

To: City of Bellevue Parks Board

From: Homeowners near Newport Hills Community Park

Date: May 8, 2009

We, the undersigned Newport Hills Park neighbors, hereby ask the Parks Board to reconsider the upgrade planned for Newport Hills Neighborhood Park. The proposed upgrade and the increase in programming will significantly change the use of our neighborhood park.

We have several reasons on which our request is based. At the recent informational meeting held by the Parks Department, the Park Staff presented a proposed concept for the Newport Hills Neighborhood Park that was comparable to Robinswood Community Park. Robinswood Park is both beautiful and functional, making good use of its more than 25 acres for multiple recreational and sports activities. At Robinswood Community Park there is a large natural buffer area between the sports complex and the neighbors. After visiting Robinswood it appears the buffer area is approximately 200 to 400 feet from existing neighborhoods and the distance from the light fixtures is slightly greater.

The Park Staff indicated that usage of the sports fields will significantly increase at Newport Hills Neighborhood Park with the proposed upgrade due to the year round use of the soccer field. This upgrade and usage will change the use of our neighborhood park from serving our Newport Hills community providing an area for multiple seasonal recreation activities to more of a year round soccer and baseball sports field complex. This neighborhood park is used for many functions and activities outside of sports. The Newport Hill Community Association uses the soccer field for a community wide annual gathering on the fourth of July. At other times neighbors use the fields for picnics, to play soccer and baseball with friends and family, to exercise pets, etc.

The City of Bellevue Parks & Open Space Plan 2003 describes a neighborhood park as follows: "Neighborhood parks are larger and have multiple recreational facilities, both active and passive. They can range up to 15 acres in size and serve roughly one-half mile radius. Neighborhood and mini-parks are intended as mainly as walk-to or bike-to facilities; therefore, they either have no or very limited off-street parking facilities. These neighborhood parks should not create parking or traffic impacts to the neighborhoods in which they are located." (p.71 City Of Bellevue Parks & Open Space System Plan 2003). This is a very good description of Newport Hills Park. Newport Hills Neighborhood Park is approximately 7 acres. There are a few parking spaces on the east side of the park.

Parking is currently a problem with the limited spaces available in the off street parking area. This causes park users to park along S.E. 60<sup>th</sup> Street, park in the old Eastside Catholic High School parking lot as well as the residential neighborhood of Densmore.

The Park staff has offered some ideas of how to develop more parking spaces; however, the parking problem just exemplifies the lack of space for this type of sports facility with year round use.

Lighting and noise have been a problem for the neighbors bordering the park. The light fixtures are approximately 15 feet from the homeowners property lines and the soccer field is approximately 27 feet from the property lines. The light fixtures are taller than most of the trees that serve as a light buffer and the lights' rays shine in the windows of the homes abutting the park as well as homes that are not on the park boundary. The noise from the lights as well as the noise and language from the soccer games disturbs many of the neighbors and inhibits their ability to leave their windows open during the evening hours when adult games are played.

We understand that there is a demand for sports facilities but Newport Hills Park was not designed for the amount of use that will accompany the proposed upgrades and will affect the nearby homeowners and neighbors significantly. We encourage the parks department to partner with Bellevue School District to develop recreational and sports facilities that will meet the needs of the community and adhere to the Bellevue Parks & Open Space Plan 2003.

Sincerely,  
The Neighbors of Newport Hills Neighborhood Park

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|-----|---------------------------|--------------------|---|
| 43. | <u>Vera Livshits</u>      | <u>[Signature]</u> | <u>6219 119th Ave SE</u>                      |
|     | Name                      | Signature          | Address Bellevue, WA 98004                    |
| 44. | <u>Hyo Sun Jung</u>       | <u>[Signature]</u> | <u>6060 118th Ave SE</u>                      |
|     | Name                      | Signature          | Address Bellevue, WA 98006                    |
| 45. | <u>Vicki L. Hansman</u>   | <u>[Signature]</u> | <u>10412 118th Ave SE, Bellevue, WA 98004</u> |
|     | Name                      | Signature          | Address                                       |
| 46. | <u>JAMES R. CORNELIUS</u> | <u>[Signature]</u> | <u>11727 SE 61st Pl. BELLEVUE, WA 98004</u>   |
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| 47. | <u>Debbie Worthey</u>     | <u>[Signature]</u> | <u>11611 SE 101st Pl. Bellevue 98004</u>      |
|     | Name                      | Signature          | Address                                       |
| 48. | _____                     | _____              | _____   |
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| 29. | <u>EDWARD</u>             | <u>Edward Wei</u>         | <u>6250 114<sup>th</sup> PL SE</u>         |
|     | Name                      | Signature                 | Address                                    |
| 30. | <u>Ken Schoenfeld Jr.</u> | <u>Ken Schoenfeld Jr.</u> | <u>6249 119<sup>th</sup> PI SE</u>         |
|     | Name                      | Signature                 | Address                                    |
| 31. | <u>Tranema La</u>         | <u>Tranema La</u>         | <u>6192 118<sup>th</sup> SE</u>            |
|     | Name                      | Signature                 | Address                                    |
| 32. | <u>Randy Hun</u>          | <u>[Signature]</u>        | <u>5213 120<sup>th</sup> Ave SE</u>        |
|     | Name                      | Signature                 | Address                                    |
| 33. | <u>Zhong Su</u>           | <u>[Signature]</u>        | <u>6191 118<sup>th</sup> AVE SE</u>        |
|     | Name                      | Signature                 | Address                                    |
| 34. | <u>RAY STACY</u>          | <u>Ray Stacy</u>          | <u>6198 118<sup>th</sup> AVE SE BEL</u>    |
|     | Name                      | Signature                 | Address                                    |
| 35. | <u>Mao ngi</u>            | <u>[Signature]</u>        | <u>6197 118<sup>th</sup> AVE S.E BEL</u>   |
|     | Name                      | Signature                 | Address                                    |
| 36. | <u>Chad Harkness</u>      | <u>[Signature]</u>        | <u>6086 118<sup>th</sup> AVE SE BEL WA</u> |
|     | Name                      | Signature                 | Address                                    |
| 37. | <u>Krist Sahlinger</u>    | <u>[Signature]</u>        | <u>6024 - 118TH AVE SE</u>                 |
|     | Name                      | Signature                 | Address                                    |
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|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| 1. <u>CUOPIA NGUYEN</u><br>Name     | <u>Cuoipia Nguyen</u><br>Signature      | <u>6004-118 AVE SE</u><br>Address               |
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| 3. <u>Yi-Lun P. Hsu</u><br>Name     | <u>Yi-Lun P. Hsu</u><br>Signature       | <u>6030 118th Ave SE</u><br>Address             |
| 4. <u>DAN FLODS</u><br>Name         | <u>Dan Flods</u><br>Signature           | <u>6046-118<sup>th</sup> AVE SE</u><br>Address  |
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