



# NEWS

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## *New Parks Group Addresses Ball Field Shortages*

It is well recognized that there exists a shortage of recreational ball fields in the Northshore area. Historically, there have been significant disagreements over how to alleviate this shortage. While the Northshore Youth Soccer Association (NYSA) has tried to build soccer facilities on farmland in the Sammamish Valley, the Hollywood Hill Association and other land use groups have opposed developing our limited farm land into active recreational fields, parking, and related facilities. In the past, the HHA has encouraged the NYSA to develop several other sites in the region and to look into utilizing under-used school facilities as an alternative to building new facilities in the Valley, but unfortunately, none of these efforts have come to fruition.

Now, a group of visionaries has come together to tackle this problem from a slightly different angle. The Northwest Parks Foundation (NPF), a private non-profit organization formed in 2002, is seeking to increase active recreational opportunities for our community by protecting and upgrading existing facilities. In the Northshore region, they are facilitating the installation of synthetic fields on public school properties.

Why synthetic fields and why at public schools? The NPF recognizes that ball fields and associated infrastructure (such as parking) already exist at schools in every community in the region. Use of these existing fields is limited by surface wear, access, and daylight hours. If the existing field's surface could be upgraded to synthetic turf, public access improved for school fields, and state-of-the art lighting installed at appropriate locations, these same fields could be used daily and during evening hours, all year round, thereby decreasing or even eliminating the need for additional new fields.

Additional advantages of synthetic fields over conventional grass fields are many: maintenance costs are a fraction of the cost of grass fields and environmental impacts are negligible since there is no fertilizer, pesticide or herbicide runoff. Since synthetic turf is permeable, there are no erosion problems. The major disadvantage of synthetic turf is its significant installation cost. Four hundred thousand to seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars is required per field. The cost is dependent on the extent of grading and drainage required, but a nine fold decrease in annual maintenance costs for synthetic fields versus grass fields means breaking even in approximately 10 years.

Over 3 million dollars has already been pledged to this project from county and city governments and the NYSA. Additional funds are being raised by the NPF from individual and corporate sponsorships and financial endowments. The NPF has also initiated discussions with the Northshore School District whose support and cooperation is essential to the success of this project. School district cooperation is not unprecedented: both Bellevue and Seattle school districts have joint use agreements with parks departments that permit evening access to athletic facilities.

Kristen Bush, a Hollywood Hill resident and Executive Director of the Northwest Parks Foundation, is confident that the Northshore School District will become part of the coalition and that field construction can soon begin. With a background in public health, Bush sees increasing public access to safe, high quality parks and sports facilities as the key to expanding exercise levels of our population and therefore improving the overall health and well-being of our community.

The HHA supports the Northwest Parks Foundation's efforts to provide high quality recreational facilities to the public in a way that does not jeopardize valuable resource lands.

# Letter from the President

If you have been reading the fine print in our last few newsletters, you may have noticed some changes in our board positions over the last year. Our past president, Michael Tanksley, took a sabbatical with his family to Whistler, B.C. for a year and passed the reins to Torrey Russell. Torrey ably led the Association until May when he and his family moved to Duvall at which time I became president.

Fortunately, our Board of Directors is experienced, stable, and committed to the HHA, and these changes in the Board have not affected our ability to function as an effective voice for our community. Furthermore, this is an extremely exciting time to be part of the HHA board as there are several significant projects in the works.

While Parks and Recreation budgets are declining at every governmental level, we are starting to see the emergence of private entities filling the void left by a diminished Parks Department. These groups are stepping forward to provide recreational opportunities and parks facilities for our communities.

The Northwest Parks Foundation is one such group with the mission of protecting parks and recreational facilities in the region. Hollywood Hill resident Kristen Bush is Executive Director of the new foundation which is already on its way towards achieving its primary goal of providing active recreational facilities to the public. Kristen's article on the front page details her group's vision and goals and highlights some of their initial projects.

Your Hollywood Hill Association is also moving forward proactively to establish park land on Hollywood Hill. In one of the most exciting projects, for Hollywood Hill that I can remember, the prospect of a large community park on Hollywood Hill (behind Hollywood Hill Elementary School) continues to make progress. The HHA is continuing to negotiate with King County to acquire surplus Department of Transportation acreage for conversion to the Parks Department. Our King County Executive Ron Sims, Representative Kathy Lambert and the King County Parks Department are all behind this project and are committed to seeing it to fruition. For more details on this proposed park, please see our article on page 3.

Finally, my sincere gratitude goes out to all of you who responded to my recent letter by sending in your membership dues and donations. We have made great progress towards our membership goals, but if you still haven't sent in your dues, please do so to show your support for the Hollywood Hill community and parks. Your support is greatly appreciated, especially as we face this exciting but financially challenging park project.

—Susan Cyr

## •••Dues•••

***Check the top line of your address label to see if your dues are current. If you have not sent in your dues for the current year, an envelope and application form are included in your newsletter. Dues are \$25 per calendar year.***

*Visit your community web site for more on these and other issues effecting our community.*

[www.hollywoodhillassoc.org](http://www.hollywoodhillassoc.org)

## YOUR ASSOCIATION

The Hollywood Hill Association is a private, state nonprofit corporation, formally chartered in 1976. We are an all volunteer, community based organization, dedicated to the preservation of our community character.

President	Susan Cyr: 487-2908
Vice President	Vacant
Secretary	Jan Hunt: 806-0118
Treasurer	Mary VandenBerg Hosizaki: 770-6629
Directors	Karen Mackie: 483-0889 Marsha Martin: 883-8561 Lincoln Potter: 481-8382 Mike Tanksley Vacant

Website [www.hollywoodhillassoc.org](http://www.hollywoodhillassoc.org)

The HHA is managed by a 9-member Board of Directors. Elections are held by mail each autumn at the time of the HHA annual membership meeting. The existing Board selects candidates from those volunteers who have demonstrated a willingness to actively contribute to the HHA and who support its goals. Board meetings are scheduled for the 2nd Thursday of each month at the homes of Board members. The Board welcomes HHA members who wish to attend these meetings as long as prior arrangement has been made. Because these are business meetings, space availability and legal issues may require closed meetings from time to time. Contact any Board member if you are interested in attending.

# *Proposed Community Park*

Anyone who has visited or is lucky enough to live on Hollywood Hill knows well the many qualities our area is blessed with: a fine elementary school, extensive trails, large lots allowing multiple uses for our land, natural areas, incredible views, and so much more, but the one thing sorely lacking in our neighborhood is a community park—a place to gather for a family picnic, play a pickup game of softball, or throw a frisbee for your dog. For years the Hollywood Hill Association has wanted to develop the vacant land just south of the Hollywood Hill Elementary School into just such a place: a park for the entire community to enjoy, centrally located and large enough to feel as spacious as our neighborhood.

Finally, it looks like this vision will become a reality. The Association has been negotiating with King County since September to acquire and develop this land. Currently, we are involved in the mechanisms of ownership transfer from King County Transportation Department to

King County Parks Department. The proposed park will be developed and operated in a public/private partnership between the Association and King County as part of their ADOP (Associated Development and Operating Partnership) program which means while the County will be responsible for liability on the property, the Hollywood Hill Association will assume operating and maintenance costs.

The current vision for the park includes a large, central grass field with berms on one end creating a small amphitheater, a soft surface trail loop through the woods which buffer this property, and parking along the entrance road.

The Association is pleased with the continued progress on the development of this park, but the project is significant and a large amount of work is still ahead. We welcome any residents who would like to become part of creating this community gem. Please contact Susan Cyr at 487-2908 or [seastar47@comcast.net](mailto:seastar47@comcast.net). We hope you'll join us!

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## *Small Pets and Urban Coyotes on Hollywood Hill*

At least 50,000 coyotes are estimated to live in Washington. These highly intelligent and adaptable animals are able to live virtually anywhere. Coyotes are increasingly found in our state's residential Eastside neighborhoods and even downtown in Seattle's waterfront. This is primarily due to the encroachment of human populations into the coyote's territory.

What does this mean to you? People with cats and small dogs need to take extra precautions especially during spring. Coyote's food requirements increase drastically when their pups are born, (usually in April).

In April and May of 2002, there were five documented cases of small dogs killed by coyotes on the Eastside. All of these dogs were attacked in their own fenced yards. One of the "small" dogs was an 18 pound Sheltie. A University of Washington graduate student studied urban coyotes about a decade ago and found a significant portion of their diet consisted of cats. Take a stroll through any Eastside neighborhood, and you will see many "missing cat" signs.

Below are some tips to help keep your pets safe and discourage coyote activity in your neighborhood.

- Keep pets inside or confined securely in a kennel or covered exercise yard. Coyotes can easily scale a six-foot fence.
- Keep fruit trees fenced or pick up fruit that falls to the ground. Coyotes are not picky; they are opportunists that will happily eat fallen fruit.
- Keep pet food and water inside.
- Keep garbage securely stored; use tight-locking trash cans that are not easily opened if knocked over by coyotes or dogs.
- Keep compost piles securely covered; bones or fat can draw coyotes even more quickly than decomposing vegetable matter.
- Do not feed wildlife on the ground, and clean up spilled bird seed; coyotes can be drawn directly to the seed, or to the rodents eating the seed on the ground.
- Supervise small pets when outside at all times. Coyotes hunt more often at dawn and dusk, but have been known to hunt at all times of the day, especially when they have pups to feed.

*The above information courtesy of Beth Selander, Kingsgate Veterinary Hospital.*

# ***IVY IN YOUR YARD? COULD THAT BE A PROBLEM ?***

If you have ivy on your property, please consider this advice from to Greg Rabourn, Community Stewardship Specialist, King County Dept. of Natural Resources and Parks:

Ivy's thick, water-hogging vines can, slowly but surely, add up to 2,000 lbs to a tree making it more susceptible to rotting limbs, blow downs and disease, and can ultimately kill the tree. Aphids also seem to prefer an ivy home. Carpenter ants just love to eat aphids. So if the ivy is near your house, those ants might hole up with you.

- Loaded trees can come down on your house, power lines, cars or people.
- Removing a large tree can be very expensive, especially near structures or power lines, costing even more when ivy covered because of the difficulty climbing through it.
- Mosquitoes — puddles remain longer under ivy keeping insects more protected. Rats love the shelter too. Native groundcovers do not provide this “service”.
- Ivy grows up power poles too. The poles are not designed to support extra tonnage, and the wide growth pattern acts like a sail in a high wind making the pole less stable.
- Ivy climbing up your siding or fence will weigh it down, attract moisture and lead to rot.
- Birds eat the ivy berries and spread ivy seeds to the woods where it takes root and kills native plants.

Ivy is an invasive and aggressive plant that can cause you and your neighbors problems. Rather than ignoring ivy, it is far cheaper and easier to take preventative action. Cut the vines around the base of a tree or structure and again as high up the trunk as you can reach. Then clear the ivy's growth to a tree's drip line, or better yet, completely remove it. The ivy left on a tree will shrink and die. Herbicides don't work well as the leaves are too waxy. The following websites show recommended elimination methods ([www.ivyout.org](http://www.ivyout.org) and <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/weeds/weedid.htm#Class>).

The County Weed Board (206-296-0290) strongly encourages control and containment of existing ivy populations and discourages new plantings of the four species placed in the noxious weed category. Ivy is even illegal to sell in Oregon. An arborist can determine the health of an affected tree if that is a concern. We have removed the ivy from our yard and control is easy once the removal is done (call Jan Hunt, 806-0118, if you would like to discuss or view our efforts). Congratulations to the Buus and Steven families and all the others on the Hill who have been eliminating ivy from their property.



— Score: Ivy 10, tree 0, house ? Tree and house in Bothell

# Toxics On the Hill

Hollywood Hill livin' does put us on the top of the heap. As anyone who has attempted to dig in their garden knows, this "heap" is a tightly packed network of roundish moraine rock piled conveniently for us during the last ice ages. This pile of rocks affords a lovely view for those perched on the east/west edges of our Hill and we are blessed with fresh air funneled in from the Sammamish and Snoqualmie Valleys that define our hill. The rivers that flow through those valleys, however, confer upon us some considerable burden of responsibility. What we drop, what we spray, what we drain goes through the rubble we sit upon like water through a pile of slippery marbles.

Nobody loves gardens like Seattlonians, and we Hollywood dirt grubbers are no different. Our precious gardens, the very image of weed-free and pest-free splendor, cost our little furry, finny, feathered friends dear. Says Philip Dickey, staff scientist at the non-profit Washington Toxics Coalition, "Common lawn and garden pesticides are found in *all* King County streams tested, with five insecticides exceeding levels set to protect fish. Spraying plants that are in bloom will also kill invaluable pollinating bees. Even the widely-used slug bait is highly toxic to small animals, even dogs and cats. Fortunately a toxic array of pesticides is not at all necessary to have a beautiful landscape, all we need are some changes in design and expectations, and we can make a less-toxic approach easier to manage."

Many of us work so hard at our day jobs that we struggle to simply enjoy our gardens much less work on them. But do we know how our yard and lawn crews manage to keep our gardens immaculate? We need to inform ourselves of exactly what we are paying for.



One for-profit company that practices safe environment yard care is "In Harmony" based in Bothell (<http://www.inharmony.com/> or TEL: 425.486.2180 or Toll Free: 888.472.7748). Co-owner Mark Gile characterizes their company as a "Natural approach to landscape design, installation and lawn, tree and shrub care. We advocate using the 'Right Plant in the Right Place' and using a good compost/topsoil mix and a lot of it. Our 'Natural Lawn, Tree and Shrub Care' programs are based on developing plant health. If plants are healthy, they tend to have fewer problems. We accomplish this through the use of organic fertilizers and compost tea sprays. The tea not only adds soil microorganisms, the life of the soil, but also helps to control foliage diseases. In concert with the plant care, we offer alternatives to pesticides such as corn gluten meal, a natural weed inhibitor, and the use of beneficial insects."

There are also other companies that will care for your garden in a responsible way. You just have to search them out.

Washington Toxics Coalition will help you make your own decisions that can make a positive impact on the environment. They have many helpful services available from their website [www.watoxics.org](http://www.watoxics.org) or by telephone: 206-632-1545 ext. #7. There are 22 fact sheets ranging from "Healthy Homes for Healthy Kids" to "Spiders, Ants, Flies and Cockroaches" available for a \$1.50 each or \$17.00 for the

whole library set of 22. And, once you buy into the concept, you've gotta have the cute little sign. It's a little ladybug that trumpets your commitment to "Pesticide Free Zone" right out there in front of your yard.

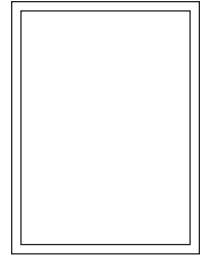
The Coalition makes it easier for us to conceptualize the hard fact that our perch on the top of the food and toxics chain gives consequence to simply living. What we reach out for at the hardware store is what ends up in our air and water. It ends up in us and in the plants, birds and animals that share this amazingly beautiful land. The chemical soup that our oceans are becoming is where we and the fish we eat swim.

In the August 2003 edition of Scientific American, an article discussed compounds that are listed only as "inert" in most household and garden products. "In the case of Monsanto's product 'Roundup', currently the most widely used herbicide in the world, a Texas Tech University study published in 2000 revealed a 90 percent decrease in the production of certain reproductive hormones in exposed mice. After the researchers gave mice glyphosate, the only listed active ingredient in Roundup, they did not see the decrease in hormone production. They concluded that the inert ingredients in the product caused the reduced sexual hormones."

How hard is it to simply forgo using pesticides, herbicides and chemicals for the sake of future generations? Is it so important to kill every bug and weed that enters our home and garden? Is it more important than our health and legacy?

Hollywood Hill Association  
P.O. Box 404  
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



CHECK YOUR LABEL -- ARE YOUR DUES PAID UP?



## ***Your Septic Tank: Does it need cleaning?***

The Hollywood Hill Association is fortunate in having an established relationship with Pete Couty who owns Alberta Septic. Those of you who are paid members of HHA will find that Mr. Couty's rates as well as his personal service are excellent.

The current fee for most tanks is \$270.00. Pumping may be done at any time of the year. Location of tank lids, replacement of baffles, etc. may be done at an additional charge. There is a 10% discount on most other work (e.g. risers - extensions on tank lids). Mr. Couty is licensed and qualified not only to pump your tank and make repairs but also to install a new system if necessary.

If you do not know the location of your septic system, most particularly the opening of the tank, you should be able to obtain the information from the King County Office of Environmental Health at (206) 296-4932.

If you are new to the area or missed previous articles about septic systems, you may not be familiar with the care and handling of your system.

- You do not need to add any chemicals to your tank to "help" your system work correctly.
- Avoid flushing products other than toilet tissue (e.g. Kleenex, tampons, kitty litter, ...).
- Avoid using a garbage disposal. Vegetable matter will only fill your tank that much sooner.
- Avoid flushing or pouring cleaners, paints, and chemicals down your drains.

A little preventive care will help you to minimize costly repairs.