

From: [Bridgett Takenaga](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Hamlin Park
Date: Tuesday, October 03, 2017 11:30:05 AM

To the members of the Shoreline City Council,

Carving out 4 acres of Hamlin Park to create an expanded maintenance facility is completely unacceptable to me.

Clearly, there are better options for suitable sites. While I understand the legitimate need for a larger facility, reducing the size of our public parks in order to accomplish this is no way to serve Shoreline residents. We are all coping with increasing density in our neighborhoods, accompanied by more traffic, noise and to some extent, incidence of crime. The light rail expansion, while beneficial in many ways, will also greatly exacerbate the intensity of living in Shoreline. In short, we need the expansive green space and natural beauty of our parks more than ever; and they are an extremely valuable asset to this city. Hamlin Park will grow in importance to our residents, as we become a more urban environment. The initial cost of building the new facility should not be the top priority in making the site decision. In the big picture of the next ten years, and the years beyond, density in some areas should be balanced by ample public parks and greenbelts. The most livable cities have all chosen this path. If you are in doubt of this strategy, let us, as voters, decide the matter. Hamlin Park's proximity to the 145th St. light rail station, in fact, makes it even more vital that it be kept as a large and expansive as possible as it will serve a rapidly expanding population; accessible to pedestrians and bicycle riders from the new and densely populated housing complexes which will be added to our city. You have several other choices, including the North Maintenance Facility which was originally chosen as the best site. Again, saving money will not compensate for the permanent loss of 4 acres of our beloved Hamlin Park. Please make a better and more responsible choice.

My 4 year old daughter loved attending Froggy Holler Outdoor Preschool at Hamlin Park. In fact, now that she attends an indoor school, we head to Hamlin Park as much as possible. Having a large forested area close to our home has made it possible for her to develop a love for the outdoors and all the creatures it holds. We have seen pilliated woodpeckers as well as owls when we have been in the woods at Hamlin Park. To lose this natural abundance by having a section carved out seems unreal. To have this as an option also seems completely contrary to a city that is proud to be a Tree City USA. If we have so much development, doesn't it make sense to keep as many trees and green spaces as possible? Once green spaces are gone, they are hard to put back; and they aren't ever the same.

Please re-examine the other choices. Shoreline really does need to keep Hamlin Park in its entirety.

Thank you for your time.
Sincerely,
Bridgett Takenaga