

**From:** Alexandra Caggiano

**Sent:** Monday, March 27, 2023 12:50 PM

**To:** Fehrman, Pamela <PFehrman@bellevuewa.gov>; parkboard <parkboard@bellevuewa.gov>

**Subject:** Airfield Park: Opposition to the proposed pool and parking lot

Dear Ms. Fehrman & Bellevue Parks Board Members,

My name is Alex Caggiano and I live in the Spiritridge neighborhood in Bellevue. I have lived in Bellevue for the past 30 years, having moved here with my family when I was four years old and raised here. I have been in the Spiritridge area for the past three years with my husband, and over that time, have gotten to know many members in our community. Many of the older members have filled me in on the decades-long fight against having Airfield Park be turned into some sort of pool area. Now that it is happening again, while I am now a member of the community, I wanted to make sure that my voice in opposition to such plans be heard.

First, there are already a large number of pools in our area—not least of which is the Bellevue Aquatic Center, which could be re-vamped instead of destroying this lovely park and outdoor area. Personally for me, knowing whether or not Airfield Park is going to be destroyed in favor of a parking lot and aquatic center (makes me think of Joni Mitchell's "Big Yellow Taxi" every time) is impacting whether or not I will move from this neighborhood. Having this outdoor field, which I frequent every single morning with my dog, and having gotten to know all of the neighbors who walk (either with pets, by themselves, or family members) at the same time every day has been a source of such joy for me and my expanding family (we are due to have a child this August). Knowing that it could all be taken away with the addition of a new aquatic center—which the neighborhood definitively does not want—has led to serious discussions with my husband to move away from our beloved neighborhood. The increase in traffic and environmental impact is not something to be taken lightly.

Second, and much more importantly, we have already destroyed so much of Bellevue's habitat even during the last thirty years that I have lived here—one of the most notable losses I thought was Mercer Slough addition of the light rail, which has displaced the wildlife. There needs to be some habitat that is kept in the Bellevue suburbs for the wildlife that has still been able to survive in our ever warmer and colder climate (also caused by humans). Building yet another pool in Bellevue does not outweigh the harms imposed on our wildlife by taking away even more of their homes. The deer, bobcats and other wildlife that I constantly see at the park will most definitely be further displaced by the addition of a heavily-trafficked pool.

Let's continue to keep Washington a green and lush state, not one adding to the destruction of our planet and the wildlife's home for a pool and a parking lot.

Respectfully,  
Alex Caggiano