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To: [agenda comments](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] City of Shoreline: Agenda Comments
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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. John Brosnan
2. Seattle
3. (O) Not Applicable
4. johnb@seattleaudubon.org
5. 10/09/2017
6. Hamlin Park
7. October 9, 2017

City of Shoreline
Attn: City Council Members
17500 Midvale Avenue N
Shoreline, WA 98133-4905

RE: Development of a new 4.5-acre maintenance yard and road in Hamlin Park

Dear Honorable Members of the City of Shoreline City Council:

I write to you today representing Seattle Audubon, Washington State's oldest environmental conservation organization, founded in 1916. We represent approximately 4,000 local members and are one of the largest and most active Audubon chapters in the country. Our mission is to lead a local community in appreciating, understanding, and protecting birds and their natural habitats. I am not able to be physically present for tonight's City Council meeting and would like to submit this comment letter in support of prioritizing another location for the proposed 4.5-acre maintenance yard and road in Hamlin Park.

Among our priorities, Seattle Audubon leads an urban habitat preservation campaign known as Neighborhood Flyways, which seeks to protect and restore the urban tree canopy across our service

area, which includes the City of Shoreline. We recommend that the City pursue other sites that would be better suited for the level of impact and activity created from the proposed development, use, and traffic of the utility yard and thereby preserve the high-quality wildlife habitat that currently exists in Hamlin Park.

Based on consultation with local citizens and Seattle Audubon members, it is our understanding that the Shoreline Public Works Department has proposed a 4.5-acre utility yard and new roadway and entrance to Hamlin Park. The site of the proposed yard and road is densely forested with high-quality habitat for wildlife. Many species of animals and plants have been identified there, including Pileated Woodpecker, Great Horned Owls, and Coopers Hawks.

Hamlin 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. This area was preserved as a park specifically because of its high-quality wildlife habitat and suitability as parkland and trails and thousands of visitors use it yearly. After reviewing the proposed development, Seattle Audubon feels that a utility yard would bring additional truck traffic, air pollution, and noise to the park and surrounding neighborhood. Further, removal of natural habitats and replacement with high-use development would be counter to the intent of the funding sources applied in the park's preservation.

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 simultaneously replace the habitat values lost. The benefits the site currently provides – including passive recreation, improved air and water quality, and wildlife habitat – would be practically impossible to immediately replace anywhere in Shoreline. If this forest was cut down, the beautiful, historic Gateway to Hamlin Park would be detrimentally altered and damaged.

After consultation with our partners and local citizens, we do not feel that the proposed development has been adequately evaluated for potential conflicts with the following approved plans and policies: the Shoreline Climate Change Plan; the Shoreline Urban Forest Strategic Plan; the Forever Green Sustainability Policy; the Critical Areas Ordinance; the Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Vision, Mission, Values, Goals; the Surface Water Utility Goals; the WA State Growth Management Act (specifically the requirement to increase open space); Conservation Futures Funding; Forward Thrust Funding (foundation for the creation of Hamlin Park by King County); and, the King County Stormwater Manual.

At Seattle Audubon, we lead the Neighborhood Flyways campaign because our vision and intended outcome is a larger, healthier and better-connected urban tree canopy across the region. Given the current pace of development locally, we are losing tree canopy incrementally, making tree canopy preservation on public lands especially critical. This same tree cover benefits city residents by providing nature nearby and stormwater management, and affords education and interpretive opportunities for local residents.

Our work seeks to ensure a strong, healthy and natural ecosystem. For these reasons, we strongly urge the City of Shoreline to identify a less pristine site for this new development – surely there must be some alternative that would locate this yard and road in a place that not only has a better way to tolerate the impact, but also preserve the present-day value of high-quality habitat at Hamlin Park. Thank you for your consideration. If I can provide additional detail, please do not hesitate to contact me at (206) 523-8243 x 101 or johnb@seattleaudubon.org.

Sincerely,

John Brosnan
Executive Director

8. (o) Oppose

Thank you,
City of Shoreline

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