

From: [Janet Way](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Cc: [Jessica Simulcik Smith](#); [Heidi Costello](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Hamlin Park Utility Yard Proposal Comment, Include in Oct 9th Meeting Packet Please.
Date: Monday, October 09, 2017 12:54:15 PM
Attachments: [Hamlin Park Problem_Issue.docx](#)

Greetings Council,
Please read before tonite's meeting.

Sincerely,
Janet Way



October 9th, 2017

To: Shoreline City Council

Shoreline City Hall

17500 Midvale Ave N

Shoreline, WA 98155

We request this and all comments submitted by the public on this matter, be made a part of the permanent record on the Utility Yard siting issue. We request to be made a party of record with legal standing.

Hamlin Park – Forest or Utility Yard

Problem, Issue, Concerns:

- **Problem** – Shoreline Public Works Department has proposed an up to 4.5 Acre Utility Yard and new Roadway and entrance to Hamlin Park.

History: Hamlin Park has been a Public Park since the 1940's. The park was acquired from King County after Shoreline was incorporated as a City in 2006. It was a beneficiary of Forward Thrust Funding, Conservation Futures Funding, Open Space Bond Funding and other tax dollars for over 50 years. It hosts a huge urban forest with 80 acres of parkland, wildlife habitat, trails, ball fields, cross country and track team practice routes and an existing utility yard (which is partially hidden near the entrance.) Thousands of visitors use it yearly. That yard was originally one small building, but as the City grew, Public Works Department has encroached with more equipment and buildings. The shared facility is not adequate for both departments' needs.

The current entrance has been the historic gateway to Hamlin Park for all of its existence. The property proposed to be the new utility yard now frames that entrance with hundreds of second growth trees and understory.

- **Issues questions -**
Is this an appropriate site for such a facility? The public response has been overwhelmingly "no!"

What uses are part of the proposal? The uses which are proposed include Truck Washing, Truck and Equipment fueling, Salt and Woodchip and materials storage, Public “Help Desk”, New staff facilities including offices, lunchroom, locker rooms and communications facilities. Also proposed is an entirely new road cutting into the landscape at 162nd St. This would be highly invasive.

What is on the existing site and what environmental impacts would result? The existing site where this addition is proposed is a heavily forested, hilly and quality forest wildlife habitat with conifers and rich understory. It is known by birding community as a “Migratory Bird Route/Regugia.” Many species of animals and plants have been sited there, including Pileated Woodpecker, Great Horned and Barred Owls, Douglas Squirrel, Alligator Lizards, and a rare Ensatina Salamander! These are a great asset to our urban ecology and hundreds of nature lovers appreciate this rare natural area in our urban setting as respite from City life.

A utility yard would bring an enormous amount of additional truck traffic, air pollution and noise to the existing quiet residential neighborhood. The already congested Fifteenth Ave NE would be further clogged by traffic.

If the forest here was to be cut down for a utility yard, the land leveled and understory was destroyed there would never be a way to mitigate this impact and replace it. The benefits it provides including passive recreation, air quality, water quality and wildlife habitat could never be replaced anywhere in Shoreline.

What is adjacent in the surrounding neighborhood? The surrounding neighborhood is an entirely residential, single-family home area of modest middle-class residences. The members of this community are accustomed to having a quiet neighborhood buffered by the huge trees in the park.

How would the traditional use by the public be affected by this proposal? The ordinary uses by the public include dozens of baseball and cross country team visitors, playground and picnickers, dog walkers, hikers, nature lovers and people looking for quiet respite from City life. If this forest was cut down, the beautiful, historic Gateway to Hamlin Park would be destroyed and our reputation as a community that provides these values to young, old and visitors would also be permanently damaged.

- **Concerns:**

Shoreline prides itself on passage of progressive, and environmentally forward-thinking Public policies that would unfortunately be seriously undermined or violated by this proposal and include but are not limited to:

Shoreline Climate Change Plan, Shoreline Urban Forest Strategic Plan, Forever Green Sustainability Policy, Pro Parks (PROS Plan), Critical Areas Ordinance, Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Vision, Mission, Values, Goals, Surface Water Utility Goals, WA State Growth Management Act (requirement to increase open space with additional

Upzoning), Conservation Futures Funding, Forward Thrust Funding (foundation for the creation of Hamlin Park by King County), King County Stormwater Manual

- **Conflicting Policies and Goals:**

Public Works Staff claim they want “consolidation of facilities” and “efficiency.” That all sounds good but, in reality, “redundancy” is actually more practical. If all Public Works staff were isolated at Hamlin Park, to reach projects and emergencies in far flung parts of town, they’d be many miles away often. If there were a major emergency, such as Shoreline has experienced during large snow/rain events, or when we had a major landslide event at Boeing Creek, or during a major earthquake, staff could be cut off and the public would be also from services that they needed from staff at Hamlin Park. An analogy can be made to the sites used by the Shoreline Fire District. They of course do not expect to consolidate all their sites into one spot. They serve the public much better at their numerous fires stations providing a much safer and reliable service model.

- **Alternatives:**

Many other sites can provide redundancy and more practical short and long term alternatives to this expensive and extreme proposal to intrude into Hamlin Park’s nearly pristine forest ecosystem. Along with the sites already being studied such as Brightwater, Bruggers Bog, and Ronald Wastewater site, other possible ideas include co-location with the North City Water District, leasing property from the State at Fircrest or DNR, Sears site at Aurora Square and other ideas.

Respectfully Submitted,

Janet Way, President

Shoreline Preservation Society

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