

**From:** Fehrman, Pamela  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 22, 2022 4:56 PM  
**To:** Court Olson  
**Cc:** Shiosaki, Michael <[MShiosaki@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:MShiosaki@bellevuewa.gov)>; McVein, Shelley <[SMcVein@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:SMcVein@bellevuewa.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Concern with current Airfield Park development plans

Hi Court,  
Thank you for participating at the community gatherings to help inform the Bellevue Airfield Master Plan – we appreciate your participation! We will include your request to not develop the 10-acre forested area of the park and your concerns with safety, tree canopy reduction and wildlife displacement into the planning processes. Hope to see you at the next meeting, have a great Thanksgiving!



Pam Fehrman  
Planning and Development Manager | Parks & Community Services  
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**From:** Court Olson  
**Sent:** Friday, November 18, 2022 3:35 PM  
**To:** Shiosaki, Michael <[MShiosaki@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:MShiosaki@bellevuewa.gov)>; McVein, Shelley <[SMcVein@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:SMcVein@bellevuewa.gov)>  
**Cc:** Fehrman, Pamela <[PFehrman@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:PFehrman@bellevuewa.gov)>  
**Subject:** Concern with current Airfield Park development plans

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Hello Parks Director Shiosaki and Deputy Director McVein.

I'm writing on behalf of the twenty neighbors of mine listed following my signature line (below) who have signed the following petition:

*We the undersigned have homes immediately surrounding Airfield Park. For three reasons we are concerned and opposed to the proposed creation of a picnic area and trails in the dense woods of the northwest section of the park.*

**1. Safety.** *A picnic area deep in the woods would not be open to public view. That invites trouble and poses a danger to the neighborhood. This hidden picnic area would be prone to ruckus and nefarious activity (e.g. drug trafficking) at all hours, but especially at night, since it is hidden from view by passersby. Any picnic area should be out in the open in full public view to reduce the likelihood of such danger.*

**2. Tree canopy reduction.** *There are big trees in that wooded area that would be cut down to create the proposed picnic area. At a time when Bellevue is trying to increase*

*its tree canopy for aesthetic and climate resilience reasons, such tree cutting by the city would be a hypocritical environmental mistake.*

**3. Wildlife displacement.** *This part of the park is a mini wildlife sanctuary which has long been untouched by human activity. Park users and the adjoining neighborhood appreciate seeing and hearing the many animals that pass through and/or make their home there. We know that deer, possum, racoon, skunk, rabbit, coyote, bobcat, eagle, hawk, owl, piliated and downy woodpeckers, flicker, wren, songbirds and other wildlife inhabit those woods. Many, and perhaps all, would be displaced by human incursion and clearing in those woods.*

*For these three reasons we request that there be no park development incursion into the dense wooded area of the park to the west of the pond. Sufficient space for picnic tables and trails exists outside of this wooded area, so there is no need to disrupt it.*

**Picnic tables.** *There is plenty of space in the park for picnic tables to be located outside of the woods. Also, there are three other parks within a mile of Airfield Park that have picnic tables (i.e. Spirit Ridge, Phantom Lake, and Robinswood parks). The many picnic tables in all of these nearby parks are rarely fully used, so we believe there is not much need for additional picnic areas in this neighborhood.*

**Trails.** *Regarding trails, there are already trails that skirt the south and east edges of this wooded part of the park. Consequently, people already have access to viewing the woods and wildlife there without having to disrupt and destroy the natural habitat. Also, there are existing trails that connect this park to other nearby parks, so the neighborhood public trails network is already well developed inside and outside of this park.*

*In conclusion, we shall very much appreciate the consideration of these concerns raised by those of us who already frequently walk in Airfield Park, and whose homes are adjacent to it.*

For the above reasons, we all will appreciate the deletion of the planned picnic area and parking stalls (circled in red) in the northwestern corner of the park plan below. **Please leave the forest in its natural state.**



We look forward to your reply.

*Court*

Court Olson  
(he/him/his)

**With the permission and support of the following neighbors:**

Name	City
Laura Loge	Bellevue
Charles and Eugenia Haggin	Bellevue
Siddharth Shah	Bellevue
Ginnie Sommer	Bellevue
Gwyn Johnson	Bellevue
Paul Guilford	Bellevue
Lyndsy Fersch	Bellevue
Wei Song	Bellevue
Catherine Guilford	Bellevue
Francine Grimwood	Bellevue
luca cappa	Bellevue
Junfeng Zhou	Bellevue
Lynne Matthes	Bellevue
BROOKE COOLEY	Bellevue
Shirley Arnold	Bellevue
Andy Rivas	Bellevue
Lynn Burlingame	Bellevue
Ted Sommer	Bellevue