

**From:** [tmailhot@frontier.com](mailto:tmailhot@frontier.com)  
**To:** [City Council](#); [agenda comments](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Ordinance 967 and pedestrian traffic  
**Date:** Friday, June 3, 2022 6:25:35 PM

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Hi Councilmembers,

From the comments offered by the residents of 27<sup>th</sup> Ave NW who oppose Ordinance 967, it appears they assume purchase of the parcel at the south end of the road will result in increased pedestrian traffic.

I don't believe there will be any noticeable increase in pedestrian traffic as long as Saltwater Park stays open, but I recognize that others may have a different forecast.

In my experience, pedestrian traffic varies considerably depending on the weather, the tides, the time of day, and whether it is a school and working day, or a weekend day. During lousy weather, you'll likely see no pedestrians walking down the road onto the beach. On a nice day, when children are in school and parents at work, or if the tide is really high with limited room to walk on the beach, you'll likely see just a few pedestrians (even on a weekend day or holiday). But on a nice weekend day, or a summer weekday when school is closed, if there is an extra low tide with lots of publicity by the City and the Shoreline Area News encouraging people to go to the beach to enjoy the tide pools etc., you'll likely see a larger-than-normal number of pedestrians walking to and from the beach. Note: In 2022, there are 25 days with an extra low tide (-2.0 or less), and of those, only 12 occur on weekends, holidays, or summer months when school is not in session.

Unless the Parks Department publicizes this new entry to the park (and I hope they do not), it's unlikely that visitors from outside the neighborhood will know it exists, so it will continue to be used almost entirely by folks from the neighborhood as has been the case for years. I think most people in the neighborhood assume the City already owns the beach as part of the park, so it's difficult to imagine how making the City the official owner would actually change anything.

Of course, if the City were to close Saltwater Park again, even for a few weeks, then pedestrian traffic on 27<sup>th</sup> Ave NW would likely increase as it did before, when the City closed the parking lots in 2020 and 2015.

Finally, I know the City has been asked to provide safe access to the tidelands west of Kayu Kayu Ac park, via the north end of 27<sup>th</sup> Ave NW. On really nice summer days with extra low tides, people want to use these tidelands more than others because they go out so far. Right now, there are two nearby options to access them: (1) go south on 27<sup>th</sup> Ave NW to the beach, then walk north in front of all the bulkheads; or (2) make an illegal and dangerous crossing of the railroad tracks by Kayu Kayu Ac park. It's quicker to use option (2), so that's what many people do.

If a safe path becomes available at the north end of 27<sup>th</sup> Ave NW, not only will that benefit the

public by providing a safe pathway to the Kayu Kayu Ac park tidelands, but it will also benefit residents at the south end of the street because even on days with regular low tides, some portion of those pedestrians going to the beach via 27<sup>th</sup> Ave NW will prefer to go to the Kayu Kayu Ac tidelands instead of going to the Saltwater Park tidelands.

Tom Mailhot

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