

From: [M.W](#)
To: [Keith Scully](#); [Betsy Robertson](#); [Chris Roberts](#); [Laura Mork](#); [Eben Pobe](#); [John Ramsdell](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Beach Access
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Hello Councilmembers,

I reside in Richmond Beach, Shoreline, and enjoy walking the beach as many do. My comments are in support of the proposed ordinance being discussed under Agenda Item 9(c).

I support the City buying the beach parcel. The City has a written policy to provide "additional public access to Shoreline's natural features, including the Puget Sound shoreline." It is a Natural Environment Policy in the City's Comprehensive Plan. For 20 years, I walked a loop from home going to the Salt Water Park, across the beach and onto Apple Tree Lane. I was alarmed when a few years ago, the road had printed signs stating it was private. I felt uncomfortable walking down the road feeling like I was breaking the law.

Residents should feel comfortable walking the beach. When we moved here, our next door neighbor was in his 90's and was born and raised in Richmond Beach. He told us stories of going down to the beach and seeing Native Americans in boats. Even back then, he told us how he would walk the beach and kept an old row boat down there. The beach parcel should be acquired by the City, and be officially recognized as a public open space like the rest of Saltwater Park.

I also think that it is important that the City should work with the railroad to provide a dedicated pathway to the beach that bypasses the gate, giving us safe passage to the tidelands in front of Kayu Kayu Ac park. It is well known that at negative tides, this area offers the best spot for tidepooling, and the best spot for families to observe all the tide pool creatures. A few years ago, the city insisted on ticketing people coming up from the beach at this access. What a terrible use of resources! At a time when police let shoplifters go without any recourse and drugs and prostitution is seen daily on Aurora Avenue, it is a travesty to say it is criminal to try to get access to the beach. Instead, the city should listen to the citizens and provide a safe passage to the beach.

In closing, please vote in favor of purchasing this property.

Lifelong Richmond Beach resident,
Matthew Collee