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Subject: [EXTERNAL] Additional beach access as a backup plan re Saltwater Park closures
Date: Monday, July 25, 2022 4:00:40 PM
Attachments: [PastedGraphic-1.png](#)

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Hello Councilmembers,

With the heat wave approaching, and with negative tides all week, people will be flocking to the beach at Saltwater Park in greater numbers than normal.

Let's hope that Saltwater Park remains open, and no event occurs that could cause its closure.

The pedestrian bridge at Saltwater Park currently is the only officially recognized way for people to access the 3+ miles of Puget Sound beach between 145th St and the County line.

The Park gets closed more often than one would think. Here are examples of some past closures (likely not a complete list):

2022 — on June 25, the police blocked traffic coming into the park for the duration of a rescue incident to control the access to the park and to allow room for fire department response vehicles.

2020 — on December 9 or 10, the pedestrian bridge was closed after it was hit by a crane being transported by rail car.

2020 — the park was closed to vehicle traffic for several months because of Covid.

2015 — the park's pedestrian bridge was closed for several months for repairs.

2012 — on August 27, at 7:30 pm, a huge brush fire caused the park to be closed. It was closed part of the following day too. All available Shoreline Fire Department crews were at the scene, and neighboring fire departments assisted with other emergency calls throughout the evening.

2009 — on September 1, the park was closed due to a large brush fire. Fire crews spent over four hours at the scene, with the help of Edmonds Fire.

2007 — on August 29, the park was closed until noon for a training drill.

By providing beach access via the southern and northern ends of 27th Ave NW, we will no longer be entirely dependent on our one and only pedestrian bridge to access the beach. We will have a backup plan for beach access.

Please see the marked aerial photo below for the beach access licenses or leases that the City is seeking from BNSF.

In April 2022, the City submitted to BNSF an application for the licenses or leases. At the City Council's meeting on June 6, 2022, the City's assistant attorney reported that BNSF has asked the City to send it "at least some kind of preliminary design." The City Manager has advised me that the City is in the process of drawing up a preliminary design for submission to BNSF.

With the City's prompt and vigorous advocacy, BNSF licenses or leases are within reach.

Thank you.

Tom McCormick

"Safe beach access for everyone, forever."

