

Letters to the Editor, Woodinville Weekly, January 27, 2014

Does the Snohomish County Council or the Parks Department understand the difference between "appropriate" and "inappropriate" or the concept of fiscal responsibility?

Their plan to replace Wellington Hills Park with a "regional tournament-level athletic field site" puts both the City of Woodinville and south Snohomish County in a precarious situation.

Their plan is so huge and so disruptive that it would radically change the area and the quality of our daily lives. Look through your kitchen window and imagine this ... a sports complex that would cover as much ground as Safeco Field ... in a rurally zoned residential area.

If their plan proceeds, the areas on both sides of 240th SE (between Costco and 195th) will be drastically changed.

Drastic means de-watering the area and then removing 250,000 cubic yards of soil from the south side of 240th and dumping it on the rolling terrain seen on the north side of 240th.

Once both sides of 240th St. are flattened, the existing natural scenery would be replaced with four artificial-turf fields with stadium lights and three grass fields. Additionally, there would be parking for 700+ cars, a traffic circle, a 60,000 square-foot "activities building" and a 50,000 sq. ft. commercial indoor mountain bike facility.

Not only is the proposed plan for a regional sports complex inappropriate for a residential neighborhood, it is rife with problems, contradictions and waste.

If it's built, we will have new traffic jams and more congestion, unprecedented noise and light pollution, an increase in crime, lower property values and the possibility of required sewer and water hook-ups.

The proposed special interests plan is a waste of public money that will result in unnecessary development and the inappropriate use of an existing natural park.

Please, speak up and tell the Snohomish County Council, the County Executive and their Parks Department to act responsibly with our taxpayer money and rethink this outrageous plan.

W.S.