

*** For information only ***

The following is Parks & Community Services' response to Gary and Melissa Danberg concern regarding Newport Hills Woodlawn Park.

From: VanderHyden, Scott

Sent: Thursday, February 17, 2022 3:06 PM

To: Gary & Melissa Danberg

Cc: Fehrman, Pamela <PFehrman@bellevuewa.gov>

Subject: Newport Hills Woodlawn Park RE: Written Communications February-- 8th

Dear Gary & Melissa,

Thank you for your inquiry regarding the construction of Newport Hills Woodlawn Park. When construction is complete, the approximate 13 acre park will have 10.7 acres of forested trails complemented by three acres of developed park area that will include an open lawn area, playground, adult exercise equipment, loop trails, picnic shelter, restroom and fenced off-leash dog area.

We are excited to see the completion of construction and hope the new Newport Hills neighborhood park serves the neighborhood well. You are correct, minor changes to conceptual plans occur. Even design plans that have been surveyed, engineered, permitted and are in the process of construction see adjustments and change orders (hopefully very small ones!). Changes to plans occur to address: City Council direction, operation and maintenance efficiency, unanticipated findings (e.g. underground tanks, a boulder too big to move, utility lines etc.) and permitting requirements. For example at Newport Hills Woodlawn Park the creek and ravine slope critical areas limited fill quantities and required a 30' width native planting buffer along the top of the ravine. Other adjustments to the City's preferred plan for the new park have included:

- A reduced off-leash dog area to accommodate additional required parking within the park.
- The playground location, although in the same general location, shifted SE away from the forested edge towards the picnic shelter to increase visibility
- The planned seasonal portable toilette was changed to a restroom.

The conceptual plan does not determine the number of parking spots. Determining the quantity of parking to support park use requires a Transportation Engineering Traffic and Parking study. The quantity of parking is determined, by among other parameters, project size, type and number of activities or use, and location or adjacent uses. For example, a 13 acre park with ballfields has very different parking requirements than a small ½ acre park with a playground. Traffic and parking studies are contracted and submitted to permitting for review and approval.

Thanks for the opportunity to share, I hope this helps answer your concerns.

Sincerely,

Scott Vander Hyden, Project Manager

Bellevue Parks & Community Services

425-452-4169

From: Gary Danberg
Sent: Tuesday, February 8, 2022 2:01 PM
To: parkboard parkboard@bellevuewa.gov
Cc: Melissa Danberg; Jeanie Marquardson; warren; Heidi Dean
Subject: Written Communications-February 8

We wish to go on record as objecting to design changes to the Newport Hills Woodland Park plan after the proposed final design was approved by the council and the Board. Specifically, downsizing the amount of open meeting space for the neighborhood by increasing dog park size, the addition of more street parking spaces than was originally approved, and we also object to this process allowing members of adjacent communities (i.e., Bellevue, Renton, East Gate, etc) to provide input to the Board to suit their desires to use our neighborhood park as their own. Please refer to page 43 of the updated Parks and Open Space System Plan Update, Neighborhood Parks vs Community Parks, and what those should look like.

Respectfully,

Gary and Melissa Danberg

****for information only****

The following is Parks & Community Services' response to Jeanie Marquardson concern regarding Newport Hills Woodlawn Park.

From: VanderHyden, Scott

Sent: Thursday, February 17, 2022 3:00 PM

To: Jeanie Marquardson

Cc: Fehrman, Pamela <PFehrman@bellevuewa.gov>

Subject: Newport Hills Woodlawn Park RE: Written Communications--February--8th

Dear Jeanie,

Thank you for your inquiry regarding the construction of Newport Hills Woodlawn Park. We're very pleased that when the new Newport Hills Woodlawn Park is complete you will then have two parks to walk to with Play Areas. This new 13-acre park will have 10.7 acres of forested trails complemented by three acres of developed park area that will include an open lawn area, playground, adult exercise equipment, loop trails, picnic shelter, restroom and fenced off-leash dog area.

We are excited to see the completion of construction and hope the new Newport Hills neighborhood park serves the neighborhood well. We sincerely appreciate your participation in the planning process for the new park. The Community preferred, Park & Community Services Board recommended, and Council endorsed Park Plan has not been changed. If you would like to review the preferred park plan you can see that on the City's web site at: [Newport Hills Neighborhood Park | City of Bellevue \(bellevuewa.gov\)](https://www.bellevuewa.gov/Departments/Parks-and-Recreation/Neighborhood-Parks/Newport-Hills-Neighborhood-Park)

It is important to note that a Park Plan is conceptual in nature. Next steps to construct a park plan requires surveying and engineering, to create construction documents that need to be permitted. Slight changes to conceptual park plans occur to address: City Council direction, operation and maintenance efficiency, unanticipated findings (e.g. underground tanks, a boulder too big to move, utility lines etc.) and permitting requirements. For example, at Newport Hills Woodlawn Park the creek and ravine slope critical areas limited fill quantities and required a 30' width native planting buffer along the top of the ravine. Other adjustments to the preferred park plan for the new park have included:

- A reduced off-leash dog area to accommodate additional required parking within the park.
- The playground location, although in the same general location, shifted SE away from the forested edge towards the picnic shelter to increase visibility
- The planned seasonal portable toilette was changed to a restroom.

The conceptual plan does not determine the number of parking spots. Determining the quantity of parking to support park use requires a Transportation Engineering Traffic and Parking study. The quantity of parking is determined, by among other parameters, project size, type and number of activities or use, and location or adjacent uses. For example, a 13-acre park with ballfields has very different parking requirements than a small ½ acre park with a playground. Traffic and parking studies are contracted and submitted to permitting for review and approval.

Yes - the Spring District in Bellevue is undergoing a large re-development. We are working towards acquiring park and open space in the Bel-Red neighborhood and looking forward to working with the community to inform preferred park plans.

Thanks for the opportunity to share, I hope this helps answer your concerns.
Sincerely,

Scott Vander Hyden, Project Manager
City of Bellevue Parks & Community Services
425-452-4169

From: Jeanie Marquardson
Sent: Tuesday, February 8, 2022 1:49 PM
To: parkboard parkboard@bellevuewa.gov
Subject: Written communications -- February 8th

To: Members of the City of Bellevue Park Board
re: changes to the "neighborhood park" under construction in Newport Hills

I moved to Newport Hills the winter of 1980 with my husband and two young children. When I wanted to take my girls to a park we would get in the car and drive out of the neighborhood; there were no play areas we could walk to and at the time, and our budget didn't allow us to buy any play equipment. I was very pleased to learn that the property Bellevue purchased for a park was going to be developed and attended the meeting held at the Newport Hills Swim and Tennis Club to learn of design options.

I was disappointed to see the property had a very significant portion dedicated to an off-leash area for dogs. I also attended a City Council meeting where the board went before the city to present a plan for the park. During the public comment period, many spoke of the "dog park". When it was my turn I chose to call it the Newport Hills Neighborhood Park to reflect what I thought was going to be a gathering place for people of all ages and not just dogs and their owners.

At the city council meeting, information about the growth of Bellevue's businesses, the new residents that would be moving in to follow the new jobs, and those new residents with dogs were brought up. I hope the configuration of the Newport Hills park is not affected by the pressure to provide off leash areas for Bellevue residents in general.

It does appear that the parks department has changed the plan that had been approved, adding a significant amount of parking spaces among other changes. The space dedicated to what seems to be eleven unanticipated parking spaces really encroaches on the limited open space. Who authorized those changes and why?

I'm concerned that input for the park is being accepted from those who do not reside in Newport Hills. This property was meant to be a neighborhood park. The delay in development allowed the property to be used solely as an off leash area. But it was never intended for that. Please don't eliminate space for people to gather so that non-residents have a place to let their dogs run off leash and listen to the residents who have been waiting for a gathering space so long overdue.

Finally, the Spring District in Bellevue is undergoing a large re-development (understatement of the day). I ask you, are they going to have a neighborhood park and will it serve residents with dogs and have parking spaces available for those not residing there?

Please let residents of Newport Hills enjoy this small space together and don't assign open space to accommodate those that don't reside there who want to make it the dog park.

Thank you for your consideration,
Jeanie Marquardson