

On behalf of Friends of Frink Park

Re: Response to Briefing paper regarding revising the Natural Areas and Greenbelts Supplemental Use Guidelines

As Friends of Frink Park volunteers involved in restoring Seattle Natural Areas for almost twenty years we feel that this plan is lacking in information and in facts and request that the Parks Board votes against these proposed guidelines.

The stated goals of the guidelines are “to provide transparency and access for everyone” yet, due to an ill defined proposal it actually does the opposite as it fails to address critical issues and give any sort of basis for these changes. And certainly does not clearly address the criteria for adding developed recreation into our Natural Areas which have been set aside for the peaceful enjoyment of nature.

-The plan does not demonstrate a need for developed recreation in our natural areas nor does it mention alternative locations for these types of activities. Targeting activities that require special equipment or a participation fee immediately removes access from a large portion of our underserved population.

- It fails to address that Park’s currently has a “No Bicycle” policy which is not scheduled to be reevaluated until after the 3 year Cheasty Pilot Project has been completed, yet the proposal specifically discusses bike trails, jumps and challenge courses.

-It fails to discuss the issues of funding, maintenance, safety and liability to the City of Seattle. We are critically behind on Parks maintenance yet this plan proposes new expensive specialized infrastructure which would only benefit a small percentage of our population.

- And finally it is in direct contrast to the City’s successful 20 year Green Seattle Partnership plan of restoring our natural areas, increasing canopy cover, protecting wildlife habitat and storm water runoff - all of which provides public benefits to everyone. Why should Parks and the City abandon the Green Seattle plan, ½ way into their 20 year commitment, in favor of these new ill conceived guidelines?

As a Seattle Parks Forest Steward I am dismayed that the city would even consider this plan- and know that I am not alone. We have not worked tirelessly donating our backs and our pocketbooks, towards restoration of areas that are finally becoming

natural again; only to have them taken over by large scale intrusions such as bike jumps, ropes courses and single use activities; which will undo our hard earned progress. There are many areas throughout our city that these types of activities could be located in, but our natural areas are not one of them.

Green Seattle's over 722,000 hours volunteered in 10 years is a statement of the value our citizens place on our natural areas, let's keep them available to everyone. Thank you.

Darcy Thompson
On Behalf of Friends of Frink Park