



July 1, 2015

FROM: Friends of Madrona Woods
TO: Seattle Parks and Recreation Board of Park Commissioners
SUBJECT: Preserve Seattle Parks and Natural Areas Greenspaces

To the Board of Park Commissioners,

I write on behalf of Friends of Madrona Woods, a neighborhood group that came together in 1996 to restore the 10-acre Madrona Woods Greenspace to health after decades of damage caused by such social impacts as bikes riding and cars driving into it, causing degradation of the trails, and people using the space as a dump site, introducing such garden thugs as holly, ivy, and laurel. With the help of grants and matching donations from neighbors, the Friends and hundreds of volunteers have turned a dark and scary greenbelt into a much-used neighborhood gem. Now on a walk through Madrona Park Woods and Natural Area you'll see stable and attractive trails, a gurgling stream flowing from hillside springs through tranquil ponds into the lake, a variety of young native plants where once ivy and holly smothered everything else, birds singing and nesting, and lots of people walking and enjoying the beauty and serenity of this local jewel. This result is what the grantors and neighbors contributed to build and what the many thousands of volunteer work hours were given to create. Should the Park Board vote to implement the proposed Supplemental Use Guidelines, these newly created and rare inner-city sanctuaries for quiet contemplation and immersion in natural surroundings will be compromised if not lost entirely. We urge the Commissioners not to adopt the proposed guidelines but rather to accommodate the requested special uses in a way that will honor the intent of our effort and not undo the long, hard work of so many groups and individual volunteers.

Sincerely yours,

Deirdre McCrary

for Friends of Madrona Woods

<http://www.madronawoods.org>