



**SHORELINE
CITY COUNCIL**

Chris Roberts
Mayor

Shari Winstead
Deputy Mayor

Will Hall

Doris McConnell

Keith A. McGlashan

Jesse Salomon

Keith Scully

January 25, 2016

Dear Paramount Open Space Park Neighbors:

Last fall I heard from several of you regarding concerns you had about the safety in and around Paramount Open Space Park. I heard that you were concerned about people using the park and parking lot for suspicious activities and that you didn't feel safe or comfortable in the park. In response to those concerns I asked Shoreline Police to conduct a Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) assessment of the park. The results of the Police assessment were presented at a community meeting on November 10th.

The purpose of that community meeting was to report the results of the assessment to you and engage in a discussion about what you experience in the park and what an appropriate response would be. Approximately 30 park neighbors engaged in a lively discussion with Officer Steve Perry and me at the November meeting. A few highlights include:

- Some people felt safe in the park while others did not. We were cautioned by some not to overreact to perceived safety issues.
- A few people expressed frustration when they called 911. The operators were not as responsive as they should have been.
- Generally people want to preserve the natural state of the park, but several said we should sacrifice some of the natural state to enhance safety.
- Some would like more frequent police presence.
- Improved signage at the entrances was widely supported.
- Some would like the homeless people living in the park addressed, but want to be sure resources are made available.

I agreed to put together a plan for responding to the various issues and inform the community prior to taking any action. Below is the action plan I have developed with the park maintenance staff that fits within our current budget.

1. Install signage at the four entrances to the park that include the park name and rules. This will make it clear that people are entering a public park and enhance the ability of police to enforce the park rules.



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2. Re-gravel existing gravel trails. This routine maintenance will enhance the long term stability of the trail system.
3. Remove some vegetation at the entrances. Vegetation in the park and the public right-of-way will be trimmed back to approximately 25 feet to make it easier to see into the park. This is CPTED standard practice. It also makes the park look more welcoming and tended to.
4. Remove old signs and sign posts inside the park. There are several informational signs in the park that can no longer be adequately maintained. They give the park the appearance of being neglected. We will store these signs and look for opportunities to replace them in the future.
5. Have more discussions with the community about improvements to the park through the Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) planning process in late 2016. Paramount Open Space Park is unique and deserves more attention. Items such as improving the parking lot, lighting, additional trails, additional wetland and habitat restoration, etc. are more appropriately considered through a broader community discussion which can be accomplished later this year.

Please let me know if you have any additional comments. I can be reached by phone at (206) 801-2601 or email at efriedli@shorelinewa.gov.

Sincerely,

Eric Friedli, Director
Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Department