

Newport Hills Neighborhood Park Planning- Comments received from May 21, 2019 Meeting

All identifying information has been removed, but the following notes are otherwise verbatim

Hello! I saw a sign near the Newport Hills dog park and wanted to reach out- both my husband and I would love to have the dog park stay! Let me know what we can do to get our votes in.

I live in this area and would love to have a public park in this area. Please include a fenced in dog area in the park with ample parking. Please note that the middle of the field slopes to the west which creates a muddy area most of the year.

nice to see you last evening...quite the lively discussion. Here's my take.

Scott did a great job attempting to focus the meeting on process, which was the topic, and trying to stay away from the design process at this time. It was clear that the special interest "dog lobby" turned out in force and that is their right. However, being loud and organized is not the only criteria for having legitimate input on the park. Several thousand families live in the Newport area and a reasonable percentage have dogs but many also have children and/or live in apartments and would like open green space. South Bellevue needs more parks and open space...not just a ball park and a dog park. Is there sufficient area within this property to create a nice open park with walking trails AND a dog area? Is it an either/or situation? I think it's important to look for solutions that work for many, if not all, of the citizens in the Newport area rather than just an organized special

Hi Scott, I'm excited that there will be an official dog park, the plans look so great! I do have one question for you I'm hoping you can help me with. I've noticed the current park is where many people go to smoke cigarettes, cigars and marijuana joints while the dogs run and play. Once the park is complete, will it have to follow regulations? Will people be allowed to smoke and pollute the air and others lungs? Please let me know, I look forward to the next steps.

We use this off leash dog park daily. Please retain it as such. The dog owner community utilizing this park are responsible, friendly folks that need this place close to our homes for our pets to run, play and exercise. Thank you for your attention.

Unfortunately I can't make the meeting tomorrow regarding the planning for the park. I do use that park frequently to run my dog. I am hoping part of the plan is to incorporate a dog corral. If it isn't in the plans what is Bellevue planning to do to mitigate the this loss of space? Often during the day, I see dog owners using the ball fields at the Newport Hill Park. I am walking my dog on leash and their dogs are running off leash. I would assume it could become more problematic if the other space is not available thus impacting the longevity of the artificial turf and natural fields. Thank you for your consideration.

Good Morning Scott, Thank you for coming out to speak a couple of weeks ago about the plans for the property on 60th in Newport Hills.

I understand the vision for the property when it was purchased, however the neighborhood has somewhat changed since then and the dog park that's currently there is part of the reason we chose to move into this area. We use it twice a day during our walks and there's never any issues. There are many other options for kids to play in the area but there's not as many areas for dogs. Also the cost to the city to maintain a kids park is going to cost the city/state a lot more than it takes to maintain the existing dog park. Please leave it just as it is.

Hi Scott, I hope that you and your family had a great Memorial Day weekend! I am writing in regard to the dog park. We take our 6 month old golden retriever to this park 2 times a day, every day. It's become a wonderful outlet for all of her energy, and is how my husband and I meet people within the community. I'd like to urge you to maintain this space as a dog park only. It's really created a sense of community for my husband and I, who just moved here from South Carolina. There are very few places nearby where dogs can be off leash - so this park is really great. If you have any questions or would like either input from me, please let me know! I'm grateful for your willingness to listen to the opinions of people throughout our community. Have a great day!

Good afternoon Scott, I am a resident of Newport Hills, and have been since 2001. I live a few blocks from the proposed park

For starters I would like to say ow disappointed I am in the way the May meeting was conducted. The meeting was to discuss the development of the NEIGHBORHOOD park at SE 60th. The meeting, hosted by the Newport Hills Community Club, was overrun by those who are not members of the Newport Hills community. This park was originally purchased years ago to serve the NEIGHBORHOOD of Newport Hills, who had their Community Park on SE 60th and 120th Ave rebranded as a Regional facility for soccer / baseball / softball and other sports teams throughout the region. Newport Hills has not had a park or green space to service the neighborhood in quite some time. I was disappointed by the fact you said that usage/vision would not be discussed at the May meeting, and yet you asked for a show of hands as to how many people would like a dog-park. You knew that the meeting was overrun by people outside of the Newport Hills community, there specifically to try and save their unofficial dog park. I felt like an outsider at my own community club meeting, and was made to feel like I didn't belong which is wrong. All that being said, I would still like to provide my feedback regarding the park. I have looked at the "vision plan" as provided by the City of Bellevue (https://bellevuewa.gov/sites/default/files/media/pdf_document/tyler-property-vision-plan.pdf). While I admit that I am not in favor of a dog park, I will agree that at this point it seems like a foregone conclusion that some portion of the park space will become an off-leash park. I am WHOLY disappointed that the current vision as of today has 3/4 of the park as an off-leash area. I don't own a dog, but I have a family of 4 with two young sons. We currently do not have a place in our neighborhood for them to run and play in a grassy area - it just doesn't exist. I was hoping that the new park, once actually defined, would give us some green space to play in. We can't go there currently because of the dogs. Every time that we have tried to go there we are given dirty looks by the people there with their dogs

(because we don't have a dog and are questioned "what are you doing here"), we were constantly dodging dog poop in the field and walkway, and we had to keep our sons away from dogs that seemed aggressive. The current plan which proposes only 1/4 for people doesn't seem fair or right. Newport Hills residents need a space where they can gather, the current proposed plan does not offer that. I would like to see the park split 50/50 between open green space and an off-leash area - no more than 50% of this park should go to an off-leash dog park. One aspect I do like in the proposed plan is the shelter with picnic tables and benches. Again, I want to emphasize that this is a NEIGHBORHOOD park. The function of a NEIGHBORHOOD park is to service the members of that NEIGHBORHOOD community. I would hope that those of us who are located in the close vicinity of the park are having their views and ideas taken into consideration. Thank you for taking the time to read this email.

Scott, I attended the meeting at the Newport Hills Community church last week. You went over current plans for Tyler Park (currently the Newport Hills dog park). There were many people in attendance that spoke for the importance of a dog park in that location. I wish to add my voice to the conversation. We have taken our dog to nearby schools and playgrounds and were met with unwelcome remarks and rude comments by parents. They claim that dogs scare their children and/or leave a mess on the playground. Responsible dog owners pick up after their pets. If dogs are well behaved, they should not scare children. We dog owners do not have a place to take our pets. The only other facility is at Robbinswood park. The Newport Hills dog park is our community park and we have met many other responsible dog owners and friendly dogs at the park. When we drive by the park, we often see several dogs running and playing at the facility. Please do not take away our park. Thank you for your consideration. Please let us know the status of upcoming meetings. We are interested in knowing the outcome from the planning committee.

Hello Scott, I went to the meeting earlier this year and wanted to thank you for the work you are doing and say you are doing a great job on something so hard with so many voices. People get very passionate about this and you did a great job explaining where we are, how we got here and the goal for the last meeting. I look forward to the upcoming meeting to see where the ideas are taking us. As a current resident with 3 school age children and no dogs (at the moment) I would like to say I think it is fair that a large-ish portion of the space is still built as a dog park. I think it's a great use of space and clearly there is a desire for it. That being said, I think it is within reason to ask for a small portion of the area to have a fun, updated play area and place for people to hang out. There are so many new modern play ground equipment that I have seen that are perfect for small areas, that fit many age groups. I also think it's important to plan for now AND the future. I hear the desire for a dog park and for older families with no kids to hang out and enjoy the park. In 20 to 30 years the neighborhood will once again be a totally different group of people as older couples age out of single family homes and new younger families move in. So yes, let's create a space that is great for dog owners, and older folks and young families. I would suggest a large fenced off dog park area and a small, playground area, perhaps with it's own fenced in area as well to keep small kids safely inside and dogs out as an extra measure and a small picnic area/table for others to gather as well. I'm sure

there are some amazing ideas in the works that will include lots of these things already. Again, thanks for your hard work. I'll see you at the meeting on the 23rd.

Hello Scott!

thank you so much for talking with me about the proposed park development in Newport Hills. I am writing in support of keeping that land as it is currently used - a large off-leash dog park. There is a large social community of residents and their pups - families, singles, seniors, etc. that has formed (see the Facebook site NewportHillsDogPark Tyler Park) and uses the park consistently rain, shine or snow. We've held picnics, barbeques, evening "fire circle" chats (around a burn barrel when it was cold), and birthday parties. Why not mixed use?

Anyone is welcome to use the park currently as it is, and I have seen people come there to fly drones, kites, RV cars, picnic and play. But dogs will chase things that move or scream, such as running children, and human food is not encouraged with dogs present. Unleashed dogs run and can knock people over, so caution is recommended when mixing non-dog-friendly or non-dog-educated people and children with dogs.

There are three schools with fields and playground, and a City maintained play field with picnic tables and playground within several blocks of this property already. So families and children have a lot of places to go and play. But there is no dog park south of I-90, and only one other dog park in Bellevue, and it is not grass. The Robinswood dog park tends to attract more transient dogs and owners due to its location, so residents tend to frequent Newport Hills for the friendly, community based crowd there. Dogs are not allowed off-leash in any other Bellevue park, and are shut out of Bellevue parks altogether for many of the warm weather months. I don't believe that dogs are allowed on any Bellevue trails off-leash, either. I couldn't find statistics for how many households in Bellevue own dogs, but I know in Seattle there are more households with dogs than children. So I imagine Bellevue is similar... a majority of pet owners! We need safe, accessible recreational facilities for our majority residents with dogs - homes with singles, families, seniors, empty nesters, and young adults - and we have it at the Tyler Park site already. A great grass field park with a trail that has been successfully enjoyed by dogs and their humans for years! Why does it need to be a large space?

Dogs need a lot of room to run, chase a ball thrown by a Chuk-it, and play. Some dogs and owners are shy or smaller or more frail, and want to hang out in a quiet corner, while others want to socialize, run and chase balls and each other. A large area gives owners and their pets options for enjoying the park at their own pace. A lot of dogs use that park, and too many dogs in one small space causes canine stress, can lead to fights, and wears out the grass faster. What do we need/want? All that is needed is fencing all the way around with a gate at both ends (many of us in the neighborhood access the park from the neighborhood side along the trail from Ringdall school, as well as from the current parking lot) and into the trail currently there, maintenance of the grass, poop bag supply, and garbage can/pick up. It would be smart for the City of Bellevue to put a crosswalk in so residents can cross the street. And if you have extra \$\$, a shelter and table or benches would be welcome. In fact, I bet I could raise funding for benches if we could dedicate them. Some wonderful off-leash dog park examples include the 4-acre Cedar River Dog Park in Renton, 8-acre Three Forks Dog Park in Snoqualmie, and Luther Burbank Dog Park on Mercer Island (though Luther Burbank is difficult to get to from the parking lot and isn't very big so it gets very full on nice days and there are some dog fights because of it.) thank you for your consideration!

I think that a portion of this should be saved as a dog park! It is used and enjoyed by 100's of dog lovers.

Hi Scott, I live in Newport hills and wanted to provide my input into the park planning. I absolutely want to see a decent section of the park (ideally all of it) remain a dog park. I personally don't see the need for playground equipment given the close proximity to the other park that has a nice playground and feel that's a waist of my tax money.

Thanks Scott! Also, thank you for keeping everyone on task last night. I was a bit nervous to bring my daughters since I did not want them to see a scene, but they wanted to give their input. Besides emailing and coming to the next meeting, is there others ways we can assist?

Dear Mr. Vander Hyden,

I was out of town when you had the park meeting. I do not know what was covered but would like to share what the park means to me and my pets.

1. The dogs can be off lease. This means everything to their socialization and how to play with other dogs. We interact with different dogs everytime, which is a great experience.

2. We visit 3 to 5 times a week, especially because the park's location is very convenient. We live in an apartment where all pets have to be on lease; so being off lease provides for happier pets.

3. The park provides the open field as well as the trail which is another great bonus.

4. I always feel safe at the Newport dog park, which is not the case everywhere else. I hope this helps the cause of keeping our dog park.

We frequently walk thru this area and find most dog owners control their dogs, however, recently dogs that were not controlled jumped on us, two separate days. We are in our 80s and are concerned about being knocked down resulting in serious injury. We want the free dog areas fenced off so walkers can use this area for enjoyment without fear and the city should not want to be sued for irresponsible dog owners who can not control their dogs. I can provide more info.

Scott, Thanks for coming out the community last night to discuss the process of moving forward on the development of the neighborhood park.

My thoughts as a 50 year resident of Newport Hills (born and raised) and someone who attended the local elementary, junior high (Ringdall) and Newport High School and a person a large part of my time coaching at the Newport Hills Playfield are as follows:

- 1) This park has morphed into a dog park by default, with some citizen concern, but basically due to a lack of funding at the time of purchase, we have created a situation where a concerned group adopted this park.

- 2) I am certainly in favor having some of the area as a dog park as I enjoy dogs and feel like we have so few areas to allow them to roam.

- 3) There is not a good area in the Newport Hills vicinity to sit down on a nice grassy areas to relax, enjoy the sun and read a book. This Tyler property has great sunlight most of the wonderful sunny days we

have. The NHP playfield is turf and the baseball field is not a great area to enjoy just lounging in the sun. The Newcastle Beach Park is infested with geese (and their excrement).

4) I believe the Tyler section should be divided 2/3 dog park and 1/3 open grassy area, with some covered areas (gazebo like) for picnic and such. As someone who enjoys laying in the sun, it would be nice for non-dog people to have some area to relax in some nice natural grass.

I am certain that you look at the entire area and come up with a great solution for everyone, but I would like to ensure we think about the non-dog people also, as I know dog owners can be very passionate and I look forward to being a part of the process.

First of all, I just want to thank you for leading the meeting on the 21st. Your leadership was effective in keeping the meeting focused and civil. I'm very excited that things are moving forward to enhance the property at 11560 SE 60th Street.

I'm writing to provide my input for the neighborhood park. I've been living in the neighborhood since 2002. I am a single person and started using the park when I bought a German Shepherd puppy approximately 3 1/2 years ago. I've been so thankful for a place where I can bring my rambunctious dog, [---], that needs more than just a walk to be a healthy, balanced dog. He needs to run at full speed, chasing balls, getting out all his energy. It also has been a God-send as a place where my dog has learned to socialize with other dogs. [---], while not the easiest to train, and still not always perfect, has grown into a good companion on walks in the neighborhood, taking hikes in nearby trails and just hanging out with others at the park. One thing I like about the park is there is a lot of room for big dogs to run. I've taken [---] to the one at Robinswood but that one is small-- not enough room for big dogs. I've also taken him to the dog park at Luther Burbank park on Mercer Island, while I like that park, it is not always easy to get to because of traffic and parking. We visit the Cedar River dog park from time to time which is farther way and gets very muddy in the winter and rocky which makes me worry about injuries to my dog. Another thing that I love about the neighborhood park is the community of dog owners and dogs. It's always nice to see familiar faces and shoot the breeze. In the summer we bring our chairs just so we can relax, hang out, barbeque and enjoy our dogs and the park. While I love the park, I also have some suggestions for improvement¹ : It would nice to have some covered areas where people can sit, get out of the sun, eat on tables and talk with each other.² Even though I can usually find a place to park, it would be nice if there were more parking spaces. 3. It's muddy in the winter so it would be nice to have better drainage. 4. There have been incidents of running out into the streets because the area is not secured. Gates to enclose the space are a must for a dog park. Double gate at the entrance so that owners can lease and unleash there dogs safely. 5.Maybe some shade trees so there is some shade in the middle of the day 6. Water faucet so dogs and people have access to water, especially in the summer. I hope that we can keep the park as a place for dogs. There are already multiple play areas for kids in the neighborhood. The park is already being used by dog owners (from the neighborhood as well as people from outside the neighborhood -- I've met people that come from downtown Bellevue and Renton) and a place where community happens and it would be a shame to change that. If there is no place for dogs and their owners to go, they will resort to taking to parks where kids do play which seems like a recipe for unpleasant interactions between dogs, kids, dog owners and parents. Thank you for taking my input into consideration.

Regarding the new Park development on 60th Ave. I welcome the new development and would like to state that the off-leash dog sitr should not be less than the existing area known as the Tyler property.

Dear Scott, First, thank you for presenting at the recent Newport Hills Community meeting for the next steps of the development of the Newport Hills "Tyler Park". It was a very helpful meeting to become more informed. One quick comment about the process: I would not have been aware about the meeting if it hadn't been for someone who scribbled a quick sign at the dog park about it, so I do think either the Newport Hills community club (of which I am a member) or Bellevue city could do a little better job about making it more apparent when such meetings occur. That said, I intend to add my email to whatever list is available for updates. I have cc:d the NHCC on this email so they are aware of my comments. If you can add my email to any update list you are keeping I would greatly appreciate it. Thank you! I welcome the opportunity to provide comments and my perspective on the park, as I use it every day — rain, snow or shine. My husband and I have lived in Newport Hills since 1982, and even before we had children we had dogs! We have raised three boys here, they attended school here, and though they have moved into their own homes in other neighborhoods, we still live here. I say this to give some background on my perspective as a long time resident of this community and as one who has seen the neighborhood evolve in so many ways over the years. I want to apologize if my comments are lengthy, but you seemed quite sincere in your invitation to give you as much information as possible in your quest to gather feedback, so here goes. As I mentioned above, we are long time dog owners. I used to work on Mercer Island, and for years, even after a long day at work, I would come home, put the dog in the car, put the kids in the backseat and head all the way back to Mercer island to go to Luther Burbank Park to give our dog (or dogs, depending on how many we had at the time) a chance to run and play after we'd been away all day. At the time, it was the only dog park for miles around, way before Robinswood dog parks were developed. If we were short on time, we would go to the nearby Newport Hills elementary schools (after school was out of course) but that was always problematic and difficult to plan for, as there were often soccer or baseball games being played, and often there was a sense that we really shouldn't be there with a dog, even though I have always been a responsible dog owner and care about picking up after my dog. But if other people were there with kids it didn't always feel like the right solution. And frankly, it wasn't that great for the dogs either, as there were not a lot of grassy areas to run in or natural places to explore. I understand you are a dog owner, and thus most likely appreciate the wonderful, long term value of having a place to take a dog, where they can run freely and play with other dogs as well. Several people at the community meeting mentioned how it can be more than just a place to take your dog, but also a place to meet friends, make new neighborhood connections and just socialize. That was a great point to bring up, and one that I think should be emphasized in discussions about the park. I remember as a young mother when I went to Luther Burbank how I cherished those times as a therapeutic hour or so where I could chat with other dog owners, and whether my kids were with me or not, it was a wonderful release from our hectic schedule we had in those days. I am now recently retired, and obviously I do not need to drive to Mercer Island to take my dogs to a park, but I remember how special those outings were at that time. I imagine there are other people who use the dog park at Tyler Park in that situation. For me, now, I have a little more time and flexibility, but I still choose to go to the Tyler park every day. A few minutes ago I looked through my photos and though I will spare sending you any attachments, found the first one from 2011, with our dogs frolicking in the open field on a cold, very foggy morning. Since that time, I have taken hundreds more — of our dogs running through the dandelions or exploring trails or playing with other dogs. Over the years, it's

become a wonderful routine that I cherish and look forward to every day. I feel nourished and replenished by my daily walks there. I look forward to checking on the wildlife; the birds; rabbits - and the progress of the seasons as the trees and forest change. One of the biggest joys of going to the park is the feeling of the open space, the natural setting. It feels undisturbed and minimally treated. In other words, short of mowing and some seasonal upkeep, so far it has felt like a natural place. There are so few places like it! This aspect is one I feel passionately should be preserved. Since we live too far away to walk, I drive to the park. I typically go every single day around 10:00 am and stay about 40 minutes. We walk around the open area and spend some time on the loop trail. There are usually a few (2-3) other dog owners there during that time. On the weekends, there are occasionally people with no dogs who are jogging or walking through the park and/or loop trail. I know that the weekday afternoon hours (4-6) are much more busy. I have found that the park has been very well maintained over the years, and the loop trail has been a wonderful addition, adding to the usability and natural beauty of the park. Positive aspects that should be preserved: Natural setting, large open space accessible to dog owners where dogs can be off leash, Existing grass, Existing blackberries (for picking!), Existing Trails, Existing Fencing and natural boundaries created by the blackberries and forested areas, Existing Access from 60th and pathway access from the middle school, Existing Parking. Though personally I am satisfied with the park as is, some Possible Improvements: Additional parking (4-6 more spots), Better drainage (more formal system than current hand dug ditches), Extend wire link fencing a little longer along existing wooden fence on access driveway for dog safety, A couple of simple durable benches in area where the existing remnants of the house foundation are (easy care concrete blocks would be fine), A water tap with potable water. Changes that should NOT occur Denial of access to dogs to be off leash. Without this area available to dog owners, they would be forced elsewhere; such as school playgrounds- and there would be no place at all to go during school hours. As I mentioned above, that is not the best solution for anyone. Changes that remove the natural open aspects of the park (like changing grass to beauty bark Cutting park up into smaller, distinct fenced areas or “corrals” (for example, like Robinswood dog park). Thanks again for the opportunity. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about my comments above. As you can tell, I feel passionate about the dog park and look forward to helping preserve it!

Hello Scott, I have heard about the discussion about the dog park on 60th, and would like to voice my support for keeping it a dog park.

I'm 13 and walk my dog every day. I believe it would be beneficial to the community if we were able to keep a place for the dogs to roam and socialize, as it is a significant distance to the next dog park in my area, but another park is a few minutes away. I see many people use the dog park in all hours of the day, and I think changing it into another park would do more bad than good. Thank you for your consideration, have a nice day.

Scott,

I have seen the Surrey Downs Park, and, I hope, our Newport Hills Park will be similar so that there will be opportunities for many different neighborhood activities. I think the area is too precious to be totally focused on dogs. I have a dog – [---]; we're definitely willing to share that space.

Dear Scott, Please keep Newport Hills park or at least a large portion of it as an off-leash dog park. I have a high energy dog who needs exercise daily. We visit the park almost everyday year round. It would be a huge inconvenience to have to travel to Cedar River or Luther Burbank parks which are the next closest.

Hello, I am a resident at Newport Hills and I support the project of building the new park at 11560 SE 60th st. I think this will bring a sense of community and offer a place for kids to hang out. I think having a playground will be great! Thanks!

We have lived in the Newport Hills area since 1968. We often drive past the area on SE 60th that is now being discussed for development. Since we are not dog owners, we have never used that property. But, we have seen it's changes over the 51 years we have been here. To us, it seems a shame to develop it as a dog park ONLY situation. Yes to part of it being used as that, but not the entire 9 acres. We understand the lack of dog exercise area in South Bellevue, but there is also a lack of neighborhood family park area in Newport Hills. The sports fields park 3 blocks away is great for team sports and sports camps. But, there is only parking for participants using those sports facilities. The elementary and middle schools in the neighborhood can't be expected to fulfill the recreational needs of neighborhood residents. This is where Bellevue Parks can step in and offer opportunities for more than just the dog owners of Bellevue, Newcastle and Renton. Please don't devote the entire acreage to dog park.

We live near Newcastle Beach Park and over the past 10-15 years, we have seen how it has become a destination park for people who live outside Bellevue proper. If you pick up the trash there on the weekends, you will find all the food sales slips are from the south part of King County. Bellevue residents have been virtually run out of their own park facilities by "outsiders". They find Coulon Park full and come north to Newcastle Beach. In the summer, bus loads of kids come from all over with loads of day camp kids and the play facilities, open grass play area and beach are taken over so residents can't use them. We learned years ago that Newcastle Beach Park was no longer a Bellevue park for Bellevue residents and quit battling the crowds to make use of it. Don't let the same thing happen to the property on SE 60th. I think most of the dog owners who use it are not actually Bellevue residents. Let's have a park for all ages and interests, please. Thanks.

Hello, we cannot make the community meeting tomorrow, but here are our comments.

1. Please focus on making this a neighborhood park as a place for the neighborhood to gather. Please do not add more parking.
2. While this has been used by dogs for a long time, please be sure that this special interest does not monopolize the park. A part of the park could be used as a free run dog area, fenced from the other area. Dogs can use the other areas too, but would need to be leashed.
3. Consider a large open meadow area that is an unreserved pickup area for sports, picnics etc. The west side of the park gets wonderful afternoon shade and would be a good candidate for such an area.
4. Find a way to connect the "new loop" trail in the ravine with a link trail from SE 60th.

5. Our kids think a playground would be fun. However, the existing playground formats are “boring”. But some of the more exciting concepts are too big for this site, and would attract users beyond the neighborhood. The kids did think that a small “natural adventure” park similar to the park at Northwest Trek would be fun. Rock jumping, log balancing, ropes, fort building with sticks.

5. Pea Patch. If people want this. Sounds great. Eastside of lot gets great sun.

6. Native plants. Unless you pick a garden or arboretum, please consider using 100% native plants. These help re-integrate this denuded square field back into its surrounding properties. Natives also are drought tolerant, grow faster, and help bring a maturity to the site faster than other choices. Thank you, and please keep us on the email list for updates.

Hi, Scott! Thank you for explaining the process of planning a new park in Newport Hills. I have a couple of wishes regarding that park.

1) I hope there can be a sidewalk from the corner of 119th Ave. and 60th at least as far as the park and - if possible, extended to the dead end at 112th.

2) Since Bellevue citizens are paying the taxes to support this project, I think Bellevue residents' suggestions should be given primary consideration. Of course, the park would be public and open to everyone, but the vibe I got at the public meeting was that power makes right. In the future at public meetings on the park project, I think each speaker should be required to give his/her address before speaking. That would make it clear who actually lives in Bellevue. Thank you again for making this process transparent. [---]

Hello! I would love to have a playground for the kids! Place for them to ride a bike, scooter would be great. I love the concept of Surrey Downs Park in Bellevue Downtown. Place for them to play with sand and water would be awesome. Thank you!

Hi Scott, That was one tough crowd. You did a phenomenal job managing the energy and discussion. Passion is right!

Thanks for the process and opportunity to weigh in on the planning. Democracy at its finest, if you ask me. Grass roots all the way.

I'll think about my aspirations for the park and email them to you in the coming weeks.

Is there a budget? Sorry if you said this and I missed it.

Hi, Scott,

Writing to let you know I am a frequent (almost daily) user of the park at this location. It is a wonderful amenity for the neighborhood. I am sure you know it gets lots of use and is well loved! I do not know what ideas you are considering, but I would like to request that it stay a dog park. Perhaps people who want to use the park would purchase an annual pass to do so, to help defray cost of upkeep? I know land is very limited, but I also think that when you remove dog parks, you see more people using school grounds and other inappropriate areas to exercise their pets.

Thanks!

Hey Scott,

For the final recommendation/ Vision Plan if you will here are the bullet points in the end results:

- Having some security/fencing for off leash. To keep them from running in to road, and allowing neighbors who are not dog comfortable to walk the property for blackberry picking or just in general strolling and eventually, hiking in the back part (that was all still a maybe).
- On the East side, a bike path to help with bikers/bike commuters to get to SE 60th quicker and off road to get to Park & Ride or other destinations. Ideally, we had discussed some kind of bike path through the back part directly to the park and ride but may not be realistic due to the topography and perhaps safety issues. The road suggested on Tyler property is even long enough for little ones on bike to have some fun back and forth and off road from cars.
- Dog owners weighed in that they would like to see a smaller fenced in area for smaller dogs/puppies away from the bigger dogs. I see this at other dog parks as well.
- Water fountain - for people and animal. Perhaps a fountain on top, spicket on the bottom.
- One light on or near the utility pole that is on the East side of the park. To allow for lighting after work in the winter. We discussed it was good to stay on until 8pm.
- Shelter/sitting area on the top mound. Split on inside dog area, or just outside so non-dog lover could enjoy, but dog owners could sit as well with others and watch their dog.
- Benches here and there within the dog area for older owners to sit and visit while with their dogs. I think that was all the amenities discussed and part of the outcome. No restrooms were suggested by the committee, much of the reasoning the same as what I provided earlier by the committee.

Hi Scott, I was unable to attend last night's meeting but still wanted to reach out to provide input. As someone who has grown up and lives in South Bellevue, I care deeply about the local community and want to ensure the best future possible. As land owned by the city has been sold off or been built up, we've lost critical outdoor space. Currently, the only off-leash area in the city of Bellevue is north of I-90 and increasingly difficult to access due to traffic. For those in the community with dogs, that means that the free space in Newport Hills is even more critical. I know many are advocating mixed-use space, however, utilizing it as a dog park is mixed use as no one is kept from using it. Within the immediate vicinity, there are three schools and a park that offer fields and playground to local children. The space in question remains the only off-leash area for South Bellevue and the second in a city of almost 150,000 residents. In Seattle, residents are more likely to have dogs than children and Bellevue is no different. The thousands of dogs who live in the city need dedicated spaces to run off-leash. I would hope that the future site would remain a dedicated dog park with better parking, garbage, poop bags, dog-friendly gates and if funding allows, a shelter or other structure to improve access to account for our notorious Seattle weather. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions

Hi Scott, I live in Newport Hills but I couldn't come to the meeting tomorrow. I do wish to see a water play area for kids in the new park. Since I believe there are a lot of family with kids living in Newport Hills and the closest park with water kids play area would be Downtown park or Crossroads park. It will be great to see one in our neighborhood.

Hello Scott,

My name is -----and I have lived in Newport Hills all my life. ----- I live just down the street from the Ringdall trail entrance to the Tyler property and utilize the Patterson property trail for exercise and to experience nature multiple times a week. was thrilled when the city purchased the properties for low use park space. (And am additionally thrilled to hear that the Brick property has been added to the Park!) I hope to share my input and experiences as far as the current use and development of the property. First and foremost, you have an arduous journey ahead, balancing a strong, vocal majority with the needs of the City of Bellevue and Newport Hills and the community members it serves. Thank you for your commitment to this project and all you do for the community. My biggest concern pertains to the use (and abuse) of the Tyler property by the vocal majority of dog park users, I see dog poop all over the hill, dogs are let free to aggressively run at people in the space, even those who don't wish to interact with dogs while at a City park property. These dog owners allow their dogs to run and trample natural spaces. I hope to utilize this property more for its natural values as it is such a beautiful space and I cherish it.

If and when an off-leash dog park is included in the plan, I would greatly appreciate there being a designated, fenced, dog area within the developed Tyler property and away from natural spaces at the West, North, and East property boundaries. I envision it as separate from the natural areas and there is still space for low impact, dog-free recreation in the remainder of the Park. My biggest priority is having peaceful experiences in a natural area (one that is generally free of random dogs running at me) and one that is inviting and welcoming for the Newport Hills Community. I appreciate the beautiful trail and native plants added to the Patterson property and look forward to more plants and the prospect of a future trail through the Brick property. I appreciate and thank the city for purchasing these properties and the vision of Bellevue as a city in a park. I hope that with the right vision we can come to a compromise that serves the community and the City of Bellevue.

As a resident and dog owner, I'd like to contribute my opinion over this upcoming design phase for the future of this park. There's two sports field closeby (soccer and softball) and a playground where dogs are not allowed. The entire neighborhood as a whole has large segments where sidewalks are nonexistent so dog walking is already difficult. Please reconsider on removing the entire or significant space away from the dogs, as a sizable population in this neighborhood are dog owners who congregate and let their dogs to run around. Everyone is friendly, and majority of owners pick up after their dogs in this park. Thanks for your consideration.

I was at the meeting last night. I came up to you asking about the trail and you explained it was an Eagle Scout project. Thank you for leading the meeting and all the info you gave us. It was enlightening! I moved into NH back in 1995. It's a great neighborhood and I'm happy to be a part of it. [---] A gated dog park with a covered area for the humans in the rain, some bench seating, maybe a water 'spout' to fill our bottles would be ideal. The regular dog park people go daily rain, shine or

snow. If it was half playground half dog, then the playground half could only be used in good weather. Again, lots of play equipment nearby. Thank you for letting us email you with our thoughts. I appreciate it.

I am strongly in favor of keeping the dog park as is. There are no other off leash dog places to take my dog in Bellevue close by. With 405 bad traffic it is hard to go to Robinswood, who's is also ver small and crowded. There are several areas to take children with green space and play grounds within 1/2 mile of this dog park.I appreciate the wonderful job city of Bellevue has done with the green belts, parks and trails.

Please consider keeping the dog park as that is the only off leash dog park in our area.

I want to provide input for what I see for the Newport hills property that is currently being used by dog owners. I do not have a dog and would like to have part of the open space be allotted to those of us who do not have dogs nor want dogs running wild where I want to walk. I would like some designated space where I would feel safe without being at the mercy of dogs coming up to me in that open space in connection with that forested areas where I like to be out in nature.I feel like dogs are everywhere and they are annoying so it's seems reasonable that they be leashed unless inside a designated dog area.

Hello, I've missed the meeting at Newport Hills Community Church. I live in this neighborhood and I would have a suggestion: add an enclosed archery range in a corner, that could be reserved for shooting arrows for maybe a day or two per week. The rest of the time people could use the space as usual. There are some safety barriers that need to be installed behind the targets, I could work with experts at archery ranges around this area to design it. I also could find volunteers to build the wood structures for the targets, if cost is a concern. Thanks

Here is my input about the new park – if I think of anything else, I'll send an addendum. Thanks for your work on this – it's pretty exciting! I would like to see our new park developed with a generous, fenced off-leash area and also with generous “people” areas. Access and Trails

I usually enter the park from the (primitive) trail down from 116th Ave. SE at the rear of the Ringdall building. I would love for this to become an official access point with signage and a much better, maybe even ADA-compliant, trail.

I would also love some sort of a trail connection down to the Park & Ride/Lake Washington Blvd. I would make this a paved or surfaced trail both for walkers and bikers – good for park users, and also convenient for police bike patrols, which will be needed given the potential for camping, squatting and other illegal activities back in the woods. I wonder if these two main trails could be lit during dawn and dusk hours – if people are using the trail to the P&R to commute to work, they will be walking/biking in the dark during the fall and winter months.

I would love to see additional trails (that wouldn't need to be paved or lit) around and about through the wooded areas, as appropriate/possible given the terrain.

There needs to be a crosswalk (or two?) to get people across 60th from the south (where the sidewalk is). It's a busy street and hills limit sightlines, so they should be the crosswalks with the flashers.

I understand that increasing parking could be cost-prohibitive and eat up space we'd rather keep as park – I wonder if there's any possibility of reaching an understanding with Bellevue School District such that park users would be allowed to park at Ringdall during non-school hours and in the summer. (People will probably do this anyway to some extent.) Would it make sense to have the sidewalk on the north side of 60th run from Ringdall to the park, or to make some sort of steps or ramp from the Ringdall parking lot down into the park?

People-Oriented Features

The community needs an outdoor gathering space for things like neighborhood picnics. In my perfect world this would include a generous picnic shelter, some tables and lots of seating both under the shelter and outside, access to water and power, charcoal BBQing set-ups (like at Gene Coulon) and one or more firepits.

I would also love to see some sort of seating (amphitheater? hillside?) that could be used to show movies and maybe have little concerts in the evenings when there's good weather. Whatever spot lined up as the "stage" for those activities would also need access to power, maybe some flooring and maybe a small roof or overhang to protect equipment while in use. (Maybe if the seating for this were on the side of a berm facing the picnic area, there could also be seating on the other side of the berm facing the off-leash area, so people could watch dogs from there – especially if an agility course is included.)

If any of the park's open area turns out to be a grassy hill away from the street, there are plenty of people here who would love to use it for sledding on those couple of snow days we get each winter.

The west edge of the grassy area is a popular blackberry-picking spot, so that should remain accessible to park users outside the off-leash enclosure.

I hope that someone more creative than I will have lots of great ideas for features to include back in the woods and along the trails. I would love exercise equipment (those outdoor Nordic Trak deals) and parcours stations. Someone suggested an "exercise labyrinth," I heard – not sure what that means, but they drew [---] a schematic. A couple people with young children have ideas for an "adventure" or "wilderness" playground, which I think means incorporating play areas into the woods and trails – walls, trees and other things to climb and slide on, places to dig, etc.

I like the idea of some public art (big carved wood or metal heads, and animals?) both in the open area and hidden back on the trails for users to discover. Same for big windchimes and public musical instruments – in Portugal we came across a very modest park that had permanently installed outdoor drum sets and marimbas. Delightful!

Some of us here are already elderly and many of the rest of us hope to live to be elderly – and many residents have children in strollers, wagons etc. etc. etc. So accessibility should be a consideration throughout the park – and there should be plenty of benches and other seating, in the open areas and along the trails.

Similarly, some sort of restroom facilities will be needed, for those times when someone can't make it across to the restrooms at Newport Hills Park. I know plumbed restrooms would blow our budget. Residents are also concerned that a public restroom will attract more illegal campers in the woods nearby, or worse, become a hiding place where people shoot up. Police will need to keep an eye on this, I guess (I haven't heard that it's a problem in Newport Hills Park, but this park having such significant wooded areas may make a difference). Maybe a wheelchair-accessible porta-potty would be the best compromise.

Dog Stuff

The off-leash area needs to be enclosed, because if it's not, other (non-dog) uses don't work. An oval or rectangular off-leash area might work best, but other shapes (wrapping around or between other park uses) can also work well.

I would like the off-leash area to have double (safety) gates (like airlocks) so there's little chance dogs will get out while unleashed and so there's a transition area for dogs that may have anxiety or reactivity in moving from leashed to unleashed.

I have also heard that some people would like to have two off-leash areas, fenced off from each other – a really big one for the big rambunctious dogs and a smaller one for dogs that are smaller, shyer, frail or otherwise not up to roughhousing with the big dogs. I am fine with this as long as it doesn't cut into the people portion of the park.

The off-leash area needs to have drinking water for the dogs, a continuous supply of poop bags, and an official trash can or cans that the city takes responsibility for emptying.

There should be benches and a sun/rain shelter inside the off-leash enclosure for the dog people to be with their dogs.

It might be nice if the dog part of the park had a dog-washing station, especially if the drainage can't be substantially improved. (Maybe the hoses could be on timers or something, to prevent accidentally leaving the water running.) The path from the dog-wash to the parking area should be paved so the washed dogs don't get muddy again. I think an agility course within the off-leash area would be fun! But I defer to the dog owners to say whether these two features would be used.

Hello. I would like to see a small dog off leash fenced area similar to that at Luther Burbank Park on Mercer Island. Thank you,

Hi there,

I don't know if it is too late to submit a comment, but I am writing to encourage you to keep this park a dog park. There are multiple parks for children nearby, but there are no other similar dog parks. There is such a nice community of people who enjoy playing with their dogs at this park and it is very beneficial to this area. It is a great space and so much fun for all!

Hi, My name is -----, I have been taking my dogs to this park since November 2010. The park as been a great place to meet people who without the park I would never had the opportunity to have met. I have been around for all of the drama surround the Community center and the people who use the dog park. I'm not going to point fingers at who did what, I really to see this park developed into something that has more usage but still keep the dog park. My goal is only the park period. I know there are several people trying to tell you of all of the cyber bullying and childish behavior going on the NextDoor website and Facebook. I was thinking is there any way the Community Center can be removed as the main go to and just have you and the Bellevue website be in charge. This could work if we also had a bulletin board at the park for those who do not have access to computers. I just fear that no one will agree to any proposal. The bickering has been going on for years and I'm tired of it. I just want a safe place to bring my dogs. Can you send me the Tyler Park proposals from a few years ago. I would like to put in my ideas for a dream park.

Good morning, Scott,

I would like to propose that improvements to the park include a natural playground space, perhaps abutting and/or incorporating the existing trail loop. Such an addition would provide more activity and more pleasing aesthetics for park-goers than a "traditional" play structure/area. When natural playgrounds have been studied, they have been shown to be utilized for longer periods and to inspire more creative play. The natural space could also be designed with adult users in mind so that it is not limited to use by children. Physical activity, especially in nature, is good for everyone. I can provide links to scholarly articles to back up both of the above claims, if desired.

There is a wealth of information online about what features a natural play space might include. Tiny Trees, a local preschool with multiple locations, and Fiddleheads Forest School at the UW Arboretum could serve as resources to the City in designing park improvements. Commonly suggested features include natural sandboxes, a water source, balancing logs, tree stump steps and loose pieces with which to create obstacle courses.

<https://www.wildernesscenter.org/visit/nature-playscape/>

<https://wehavekids.com/parenting/Natural-Playgrounds-For-Kids-Advantages-and-Problems>

<https://blog.nwf.org/2014/09/nature-play-coming-to-every-community/>

<http://sweethomedays.blogspot.com/2010/08/natural-playground.html>

Other cities/government entities have created natural playgrounds to positive effect:

<http://www.ci.medford.or.us/Page.asp?NavID=3511>

<http://www.ccfpd.org/forest-preserve/homer/playscape>

<https://www.abcactionnews.com/news/region-tampa/st-pete-boasts-first-of-its-kind-natural-playground>

I'd like to see Bellevue take a more natural approach than the above, including only the most truly natural of the elements created by other municipalities, but I think it's most important to note that there is nothing inherent in natural playgrounds that make them untenable for public entities to build and maintain.

There are a number of companies that are already experienced in creating natural playscapes, so design specialists should be fairly easy to come by.

<https://www.naturalplaygrounds.com/>

<https://earthplay.net/>

I propose further that the portion of the park along 60th be enclosed as a safe, off-leash dog area, separated from the natural recreation space by a double line of fast-growing native trees that could provide shade to dog-centric users. A water feature that could be utilized as a drinking source for dogs and a play source for children would be ideal. Perhaps a rain barrel could be installed to catch water that would otherwise muddy the area around a shared covered picnic area. King County has installed such a rain barrel at the Tiny Trees preschool classroom on Cougar Mountain. A Port-a-Potty would make the park far more user-friendly and enable the longer play times that children in natural settings prefer. I look forward to seeing the design proposals in July, and I am happy to provide more information about any of my suggestions.

Hi Scott, I am a Newport Hills resident of 20 years. I attended the meeting at NH Community Church in May. Thank you for your work to coordinate this planning. I wasn't engaged much with this discussion in the past. So I don't know the whole context, but I like the layout in the

vision document. I like to have a dog unleash area for the majority of the open space surrounded by a fence. It would be nice to have a little space for community on the north side of the property. Having a trail along the fence would be nice.

I have a couple of suggestions:

- Plant several large trees in the community space to create shade (outside of unleash area)
- Put a few picnic tables
- Have portable toilet

Let's keep it simple! I heard there was some unfortunate (seemingly) miscommunication between _____ and some people who are strong supporter of the dog park. I don't think we are not that different. I think you did a nice job in the meeting showing respect for everyone. I am looking forward to attending the July information meeting.

Good Morning Scott,

Thank you for coming out to speak a couple of weeks ago about the plans for the property on 60th in Newport Hills.

I understand the vision for the property when it was purchased, however the neighborhood has somewhat changed since then and the dog park that's currently there is part of the reason we chose to move into this area. We use it twice a day during our walks and there's never any issues. There are many other options for kids to play in the area but there's not as many areas for dogs.

Also the cost to the city to maintain a kids park is going to cost the city/state a lot more than it takes to maintain the existing dog park.

Please leave it just as it is.

Hi, Could you please consider building a playground for kids in this new park? We live just across the creek, and our kids would live to spend time playing there. Thanks

Hi Scott, Thank you for taking the time to discuss about the dog park at the Newport Hills Community Church. I live in Newport Hills with my family and dog for the last 9 years. We have taken our dog every day for the last ten years to this park. Our dog has 'grown up' in this park along with my kids. I would love to see the dog park retained as is, a space for our canines to run free and enjoy the outdoors and get some much needed exercise after being in our homes for a whole day. Their excitement is palpable even at the word "Park". I have met so many new families who have moved with their adorable dogs. I see that we have facilities for children less than quarter of a mile up the road right opposite and I think they are already very well served. I strongly urge you to consider maintaining that entire area as a dog park.

Dear Mr. Vander Hyden,

Thank you for meeting with the community last week, it was really good to know that the community needs and wishes are being considered when deciding the disposition of the Tyler Park area currently being used as an off-leash dog park. I am one of the community members that use the park regularly and take my two dogs there almost every day when it is not raining or overly muddy in the park. I met more people my first week at that park than I have in my 20 years of living in the community and my neighborhood. People in the park love their pets and love coming together and spending hours a day at the park catching up and enjoying time with each other and their pets. After a stressful day at work, this is the one place I can simply "be" and find complete joy just being with my dogs and my friends at the

park. Last year my husband asked me what I wanted to do on our anniversary and I told him we should fill up the thermos with something cold, take our chairs and go enjoy that dog park, he laughed and said that sounded perfect, and so we did. I was curious so I looked on the Bellevue City web-site and found out that there are about 45 parks with playgrounds plus a number of other general use parks that are available for families with or without children. There is only 1 off-leash dog park. I was also interested to see that there are an estimated 30,000 dogs in Bellevue. I wondered how this compared to children so I looked up the census data and found there are about 31,000 children below the age of 20 and only 14,445 below the age of 10 or in the group of children most likely to use a playground. Wow, 1:30,000 for dogs and 1:321 for kids. I wonder how many of those kids visit the park virtually every day? With this area being one of the top places for dog owners the numbers seem out of whack, don't you think? As one of the many regular park visitors I urge the Parks Department and the City Council to allow us to continue to use this space in the way that we have been, as an off-leash dog park. There are plenty of other parks for children, one is only a stone's throw away from Taylor park.

Hello Scott,

I received your mailing regarding next Tuesday's meeting. Thank you for reaching out to the community. I will not be able to attend, so I wish to submit my views via email. I walk my 10 year-old chocolate lab mix to the proposed park on SE 60th St several times a week. She loves socializing with other dogs as well as people there. My preferences for upgrades at the existing park are:

- retain off leash dog access as the priority
- install a water source similar to the one at Robinswood off leash dog park
- terrace the existing park space in order to facilitate drainage and forestall accumulation of mud
- improve parking options, i.e. add a parking space or two
- fence the park space to protect pets as well as prevent pets wandering into adjacent private property
- retain access to the wooded trail at the N end of the property for dogs as well as humans Again, thank you for including community members in the decision making process.

Hi, Thank you for taking the time to have an open house about the dog park Newport Hills Community Church. I live in Newport Hills with my family and dog for the last 9 years. We have taken our dog every day for the last 9 years to this park and he has in a sense 'grown up' in this park. I would love to see the dog retained as is, a space for our canines to run free and enjoy the outdoors and get some much needed exercise after being in our homes for a whole day. Their excitement is palpable even at the word "Park". I see that we have facilities for children less than quarter of a mile up the road right opposite and I think they are already very well served. I strongly urge you to consider maintaining that entire area as a dog park. Thank you for your time,

Hello,

My name is -----and I am emailing you about keeping the SE 60th Street Park a community dog park. This park has been a mainstay in my life as I've grown up in Bellevue. I graduated from Newport High School in 2014 and during high school, taking my dog ----to the park was the highlight of my day. I got to unplug from my phone, hang out with all of the great people at the park, and play soccer with ---. When I went off to UW for four years, I came back more to see -----than anyone else. Taking him to the SE 60th

Street park is my favorite activity. As he aged, our fun changed from playing soccer to walks on the trail and lounging with the other senior dogs.

This park is more than a grassy field for dogs, it has been a community that I hold dear to my heart. On any given morning or evening, I can go to the dog park and see -----, ---- and his dogs -----nd ---- grown up with these people. They know my parents and I know their families. At what other Bellevue park is there such a strong sense of community, where neighbors know each other by name and spend hours together daily? We are at the dog park every single day, come rain, snow, or shine. On summer days we lounge in camping chairs when our dogs play and in the winter we huddle in our raincoats in the darkness. I am 22 now and ---- is 11. For the past 9 years this dog park has been an important park of our lives and I implore you to keep it a community dog park. There are children's parks at the Newport Hills Park, Jing Mei Elementary, the local church, and at the Newcastle Beach Park. These parks are all very close to the SE 60th Street Park, they are rarely full, and they are not dog-friendly areas. I'm certain that the needs of the area for a children's park are filled. However, if you take away our dog park, you will be taking away a frequently used resource and break up a tight-knit community of dog-owners and neighbors. I feel very strongly about this issue and I urge you to strongly consider keeping the SE 60th Park a community dog park. Please feel free to reach out if you would like to discuss this issue any further or if I can provide any more information.