Answers Only

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1. Yoshiko Saheki
2. Shoreline
3. (O) Parkwood
4. Not answered
5. 05/15/2017
6. 8a
7. I write to say that I am opposed to using crumb rubber as infill for the soccer field at Twin Ponds Park.

In my ideal world, the soccer field would move out of the park because half of it lies within the buffer zone of the wetlands. For that matter, other developed areas of the park including the playground, lawns, the tennis court and even the community garden occupy substantial areas of the wetland buffers. All of these uses are grandfathered, carried over from the time prior to the 2016 wetlands delineation that was part of the contract with EarthCorp to conduct a vegetation management plan for the natural areas of Twin Ponds Park.

I recognize that Shoreline is a community of recreation enthusiasts, not a community of environmentalists. Therefore, lobbying to fully restore the buffers of the wetlands in Twin Ponds Park would be a futile task. Sadly, wetlands continue to receive inadequate attention because people here appear to value recreational space over ecological services. Hence, the proposed Sound Transit wetlands mitigation will only include half the allowed buffer area for wetlands in Ronald Bog Park. But I digress.

One does not need to be a chemist to understand that ground up tires will contain various undesirable chemicals. Wikipedia provides a summary of one study:

"The Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection found in a 2010 study that stormwater

passing through crumb rubber regularly exceeded aquatic acute toxicity for zinc. Additionally, copper, barium, manganese and aluminum were found to be at elevated levels after stormwater contacted the materials. Semi-volatile organic compounds and PAHs were found to be elevated as well. The levels of most of these compounds were higher than background but were below levels regulated in waterways for environmental protection."

Because the soccer field is in the 165 ft buffer of the two ponds and very close to the 75 ft stream buffer of Thornton Creek to the south, there is a greater possibility that runoff from the field to the ponds and Thornton Creek is depositing higher concentrations of undesirable minerals and compounds.

As you probably know, Thornton Creek creates the largest basin in Shoreline and is also the largest watershed in the greater Seattle area. In turn, the watershed is part of the Puget Sound region and the Pacific Northwest. In other words, everything is connected.

Elderly neighbors have told me that once upon a time before I-5 was built, they went to sleep on summer nights listening to croaking of frogs at Twin Ponds Park. That no longer happens but the ponds are still used by various waterfowl, turtles and the otter family that visits on occasion. I have seen fish from the overlook deck.

If people want to play on a soccer field with crumb rubber infill, that is fine by me. Because that is their choice or the choice they've made for their children. But I am speaking here for birds, reptiles and mammals that depend on wetlands for their habitat. They do not have a choice.

I might never have the pleasure of hearing croaking frogs from my house in the summer. The best I can hope for is that the wildlife that use the Twin Ponds wetlands today will still be there for future generations. In order for that to happen, you will need to guard the health of the wetlands. Banning the use of crumb rubber is a good start.

8. Oppose

Thank you,
City of Shoreline

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