

August 22, 2019

Nick Holland  
Senior Planner  
City of Lake Forest  
1725 Bothell Way Northeast  
Lake Forest Park, Washington 98155

RE: 2019-PAUE-0001

I am writing in opposition to the placement of a picnic shelter and related utilities at Phingst Animal Acres Park.

In 1989 the residents of King County and Lake Forest Park passed King County Proposition No. 2 approving funds for the purchase of open space. Lake Forest Park applied for inclusion in the bond measure and qualified three properties within the city. Two of those properties, Blue Heron Park and Phingst Animal Acres Park were purchased using Prop 2 money.

Both properties met the required conditions of conserving natural and scenic resources, providing urban green space, protecting streams, protecting critical areas and protecting fish and wildlife habitat. The understanding was, when using these public funds, the purchased properties would be “passive” parks and remain undeveloped and in their natural state, thereby retaining the open space classification. (*RCW 84.34.020 (1) Open Space definition.*)

Trails or pathways to provide public access, fences to delineate boundaries are allowed. Permanent structures, playgrounds, swing sets, ball fields are not allowed so that the “natural state” of the open space will be retained. Over the years the additions of the Peruvian Admiral’s bust, the Garden Club’s otters and even the vegetable gardens has violated the conditions required to qualify when using the Open Space Bond money.

To construct and place the proposed picnic shelter in the park goes against the requirement to retain the “natural state” of the park, agreed to, when the city used the open space bond funds to purchase the property. **The shelter must not be built in Phingst Animal Acres Park.**

At the time of purchase there was a barn on the Animal Acres site. Remodeling the barn to become a shelter was discussed and the City determined the barn would be removed. This met with the “retaining the park’s natural state” and the no development requirement.

In the Public Notice (dated August 15, 2019) the “agency is requesting an exception from critical area regulations under LFPMC 16.16.026.” LFPMC 16.16.026 (section C1) allows the hearing examiner to consider practical alternatives for this development. There are two alternatives, neither of which would be in violation of the purchase conditions for the parks. These are Horizon View Park which has playground equipment on site and would be utilized by a great number of city residents. The other alternative is the new (yet to be named ) park at 17450 37<sup>th</sup> Ave. NE which abuts Animal Acres. Neither location would be constrained by Open Space Bond requirements and neither location would add impermeable surfaces to the already critical areas of Phingst Animal Acres Park.

Finally, whoever is suggesting Animal Acres Park should not be a passive park, but instead facilitate a shelter for picnicking, is inviting litter, repair, cooking, drinking alcohol and added maintenance and police expenses to the parks budget. Animal Acres was never purchased for such use and to violate the passive conditions, initially set forth, would ignore the law and responsible stewardship.

Sincerely,  
Ned Lawson

Cc: Mayor Jeff Johnson  
Frank Zenk  
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

3557 NE 180<sup>th</sup> Street, Lake Forest Park, WA 98155    206 364 – 3075    alinedlaw@aol.com