

From: Fehrman, Pamela
Sent: Friday, February 24, 2023 3:15 PM
To: Theresa Wooley
Subject: RE: Council: Opposed to aquatics facility and pickleball at Bellevue Airfield Park

Hello Theresa Wooley,

I appreciate you taking the time to share your thoughts regarding development of Bellevue Airfield Park site. Maintaining a high-quality park system depends on the community's, your participation. Environmental stewardship is a core value for the City of Bellevue and is intrinsic to building a healthy economy, healthy communities, and a healthy planet. Enhancing and protecting the City's natural resources, water, air, climate, parks, and open spaces for future generations is a high priority.

Our work in the Park Department strives to build a healthy community through an integrated system of exceptional parks, natural areas, recreation, arts and culture, and a broad base of community services. Not diminishing the appeal of a wide-open meadow however, the purpose for which the Bellevue Airfield site was purchased in 2002 was to provide a community-wide park with active recreation. The site represented the last opportunity to acquire a large, undeveloped, relatively flat (former landfill) in Bellevue. Whether you support an aquatic center or not, this site represents the only City-owned undeveloped site large enough to accommodate the aquatic facility.

We've listened and heard a great deal of support from the community especially for an aquatic facility and Pickleball courts since we began this planning process over 9 months ago. We have not heard as much support for development of a meadow. Current plan alternatives based on community input strive to protect and enhance existing tree canopy and habitat in the north portion of the site while active recreation is located on the southern portion of the property over the former landfill, further away from residences, and surrounded by office buildings. We agree with you, to the extent we can responsibly reduce paving in parks the better. There will be much more work refining parking needs that will include work to secure shared parking agreements with our office neighbors.

We appreciate hearing your support for the potential use of vacated school sites. The City is actively working with the Bellevue School District to understand what opportunities may be available.

You can find much more information on this project's web page at: [Bellevue Airfield Park | City of Bellevue \(bellevuewa.gov\)](https://www.bellevuewa.gov/parks-recreation/bellevue-airfield-park) or you can give me a call anytime.

Hope this information helps alleviate some of your concerns,



Pam Fehrman

Planning and Development Manager | Parks & Community Services

City of Bellevue | 425-452-4326

PFehrman@bellevuewa.gov

From: Theresa Wooley

Sent: Friday, February 10, 2023 2:18 PM

To: parkboard <parkboard@bellevuewa.gov>; Council <Council@bellevuewa.gov>

Subject: Opposed to aquatics facility and pickleball at Bellevue Airfield Park

Hello. I'm writing to voice my complete despair at the thought of Bellevue Airfield Park being developed into an aquatics complex and pickle ball courts. I can't believe that paving over a beautiful meadow area and attracting all kinds of traffic to the area is even considered during this time of global warming and climate change. Who speaks for the animals? This makes me feel sick. What is the definition of a "park?" It is not a massive 10-acre building and parking lot, that's for sure.

I live close to this park and use it almost every day. You may dismiss it as a landfill, but that's an easy excuse to not realize its beauty. This is the only natural meadow area I can think of anywhere near here. When the grass grows tall and the cottonwood trees send balls of fluff into the air, the meadow looks like southern France in the early evening. It is full of wildlife -- birds and bunnies, racoons, frogs, bats... Nature is amazing and we should be doing everything possible to preserve it. I see there are plans to make the I-90 corridor near there a higher-density area so this puts even more value on preserving greenspace.

It really is beyond belief that you'd think of paving over a park. Seriously. Nature and the animals have no voice.

You're in the process of closing/consolidating schools. Please be creative in your solutions. Why don't you use one of those already built-up properties! Or what about where Bellevue Big Picture school is? Not sure what's happening with that one. That school building is crumbling, the land is unattractive, and it's right across from Robinswood Park. It seems like a perfect location. Please think creatively and don't pave over a beautiful and much-loved greenspace. I'm starting to hate living in Bellevue. It's not the city I moved to. The loss of trees and habitat in this area is horrifying. It brings tears to my eyes every time I hear a chainsaw or see a new MN Custom Homes (i.e., developer from hell) sign go up.

I have very little hope because I've already seen someone from city council argue vehemently for the aquatics center on Nextdoor. Doesn't give me much faith that city councilors listen to the public.

One last thing. I attended the last public meeting about this project put on by the parks department. I think the survey they have people fill in is ridiculous. You get to choose between two proposals that both have the giant aquatics complex and pickleball courts. There is not an option for "leave nature alone" or "neither of these proposals." Now how is that not biased? And do you realize how noisy pickleball is? It causes all kinds of neighbor battles and it will completely disrupt any solitude left in the surrounding nature area. It will probably drive what few animals remain completely insane. If you're going to do pickleball, put in way fewer courts, control the hours, and ideally, put it in an indoor facility.

Be creative folks. You're smart people and I'm sure you can find another location that's already paved over to put in your massive swimming pool complex. A massive building and parking lot is not a park. And if you have already decided to put it there (thinking this is the case), why not drastically scale it down and work out a deal with surrounding businesses that have a sea of empty parking lots already? Does everything have to be "world-class"? Just build something modest if the true goal is to give kids swimming lessons. But please, please, please. Build this complex on an area that's already paved over. Please.

Thanks,

Theresa Wooley

Bellevue, WA