

**From:** Heidi Dean <[technogeekswife@yahoo.com](mailto:technogeekswife@yahoo.com)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, September 15, 2020 9:33 AM

**To:** Heilman, Mark <[MHeilman@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:MHeilman@bellevuewa.gov)>; Shiosaki, Michael <[MShiosaki@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:MShiosaki@bellevuewa.gov)>; Cummins, Mac <[MCummins@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:MCummins@bellevuewa.gov)>; Council <[Council@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:Council@bellevuewa.gov)>; parkboard <[parkboard@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:parkboard@bellevuewa.gov)>

**Cc:** [cc's removed for privacy]

**Subject:** Newcastle & Renton neighborhoods included in naming process for Newport Hills park

**[EXTERNAL EMAIL Notice!]** Outside communication is important to us. Be cautious of phishing attempts. Do not click or open suspicious links or attachments.

Hello everyone:

Monday morning I was very upset to find that residents of other cities were invited (via a Nextdoor announcement) to participate in the naming process for Newport Hills' developing park property. The **Hazelwood & Lk WA Blvd SE** Nextdoor neighborhoods (which also includes Renton) are outside of Bellevue & don't pay taxes to fund our parks. It's unclear why Renton & Newcastle residents are continually given access to and priority in our Bellevue/Newport Hills park planning process.

Just like previous surveys connected to this park, the current naming survey doesn't require respondents to provide their names or addresses to verify if they are Bellevue/Newport residents. That means the dog group which dominates the park property, many of whom live in other cities, will once again drive the process instead of Newport Hills residents. What's interesting is quite a few of the names proposed for the park are more closely related to **Newcastle** history (coal mining), not Newport Hills history (orchards, forests, farmland), which tells you where the suggestions are coming from. "Later Park" is what the dog group calls the property and would **not** be an appropriate name for a multi-purpose park meant for use by all Newport residents, not just the dog group.

**NOTE:** Shannon O'Neil was the original owner of the park property. His son Cal sold it to the CoB for park use, which Cal said was in keeping with Shannon's wishes. Shannon O'Neil was the top salesman for White & Bollard (original developer of Newport Hills) prior to opening a real estate office in our commercial district, which served Newport Hills residents for more than 4 decades. Cal O'Neil lives adjacent to the park property and his brother Kelly lives about 3/4 mi away in Newcastle. Both brothers have requested the park be named Shannon's Glen in honor of their father's contribution to the neighborhood and to honor Shannon's desire to see a peaceful multi-purpose neighborhood recreation space on his property.

Since the Council approved the Parks Board's recommendation to dedicate **half** of our available park property (and most of the money for amenities) to an off-leash area, the # of dog owners coming in from outside the neighborhood to use the park property has **increased**. On a recent Tuesday evening I drove by the property and counted 14 vehicles parked along SE 60th St. & in the parking lot. The dog owners have started leaving chairs and personal belongings at the property again, treating it as if it is their private property. Newport Hills families and the community club can't even use the property to host events due to A) the pandemic and B) the constant presence of dogs (and their waste), but the dog owners routinely gather in large numbers, including hosting birthday parties for their dogs, which they advertise on their Facebook page. I wonder how many Newport Hills children would have liked to have had a birthday party at the park property this year? Or graduation parties? Or how many Newport Hills families would have liked to have gathered there unmolested by dogs driven in from other cities? Or seniors looking for a peaceful place to get out and socially distance exercise with other neighbors?

**REMINDER: a neighborhood park is meant to primarily serve the people living in the neighborhood in which the park is located.** The "neighborhood park" designation also indicates limited parking because it's supposed to be within walking distance for the majority of those living within the neighborhood. The consistent presence of 8-14 cars in the evenings & on weekends is irrefutable evidence that more people are **driving in from outside the neighborhood** to use the park than those walking to the park from their Newport Hills homes. Park Board members said they didn't intend to create an "attraction", but that's exactly what has happened as word spread that the dog group "won" with the decision to make **half** of the park an off-leash area larger than that at Robinswood Community Park. An off-leash area was always in the neighborhood's park plans, but it should have been no larger than 1/3 of the useable property (1 acre= "neighborhood sized"). Newport Hills lost its neighborhood park to a special interest group **again** because the park designation was not respected/enforced by the councilmembers elected to represent us and by the people those councilmembers appointed to represent citizens on the Parks Board.

Last year the Parks Board and the Council failed to hold staff accountable for allowing other cities' residents to participate in Newport Hills' park planning process. I am calling on you to hold staff accountable **now**. Please direct staff to limit current & future surveys to Bellevue neighborhoods **only**, specifically the neighborhoods within the Newport subarea, and ensure that all respondents can be identified by their name & location. I've previously provided staff with the names of the Nextdoor neighborhoods in the Newport subarea, but I'm happy to provide them again:

- Newport Hills
- Kimberlee Park
- S. Bellevue Lake Lanes
- Pembroke Meadow
- Lakeview on 108th
- Newport Shores
- Greenwich Crest

Thank you for your time & consideration. Hopefully the Nextdoor post will be removed immediately & reposted only to Bellevue/Newport neighborhoods. Also, I hope the staff will amend the survey to **REQUIRE** respondents' name & addresses to identify from where input is coming, as was promised to us by both Scott VanderHyden & Glen Kost (park planners).

Take care,

Heidi Dean  
Newport Hills resident 12/2000- present

---

**From:** VanderHyden, Scott

**Sent:** Tuesday, September 22, 2020 2:41 PM

**To:** Heidi Dean <[technogeekswife@yahoo.com](mailto:technogeekswife@yahoo.com)>

**Subject:** FW: Newcastle & Renton neighborhoods included in naming process for Newport Hills park

Dear Ms. Dean,

We appreciate your comments and thank you for your continued interest and email to the Parks & Community Services Board and City Council regarding the naming process for the new Newport Hills/60th Street park. We will include your comments as part of the project record. I want to assure you that the park name will not be based on a vote, rather Parks staff, the Park & Community Services Board and Council will use community naming suggestions as only one of many factors when they undertake park naming deliberations. Based on the City's Naming Policy, the Parks & Community Services Board will ultimately make a recommendation on a preferred park name to the City Council. The City's web site for Park Board and City Council will be updated when meeting dates have been determined.

Again, thank you for your interest and involvement in the planning process.

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