

No to Airport Parking in North SeaTac Park

August 28, 2021



Port Withdraws Proposal for Parking Lot in N. SeaTac Park

A GREAT BIG THANK YOU TO PETITION SIGNERS

**Grateful Thanks to All Who Contributed to this Outcome
And a Call for the Future Protection of N. SeaTac Park**

If you are reading this email, most likely you are one of the nearly 2,400 people who signed the petition calling on the Port to withdraw its proposal to replace 11 acres of mature forest in North SeaTac Park for Lot L06, a 1,500-spot airport employee parking lot.

THANK YOU!

The trees on the site of this lot save lives, removing large quantities of pollution from the surrounding neighborhoods, all of which have been identified as [highly impacted](#) by environmental health disparities.

The site of Lot L06 also contains the headwaters of Miller Creek and a large portion of our community's iconic mountain bike trails. And it's part of a larger forested ecosystem - including 55 acres within the park that the Port can "[issue notice to vacate at any time](#)", and the 200 acres of the park as a whole, which contain wetlands, a prehistoric peat bog, a lake, and multiple tributaries of Miller Creek.

On August 25, the Port announced that it [withdrew](#) the proposal for Lot L06 from the SAMP. Our voices were heard. Below, is a statement of thanks to all responsible for this decision - and a call to action to protect this park, which faces the double threat of future potential development and invasive weeds.

Acknowledgments & Call for Preservation

Grateful thanks to City of SeaTac officials, Port Commissioners and staff, FAA personnel, elected officials from 6 different jurisdictions, candidates, nonprofit organizations, petition signers, and many others who stepped up to make this decision and its timely announcement possible.

This decision does not secure the long-term safety or even survival of this park, which faces continuing threats of potential future development and invasive plants. But it is a key step toward protecting all of NSTP's 200+ acres.

Special thanks and recognition go to SeaTac Deputy Mayor Peter Kwon for his tenacious and effective leadership in opposing lot L06 and for his continuing work to protect the park into the future. Thanks go to all of the City of SeaTac's leadership for its actions to improve this park over the years and to oppose this lot. SeaTac Councilmembers Senayet Negusse, Clyde "Fuzz" Hill, and Pam Fernald are among those known to deserve special recognition. But years of untold work, talent, and dedication from this city's leadership and staff, including

from those in the Parks and Recreation Department, have led to substantial improvements in the condition and public safety of this park, transforming it into a local and regional destination.

Grateful thanks go to all Port of Seattle Commissioners for acting to protect this park, especially to Port Commission President Fred Felleman and Commissioners Stephanie Bowman and Peter Steinbrueck for hearing our community's concerns, touring the at-risk area of the park, recognizing the park's ecological, public health, and recreational values, working with Port staff and City of SeaTac officials, dialoguing with community members, and pursuing avenues for protection of this park in the future. Grateful thanks to Port staff for their visits to the park, for recommending the removal of Lot L06 from the SAMP, and for supporting an early announcement of the withdrawal of this proposal.

Grateful thanks to elected officials and Port Commission candidates who signed the petition opposing Lot L06 and lent influential support in other important ways. They include:

- King County Council Vice Chair Joe McDermott
 - King County Councilmember Dave Upthegrove
 - Burien Deputy Mayor Krystal Marx
 - Burien Councilmember Cydney Moore
 - Burien Councilmember Kevin Schilling
 - Des Moines Deputy Mayor Matt Mahoney
 - De Moines Councilmember Luisa Bangs
 - Des Moines Councilmember Traci Buxton
 - Des Moines Councilmember JC Harris
 - Des Moines Councilmember Anthony Martinelli
 - Des Moines Councilmember Jeremy Nutting
 - Normandy Park Councilmember Earnest Thompson
 - Tukwila Council President Kate Kruller
 - SeaTac Deputy Mayor Peter Kwon
 - SeaTac Councilmember Clyde Hill
 - SeaTac Councilmember Senayet Negusse
 - Port Commission candidate Toshiko Hasegawa
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- Port Commission candidate Hamdi Mohamed

Among others whose actions were essential to the outcome are Russell Stevenson of Northwest MTB Series, who hosts the weekly Wednesday Night World Championships in the park and Dr. Dave Larson, a member of the mountain biking community who has been acting to protect the forest for years and who led tours for Port officials. Members of North SeaTac BMX Club, who hold regular events at the park and actively care for it are also to be thanked for stepping up. Several organizations signed the petition, reached out to their memberships and beyond, hosted information sessions, wrote letters to Port officials, and assisted with media outreach.

These include:

- Burien People for Climate Action
- Duwamish Valley Neighborhood Preservation Coalition
- Environmental, Energy and Land Use Caucus of the 34th Democratic Legislative District
- Quiet Skies Puget Sound
- South Seattle Climate Action Network
- Tahoma Youth Cycling Development Club
- West Seattle Bike Connections.

Nearly 2,400 community members signed the petition at KCTreeEquity.org. First signers included nearly 100 people who live in the vicinity of the park who connected through the Next Door social media app. Among the signers is also Jill Kintner, Olympic Medalist in BMX for Team USA – who got her start on the BMX trails in this forest. Members of her family, some of whom helped build those trails, also signed. Hundreds of comments on the petition can be read at <https://KCTreeEquity.org>. A whole community's love and appreciation for this park shine brightly through this document.

NSTP continues to face threats from potential future development and invasive plant species that are killing trees and dominating much of the forest floor. A comprehensive preservation plan is needed - along with a Friends of the Park group to ensure the plan is a good one and that

it's followed.

Removal or decline of any part of our regional network of forests and waterways fragments it, weakening the whole and reducing the protection it provides to all of us from the shared ills of air pollution, climate change impacts, waterway degradation, and more. North SeaTac Park's greenways are an integral part of this regional network and merit regional investment to secure its health and future

For further information and questions – or to help explore the formation of a Friends of the Park or similar group, write to info@KCTreeEquity.org. To join in a Green SeaTac Partnership restoration event in the park, visit <https://seatac.greencitypartnerships.org>. The Green SeaTac Partnership is led by the City of SeaTac, Forterra NW, and residents and receives funding from the Port of Seattle.

North SeaTac Park is located on the traditional land of the first people of the Seattle area, the Duwamish People, past present, and future. Their contribution and the land itself are honored with gratitude. The park's land also was once covered with hundreds, perhaps thousands, of homes. Those who lived here were removed in the 1970s and 1980s to accommodate airport operations. Those families planted or preserved the mature trees we benefit from in this park today. Des Moines Memorial Drive South, which borders much of the western edge of the park, is a living memorial to the 355 residents of King County who lost their lives in WWI. The tree shown in this photo is within the area where Lot L06 was proposed.

You can help! Stay tuned for actions to help preserve this 200-acre park.
