

Letters to the Editor, Woodinville Weekly, February 18, 2013

The Woodinville community needs to hear the truth about the plans for Wellington Hills Park.

Contrary to what Snohomish County Parks & Rec Department has been saying, the plan to replace the park with an oversize regional sports complex is NOT FINAL.

The County's plan has yet to pass SEPA review, be approved by the County Council or survive a legal challenge.

This park is to be paid for using funds set aside as part of the Brightwater Sewage Treatment Plant settlement.

As such, these funds were intended to mitigate the negative impacts to the community surrounding Brightwater.

But now Snohomish County is attempting to build a regional sports complex with destructive effects on the community that far outweigh those brought by the sewage plant.

Having attended several meetings where Tom Teigen presented his proposed plan for seven soccer fields (4 full-sized artificial turf), stadium lighting, large commercial buildings, and parking for over 700 cars (to name just a few of the features), it is obvious that the County is giving precious little consideration to the impact of a huge regional sports on its neighbors — the very people who were supposed to benefit from the mitigation agreement.

Consider the effects of traffic congestion from an annual 7-10+ regional, national and international tournaments, the destruction of natural landscape and habitat, deals made with private interest groups and costs well exceeding budget. No matter how they try to dress this up, it will bring a critical reduction to the quality of life we now enjoy in rural Woodinville.

But it's not too late to design a park that fits and serves the community.

Many of your neighbors and friends have joined together to reshape plans for Wellington Hills.

Neighbors to Save Wellington Park (NSWP) invites you to attend a community meeting in which you will hear the facts about the park and learn exactly what you can do to effect change, protect your quality of life and support a legal challenge to the plan to replace the park with a regional sports complex.

Monday, February 25, 7 – 9 p.m. at Woodinville Church of Christ (22502 – 75th Avenue SE, Woodinville, WA 98072)

Together, we can be sure our community remains a wonderful place to live.

J.L.