

**From:** Ron Soukup  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 2, 2023 12:11 PM  
**To:** parkboard <parkboard@bellevuewa.gov>  
**Subject:** Preserve and Enhance Downtown Park

Dear Parks Board,

I read this commentary piece about the great downtown park with a sense of civic pride. But I also thought of the sign saying a 21-story high rise, Park Row, would be built directly abutting the eastern park border.

No other buildings abut the park - certainly not a 21-story high-rise. Such an edifice will significantly and forever degrade the personality of the park and the city. Clearly, the building code should have carved out a more sensitive exception for those parcels that would not allow such a building to be park-adjacent.

The Seattle Times piece applauds the civic leadership of 40 years ago to make the park a reality. I urge you to show similar leadership to preserve and enhance the park. Rather than allow the high-rise condo there, the city should use eminent domain to buy that parcel of land and make it a new grand vista and entryway to the park. Having the park visible from Bellevue Way will make it even more of a civic gem forever.

<https://www.seattletimes.com/opinion/bellevue-downtown-park-vision-innovation-leadership/>

Thank you,

Ron Soukup