



NEWS

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Visit our Website at:

www.hollywoodhillassoc.org

Name That Park

We are looking for help in naming the 10-acre park between English Hill and 145th

Email suggestions to torrey@russells.net

COURT OF APPEALS GETS IT WRONG ON AG LANDS, RECONSIDERATION REQUESTED

In December 2000, a major victory was won in the defense of preservation of agricultural lands in King County, including the Sammamish Valley, when the Washington Supreme Court issued its decision in *King County v. Central Puget Sound Growth Management Hearings Board*. The Supreme Court upheld a challenge by the Hollywood Hill Association (HHA) and other supporters of agricultural lands preservation, including PLAN (Preserve Land for Agriculture Now), to the King County Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Code amendments which would have allowed development of prime Sammamish Valley agricultural lands into intensive use ballparks, parking lots, field houses, and related facilities. Our Supreme Court pointedly admonished King County's actions in the decision which affirmed that preservation of agricultural lands was a paramount purpose of the Growth Management Act (GMA). The Court pointed out that there were many acres on which recreational facilities could be sited without forfeiting dwindling agricultural resources. This decision was pivotal in the HHA's efforts to continue to protect the rural character of our community.

Unfortunately, a decision issued by the Washington Court of Appeals (Division 1) last December, involving agricultural lands in the City of Redmond, failed to follow the Supreme Court's decision issued two years ago. The new decision is a blow to efforts to manage growth and to preserve the very limited amount of highly valuable agricultural land remaining in King County. The decision, issued in a case referred to as *Grubb v. Redmond*, gives the City a green light to side-step the GMA by allowing rezoning of two parcels of prime agricultural resource land for development for urban recreational uses. This decision shows that the message of the Supreme Court in the *King County* decision has yet to be fully heard.

This adverse decision came in the latest phase of litigation concerning property referred to as the Benaroya and Muller parcels. These properties adjoin the King County Agricultural Production District. Former Redmond Council Member Richard Grubb filed an appeal of the City's rezone of these parcels from Agriculture to Urban Recreation with the Growth Management Hearings Board. The Board heard the challenge and concluded after extensive review that the two parcels should remain designated as agricultural resource lands. The Board pointed out that the properties contained prime agricultural soils and that they adjoined the King County Agricultural Production District. It rejected an argument by the City that the location of the parcels in Redmond's Urban Growth Area (UGA) cut against maintaining their agricultural designation. The Board also pointed out that the GMA held cities to the same high standard as counties for preservation of agricultural lands.

The City, joined by a soccer association that owns the Muller parcel, appealed the Board decision to King County Superior Court. At that point, PLAN joined Mr. Grubb in defending the Board's decision. King County also appeared in the Superior Court case to remind all concerned that, although downplayed by Redmond and the soccer association, the 37 acre Muller parcel was subject to a perpetual deed restriction limiting its use to agriculture. The development rights were purchased over a decade ago with voter-approved funds as part of King County's Farmland Preservation Program (PLAN was a key player in obtaining County and voter approval of that program). (The soccer association was aware of the deed restriction when it bought the property many years ago.) After extensive review, the Superior Court upheld the Board. The City and the soccer association then appealed again, this time to the Court of Appeals, Division 1, based in Seattle.

The Court of Appeals' December 2002 decision reversed the Board and the Superior Court and downplayed the importance of preservation of agricultural resource lands in UGAs. The decision did not explain how reversal of the Board squared with the King County Farmlands Preservation Program prohibitions on nonagricultural use of the Muller parcel. Nor did the Court of Appeals address the provisions in the GMA which make it clear that cities are held to the **same** standard as counties with regard to preservation of agricultural lands. The Court, in fact, did not address the "friend of the court brief" filed by the Washington Department of Community Development. This department is responsible for administering GMA guidelines on a statewide basis and strongly supported the Board's decision. **(Continued on last page)**

... From the President

The Winds of Change are upon us

I have been involved with the HHA for almost 10 years. I first became a volunteer, then served on the board, and this year became association President. As I take walks around the hill with my family, I often run into people who have been a part of the organization and/or the HHA board at one time or another over the years. Though various important issues have come and gone, our main objective remains the same: the Hollywood Hill Association, since its inception in the mid 70's, is dedicated to maintaining the rural character of the hill. (For a complete review of the HHA bylaws go to our web site at www.hollywoodhillassoc.org).

The HHA is involved in efforts that include working to prevent additional roads from crossing the hill, working to keep our rural designation, which prevents multiple housing and commercial enterprises from invading the hill, and encouraging the development of non-motorized access through the use of paths and trails between properties. Keeping our rural character includes helping our friends, who grow food in the valley below us, to maintain their dwindling lands as farms. The HHA also owns and maintains the 10 acres of Hollywood Hill wooded area that is located between English Hill and Country Commons (145th and 168th). The HHA uses a portion of the dues you pay to maintain the 10-acre property and to pay the taxes on this land to keep it open for use by all at no additional charge. (The HHA has paid taxes on the 10-Acres park for over 20 years. This year the cost of the real estate tax is in excess of \$1,000.00).

One current project is work toward the conversion of the gravel quarry next to the Hollywood Hill Elementary School. Our goal is the transfer of the property by King County DOT to Parks and Recreation and conversion of the land to open space (maintained jointly by the HHA and the Saddle club) for sports and recreation.

In closing, I would like to ask you if you feel you have done your share to help make our community a better place for you and your family? What have you done to help your elderly neighbor meet his/her needs? What about helping to pick up the litter that pervades our hill? For our last disappointing clean up event, we had only 8 families participate. Why not join one of the work parties on a spring weekend dedicated to maintaining one of the parks near your home (Gold Creek, 10-Acres)? This spring, when we put the signs up for the Spring Clean Up (usually posted a week or two in advance), stop by our cleanup station at the Hollywood Hill Elementary School exit by the Hollywood Hill Saddle Club and sign up to clean a section of YOUR hill. Grab a garbage bag and do your share! If you leave the work up to the few volunteers we still have - you will surely burn them out.

Our goals are constantly being challenged. We need your participation to succeed. Just doing my share, write to me with your ideas and needs.

Torrey Russell
torrey@russells.net
President
Hollywood Hill Association

... DUES ...

**Please pay your dues for 2003.
If your dues are owed you will
find an envelope along with
this newsletter. Dues are only
\$25.00 Per Year**

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 Torrey Russell: 483-6531
Vice President Susan Cyr: 487-2908
Secretary Jan Hunt: 806-0118
Treasurer Mary Hosizaki VandenBerg, CPA:
402-1216
Directors Karen Mackie: 483-0889
Marsha Martin: 883-8561
Lincoln Potter: 481-8382
Mike Tanksley
Bethann Martin

Website www.hollywoodhillassoc.org
Email: torrey@russells.net

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.

Ten-Acre Park Work Party

Have you been in the Ten Acre greenbelt on NE 145th lately? This past summer the Hollywood Hill Association employed a work crew to trim the encroaching dense vegetation on the trails, which widened them to their original six-foot width. The Association is planning to finish this maintenance project this spring by resurfacing the trails where needed. We will be laying gravel in low/wet spots and spreading chips on rocky and hard spots. We need your help! If you can donate time to help, or money for materials, or if you have access to a front-loading tractor, we would love to hear from you.

The work party is scheduled for Saturday, April 26, 9:00-12:00.

If you can help out in any way, please call Susan Cyr at 487-2908 or any board member.

Proposed “Quarry” Park Progresses

Progress is continuing in turning the old quarry site behind Hollywood Hill Elementary School into a community park. Currently, the Hollywood Hill Association, in partnership with the Hollywood Hill Saddle club, is communicating with the King County Parks Department regarding logistics of the planned development. Meanwhile, Parks is in negotiations with the Transportation Department over transfer options to move the land into the Parks Department. Once a transfer plan is developed, the Association and the Saddle club will be able to assess possible site plans.

If you are interested in serving on a committee that will be giving input on the development of this new park, please call Susan Cyr at 487-2908.

Meet Your Politicians Night $\frac{3}{4}$ HHA Annual Meeting was a Standing Room Only event

Our traditional, pre-election, Hollywood Hill Association "Meet Your Politicians Night" was a runaway, standing-room-only success. Graciously hosted by Willows Lodge, the meeting began with a presentation by Suzy Cyr who described HHA's plan to convert the little-used King County waste pit on 148th Ave NE to a multiple use park.

Jay Inslee, Democratic incumbent US congressman from district 1, then opened what soon became spirited and partisan debate with both politicians and audience struggling over issues that ranged from war in Iraq to school crossings in local neighborhoods.

Republican Kathy Lambert moderated the sometimes heated exchanges between our four State Representative hopefuls, Laura Ruderman, Elizabeth Bookspan, Toby Nixon and Dave Asher.

After the meeting the lobby was full of citizens trying to have a personal moment with their prospective candidates. Everyone was enthused over the opportunity to put politicians and voters together in such a direct and informative venue.

Hopefully, our voters were enthused enough to get out and make that all-important vote on November 5th.

Brightwater Wastewater Treatment Facility

The HHA Board has not taken a position, either for or against, the Brightwater treatment plant and does not expect to do so in the future. As most of you know, the proposed location of the treatment facility is just north of Grace in Snohomish county. Below are two statements, the first prepared by the Sno-King Environmental Alliance (SKEA) opposing Brightwater and the second, in favor of Brightwater, sent to us by King County. These statements may give you additional insight on these divisive issues.

Sno-King Environmental Alliance (SKEA) Position on Brightwater

Sno-King Environmental Alliance (SKEA) - a non-profit corporation - was formed earlier this year in opposition to the Brightwater regional wastewater treatment facility. Our mission supports Hollywood Hills web site declaration "...dedicated to the preservation of the rural atmosphere and lifestyle that we believe is unique to our neighborhood." SKEA and our fast growing neighborhood membership feel that if King County is allowed to site this major, 100 year, regional wastewater treatment facility for political reasons at what we believe is an unsuitable Route 9 site, it will forever change the rural atmosphere and lifestyle of every neighborhood in and around Woodinville.

- Odor - StockPot Soups has demonstrated unsuitable nature of the air shed in our Sammamish Valley. Puget Sound Clean Air Agency has been inundated with complaints this past month due to the strong air inversion. Any amount of odor will be concentrated and smelled from Woodinville High School to Willows run and east to Crystal Lake. With cost overruns, will odor control "best practices" be the first cuts? Odor control requires dangerous, toxic and minimally effective chemicals such as: Hypochlorite (3.8 million gallons / year), hydrogen peroxide, sulfuric acid (45,000 g/yr), potassium permanganate, iron salts and sodium hydroxide (1mil g/yr) which will be transported and stored onsite.
- Sprawl - The arrival of a huge sewage plant will push growth in the area. Every piece of land will be eyed by developers for new subdivisions. Pressure will be exerted to expand the Urban Growth Boundary.
- Traffic - This will be a major 5 year construction project that at its peak will have almost 1000 truck trips per day, with some schedules showing dual shifts to complete the construction.
- Alternatives - SKEA wonders aloud why other alternatives were not included in the DEIS. For example, Point Wells as dropped by a stroke of the executive's pen. What about fixing the existing broken waste management system? 50% of the existing sewage treatment capacity is used on storm water. Separating this would eliminate CSOs, which pollute the Puget Sound; make the existing sewage plants better neighbors. Why is Ron Sims building a 70's style sewage plant to pour effluent into the Puget Sound?
- Sammamish Valley - King County is proposing to construct a Reclaimed Water Production Facility (RWPF) in the Sammamish Valley on part of the Sixty Acres Park in the City of Redmond directly south of NE 116th Street. This is a miniature wastewater treatment facility - minus the solids processing. While reclaimed non-potable water to irrigate 60 acres and Willows golf course is laudable, the only demand is during the "dry" season. What does this mean for the rural character of the valley: Hazardous materials, odor issues, 50' high buildings made to look like a barn?

SKEA respectfully asks for the support of the Hollywood Hill neighborhood residents to help fight this preferred site selection at Route 9, just North of Woodinville. We are a voice against this flawed, political and unscientific selection process. The Woodinville City Council sees problems with the Draft EIS and the process, but needs to hear from it's citizens - express your opinion to the Woodinville city council persons. Currently we are making comments on the DEIS (volunteer to help - the more diverse the source of comments the better) and preparing for litigation of the EIS and permitting process to protect our communities. It's not too late to stop Brightwater. We are soliciting contributions from the local communities to help in this fight. Please send your contributions to SKEA, PO Box 2444 Woodinville, Wa. 98072-2444. Thank you.

King County Position on Brightwater

King County to minimize impacts of Brightwater facilities

King County's proposed Brightwater facilities will protect public health and the environment by treating wastewater from the growing population in south Snohomish County and north King County, including Woodinville, Redmond and nearby unincorporated areas.

Two of the three alternatives for Brightwater include a treatment plant next to State Route 9 at 228th Street Southeast in unincorporated Snohomish County. The preferred alternative of King County Executive Ron Sims includes that site and a pipeline route along Northeast 195th Street in King County.

"We are committed to being a good neighbor and an asset to the region," said Wastewater Treatment Manager Don Theiler. "Although there will be impacts with a project of this size, we also are proposing substantial mitigation to reduce those impacts."

King County will work with residents and organizations, for example, to design a buffer that would be an asset to the community. The large Route 9 site would be surrounded by 59 acres of buffer at least 200 feet deep. Existing wastewater facilities include landscaping, wildlife habitat, public art, trails and sports fields. Brightwater facilities will include some of those features.

Brightwater would contain state-of-the-art odor control equipment to prevent detectable odors from leaving the site. The large site provides more options than the Unocal site in Edmonds for odor control. Air would be "scrubbed" several times before it is released.

King County's wastewater treatment utility--which has been controlling water pollution in the Brightwater service area for 40 years--would do whatever is necessary to protect the Cross Valley aquifer, groundwater, creeks and wetlands. King County also would clean up any existing soil and groundwater contamination found during construction.

"The new plant and pipelines will be designed to meet stringent standards that protect Puget Sound, groundwater, and our lakes and streams," said Christie True, capital improvement program manager.

King County would disinfect wastewater before discharging it into Puget Sound. The Route 9 plant would use ultraviolet lamps or chemical disinfection using sodium hypochlorite, a stronger form of household bleach. Gaseous chemicals, such as chlorine gas, will not be used as a disinfectant at Brightwater.

The longer effluent pipeline from the Route 9 site to Puget Sound also offers more long-term opportunities to provide highly treated wastewater for industrial uses and irrigating parks and golf courses.

During construction, residents would be fairly distant from construction noise, but dust and traffic disruption would affect them and passersby on Route 9 during construction. A railroad spur could be extended to the Route 9 site for bringing in construction material and hauling away excavation spoils.

After construction, noise from the plant would not create a nuisance because of soundproofing of buildings and the deep buffers provided by the large site. Staffing levels at the plant would be low. Work shifts would begin and end before rush-hour traffic near the plant. So traffic created by plant staff and suppliers would not have substantial impact on other traffic.

For more information, call (206) 684-6799, (888) 707-8571 (toll free) or 711 (TTY)--or visit the Brightwater Web site: <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wtd/brightwater/env/>.

WARNING: ALIEN INVADERS FOUND IN LOCAL PARKS

Bridget Simon, King County's Noxious Weed control expert, came to Gold Creek Park to give us a new slant on "Homeland Security". Her mission was to direct a HHA-sponsored squad of hardy souls to pull, slash and dig invasive non-native plants from our midst. We learned that our native plants are being crowded out and that birds, insects and animals are starving as their natural food is replaced by invasive plants in the scarce habitat remaining to them. Bridget and the work party cleared enough holly and ivy from one small area to make a huge pile for the County Parks staff to kindly haul away.

Alien species like English Ivy and Holly, the dreaded Scotch Broom, non-native blackberries, Herb Robert and Tansy Ragwort grow year-round in our mild climate and have no natural predators or pests. They choke, smother and seed with wild abandon giving our local plants no chance thrive. Please help by controlling or eliminating these plants on your property and joining future work parties. The birds, bees and native plants will thank you by thriving, singing and expressing their naturally wondrous fecundity.



Pictures by Lincoln Potter

Fall Pride

A vehicle sporting flying hair and sun glasses and a "Proud to be an American" flag on the bumper roared down the road at least 15 miles an hour over the posted speed limit. In the ditch alongside that road, too close to that speeding flag, was a family struggling to fill black plastic bags with the trash our proud Americans throw from their cars.

"Pride" is earned not simply for being born in the right place at the right time but for something you "do". This country got to be where it is today because it's citizens gave their time, their sweat and even their lives for their communities and their fellow man. But today, Volunteerism is at an all-time low in the United States while bumper stickers and flags are run-away best sellers.

Bryan Mickelson and Jack Wagner are young Americans who earn their pride. They cleaned our Hill for us; eight bulging bags from one section of road! Hats off to all of you out there who consistently put your time and effort into all kinds of community service.



**Bryan Mickelson and Jack Wagner
Winners of the 4-movie passes prize
for best clean up crew this fall.**

Farm Tours 101



Picture by Lincoln Potter

This Fall I took it upon myself, as the new President of HHA, to continue a tradition. For the last few years the HHA has invited members of the press and local government to join us in a tour of the Hill and valley below. For this tour, we entertained a journalist from the Seattle Times. A number of board members gathered with our guest at one of the lunch places at the foot of the hill. Isn't it great we have so many nice choices now? After lunch, we drove down to the Farm LLC where one of their staff showed us around. Have you been to the Farm LLC lately? What an amazing place! They have an incredible program. On the day we went, they had just finished with their umpteenth school bus of kids who had gone through the Corn Maze (Did you see the picture on their website? www.farmllc.com). This farm, located just a few miles from downtown Seattle, always gets people's attention. The fact that the farm is fully booked with people waiting in line to get a chance to grow their own food in the P-patch program is always a surprise to people who haven't been involved with keeping the valley green. After leaving the Farm LLC, we headed off to the Root Connection to show a working farm (now rented from the Farm LLC). What wonderful fresh produce is available from the Root Connection. Have you signed up for your share for the spring season yet (www.farmllc.com)? At Willows Lodge we met with proprietor and neighbor, James Simpkins. What a show place! And to think that we have attracted a world class facility like this to our area (voted one of the World's Top 50 Most Romantic Getaways by Travel and Leisure Magazine). You can find out more about them at (www.willowslodge.com). Once again, Jim was kind enough to donate facilities and staff for our annual meeting, which was extremely well attended (see Meet your Politicians Night). We ended with a quick tour of the Hill's parks and trails. At the end of the day our guest could clearly see what we have worked so hard to protect. Protecting the valley means continuing our rural way of life on the hill. Though these tours take time, the payoff is that we gain the understanding of others, and each of you may continue to look out your window at a tree instead of a neighbor's condo or an office building.

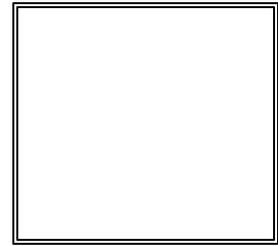
Continued from: Court of Appeals...Page 1

The Court of Appeals' decision is not the last word. As of this writing, PLAN is filing a request for reconsideration of the Court's decision. If reconsideration is unsuccessful, it is likely that PLAN will ask the Washington Supreme Court to step in, once again, to reaffirm the GMA's unequivocal mandate to preserve agricultural lands.

The HHA recognizes the importance of this case to our cause of protecting and enhancing the rural character of our community. If local municipalities are allowed to sidestep the GMA requirements to protect dwindling agricultural resource land, then our efforts, locally and regionally, to manage growth will be left in shambles. This does not bode well for our future. For these reasons, the HHA helps support PLAN in covering the considerable legal fees incurred by such litigation.

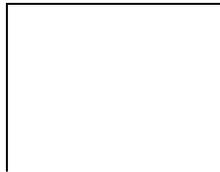
(For more background on the history of the efforts to preserve farmlands in the Sammamish Valley, visit our website: www.hollywoodhillassoc.org) For donations contact Farm/City Alliance, P.O. Box 334, Mercer Island, WA 98040.

**Hollywood Hill Association
PO Box 404
Woodinville, WA 98072**



Address Correction Requested

CHECK YOUR LABEL - - ARE YOUR DUES PAID UP?



Spring Roadside Clean-Up set for Saturday March 8th

Our next roadside clean up will be held in conjunction with the Hollywood Hill Elementary School Pancake breakfast on March 8th.

To participate: Pick a section of road and sign up for that section between 9-11 am by the Hollywood Hill Saddle Club. You will be supplied with plastic garbage bags and safety equipment.

Pick up can be done anytime on the weekend. All trash should be dropped off at the Saddle Club. (Please do not drop off non-roadside trash.)

If you have any questions please contact Mary Hoshizaki VandenBerg @ 425-402-1216.