

From: tmailhot@frontier.com
To: [agenda comments](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda item 9. (c) - acquiring public parks land
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My name is Tom Mailhot. I am commenting on agenda item 9. (c), a proposal to purchase a beachfront parcel immediately north of Saltwater Park.

My family has lived in Richmond Beach for the last 38 years. We have two sons who are now in their 30's. My family often walked to the beach using the access at either end of 27th Ave NW (Apple Tree Lane) starting when our kids were old enough to walk. We recently walked to the beach using the south access with our granddaughter, so now it's a multigenerational tradition.

In those 38 years, we almost always met others walking these access routes on our way to or from the beach. Beach access by pedestrians using 27th Ave NW is clearly a long-standing neighborhood practice, not something just my family has always done.

There are multiple very good reasons for the City to purchase this parcel. It helps the City meet its own PROS Plan goal to acquire beach access. The City will never find another beachfront parcel of this size at the low assessed price. It will remove any confusion about the location of the north boundary of Saltwater Park.

For all these reasons the City should purchase the parcel at the south end of 27th Ave. To ensure that there is still neighborhood pedestrian access using 27th Ave, the City should work with the railroad to get a pedestrian easement on the portion the road owned by the railroad.

These two actions together will make sure neighborhood pedestrian beach access to Saltwater Park is preserved for future families.

I also totally support prohibiting public parking on 27th Ave NW. This access should be reserved for neighborhood walkers. Anyone who needs to drive to get to beach access should use the ample parking at Saltwater Park.

Tom Mailhot