

#	Date Received	Subject	Citizen/ Group	Citizen Comments on Little Squalicum Park Master Plan Updated October 19, 2009	Status
1	03/16/09	Police	Edwina Norton	I am surprised and delighted to learn that there is a plan for this park! Will the city be able to maintain (and police) the area? As you may recall, the latter was a challenge last year. I don't know how much I will be able to work on this, but I would like to be kept informed, and I will try to attend the first meeting to learn more.	Gina Austin responded via email on 03/17/09. Gina will be preparing written meeting summaries and posting them on the web. City police will play a bigger role once the property is annexed. Annexation will be needed for utilities if a public restroom is constructed. This topic can be discussed further at the public meetings.
2	07/23/09	Park Design	David L. Zeretzke, Citizen	<p>Dear Gina,</p> <p>Thanks for the invitation to send you an email about the future of Little Squalicum. My comments:</p> <p>1 - The theme from last night's first public meeting was clear - Little Squalicum should be re-developed for passive recreation where indiginous flora esp. and wildlife habitat are the focus. It is the last potentially natural setting available on Bellingham Bay - enhance its unique topography to return it to a natural refuge urban users can access on foot on ADA trails.</p> <p>2 - Development should be limited with man-made structures/improvements only to enhance a natural experience of the user and to respect the domain of the animals including not only fish and mammals but birds, insects, amphibians, bats, etc.</p> <p>3 - The beach is a very dynamic one - let it be so using only stone or wood to allow access for humans. (I liked the large 'stepping-stone' concept for crossing the creek outfall -- in England I have crossed large creeks and even small rivers running 3-4 ft. deep using very large flat boulders spaced 2 ft apart.)</p> <p>4 - Two bathrooms should be installed - one up by the parking lot and one somewhere down closer to the beach -- no one objected to a 200-300 ft walk.</p> <p>5 - Beach fires and the human culture such fires encourage are inappropriate to the park's theme, to lower operation costs for cleanup and to the protection of the park and safety of its neighbors. Let folks picnic as they will and leave the barbeque at home or at other parks.</p> <p>Thanks again but also ask your moderator to consider a public process where time limits are respected. You are welcome t share this message with him. How about a break after one hour? He could have kept the focus more on the large theme or objectives for the park and</p>	<p>Gina Austin responded via email 07/23/09:</p> <p>Thank you for the comments, Dave.</p> <p>It is definitely an art to balance public comment and stay focused. The first public meeting always seems to be a venting session, which also serves as a therapeutic time for people to get everything off their chest. I can assure you that the next meeting will be more focused and we will be able to accomplish a lot more.</p> <p>I am passing these comments along to our consultants. All comments are also posted to our web site.</p>

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3	07/15/09	Little Squalicum Park	Erin Libby	<p>Dear Mayor Pike, I have read the plan to make a plan for Little Squalicom Park with a long sigh, maybe a groan. I have been visiting the park frequently almost since opening day. I love this park. I have taken numerous photos, carried home twisted pieces of water logged bramble, and have started painting oil studies of aspects. may I describe what is best? Not only best, but not duplicated anywhere in the near city area is evidence of nature at work. I came every day one cold spring. Each day the tide had taken away a tree piece, large boulders, exchanged grey stones for purple and left or did not leave signs of the turmoil in the deeper sea: a dead seagull, a fish not yet discovered by scavengers, seashells with inhabitants or seashells cracked open by the birds. I was able to see power of moving water and how the winds had blown. I prefer the walk along the beach, but spent eons tossing a stick on the green sward for my dogs. needless to say they are off leash. I have watched other pets plunge into the waves and watched their owners enjoy the experience. Mine are not swimmers. Dogs don't swim with their leashes on. I usually clean up after two or three others while I have my plastic baggie in hand. I have gathered rubble that spilled out from the overfull garbage can. I am certain I am not the only proud partial owner of this public</p>	<p>Gina Austin responded via email on 07/16/09: Erin, Thank you for the email. I enjoyed reading it. You offer a wonderful perspective of how enjoyable the beach area is. I hope that you can attend the public meeting on July 22. The beach, as a natural area, is wonderful. As it is now, the beach is managed by the Port of Bellingham and there are no plans for any alterations of the beach as a result of the Little Squalicum Master Plan. The only tentative plan would be to remove the concrete culvert near the trail near the Tilbury Pier and to possible move the trail back away from the beach There is also a study that is underway of the beach area. The Environmental Resources Division of Public Works is working with the Port of Bellingham through a grant from the Washington State Department of Ecology. They are collaborating on a habitat/restoration study for the beach. For more information, please feel free to contact Renee LaCroix at 778-7900 If you would like to discuss further, please feel free to give me a call.</p>

				<p>space. If the beach is cleaned of the twisted trees with their roots upturned and the logs that come and go, It will lose most of the thrilling wildness, which is not truly wild. I have noted the little "hutches" that invisible persons have built. There have been sad looking trucks with scruffy young people and signs that fires have been built among the stones. That was more true six years ago than it is now. I have met fellow dog owners I meet (poodle owners) who are anything but scruffy. We have become familiar with each other. And, our brief chats and the bouncing happy dogs tie us to each other and to the beach. Whatever you decide on, I fear you(the assigned designers) will move toward a more manicured and less alive park. Yes, there are those who might disdain the haphazard way of the sea and sand. In walking you have to step carefully. I climbed around and about the rocky edge on the grassy knoll side one day when the tide was way out. It was no more a challenge than doing the same at Boulevard Park. I mention this because some one is always trying to make "things" safe. In sum, just, please help the designers to move slowly, cautiously, and with respect for a beautiful spot not matched by any other space we have. The delightful park we have bang on the seashore is Marine Park. Please don't try to turn Sqawllly into a duplicate.</p> <p>respectfully,</p> <p>erin libby</p>	
4	9/17/09	Trail Loop at Beach	Sue Kenney	<p>Hi there Gina, sorry I haven't made it to any of the public hearings on the park. I have been following the mailings though and am impressed with the plan. Sue Taylor has been keeping me in the loop on the mailings. I am glad you are keeping the visibility corridors and still having the trail up to the BTC parking lot as well as the access to Eldridge. Moving the stream like that is amazing and to have it come out at a different place where it will join the Bay. I was wondering about the access to the beach that is there</p>	<p>Response from Gina Austin via email: 09/18/09 Thank you for the comments.</p> <p>At the master planning level, we are including everyone's comments and desires to not lose the trail loop. With the final development, there is no plan to go in and physically remove the trail.</p> <p>With any development that occurs, we will have to iron out all the details in the engineering and design phase.</p>

				<p>at the bottom of the "u" now and if that will still be available. We walk down there a lot and would like to see that trail down at the bottom (where the tree is and the garbage can) still be there to take us onto the beach so our dogs can go directly out to the beach. I had heard that that trail might be eliminated in the process. I tried to go to the online sources to look at a more detailed map but couldn't find one to clarify that area. So anyway, just thought I would add my two cents worth. Thanks, and keep up the good work. cheers, sue</p>	<p>As the old creek channel is filled in and tree clearing occurs, that area should open up quite a bit. Visibility of the beach should be greatly improved.</p> <p>The trail on the beach is on Port and Railroad property. In the master plan, the plan is to leave the area alone since we do not have ownership of it. The exception being, of course, to remove the existing culvert and fill in the existing creek channel, which would require both the Port's and the Railroad's approval.</p> <p>In a discussion that occurred at the September 16 public meeting with Brian Williams from Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife and Renee LaCroix from Public Works, the natural process at the beach could soften up the shoreline in this area and actually make the beach more accessible.</p> <p>For the final master plan, we will show the existing trail loop at the beach as "existing."</p> <p>The draft plan concepts are attached to this email.</p>
5	9/21/09	Off-Leash Dogs	Sara Purviance	<p>Dear Gina Austin, I am a member of Grateful Dogs and I am requesting that an off leash area for dogs be included in the Little Squalicum Final Park Plan. I live on the north side of town near the airport. We have no nearby parks and I have to drive 4-6 miles to get to an off leash area. Once the pollution problem is solved Little Squalicum will be a wonderful place for an off leash dog area since the beach is too rocky for a family type beach. Grateful Dog members schedule regular clean-up days at Little Squalicum already. Please consider this request. Thank you. Sara Purviance</p>	<p>Response by Gina Austin via email on 09/21/09: Thank you for the email. I will add this to the list of public comments and publish it to our website. I will also forward this comment to our Design & Development Manager and Parks Director. You may also want to provide comments in person at the Park Board meeting on October 14, 2009. As a side note, an off-leash dog area is planned for Squalicum Creek Park.</p>
6	9/21/09	Off-Leash Dogs	Tracey Williams Bisconer	<p>Dear Gina, I would like to encourage you to include an area for dogs to be off-leash at the new little Squalicum Park next to the Bellingham Technical Center. Truly good and responsible dog owners will appreciate another place in north Bellingham to let their dogs run and will pick up dog poo and educate other dog owners about the importance of trail maintenance for the health of our fair city. thank you. Yours truly, Tracey Williams Bisconer</p>	<p>Response by Gina Austin via email on 09/21/09: Thank you for your input. I received an email from Sarah from the Grateful Dogs this morning. Here is the response that I provided to her as well: I will add this to the list of public comments and publish it to our website. I will also forward this comment to our Design & Development Manager and Parks Director. You may also want to provide comments in person at the Park Board meeting on October 14, 2009. As a side note, an off-leash dog area is planned for Squalicum Creek Park.</p>

7	09/21/09	Off-Leash Dogs	Carol Bull	<p>Gina, Writing to encourage you to build into the plans an area for dogs to be off-leash. There are very few places where those of us with well-trained, well-socialized dogs can interact freely. Fenced areas attract ill-mannered dogs & people who just turn their dogs loose and pay very little attention to what they are doing. NOT a place for me and my dogs. I support unfenced open areas for play & socialization. I pick up after my dogs EVERY time. Carol & Ruh (Anatolian Shepherd) & Purple (toy rat terrier)</p>	<p>Response by Gina Austin via email 09/21/09: Thank you, Carol. Here is a response that I provided earlier today to comments I received from the Grateful Dogs group: I will add this to the list of public comments and publish it to our website. I will also forward this comment to our Design & Development Manager and Parks Director. You may also want to provide comments in person at the Park Board meeting on October 14, 2009. As a side note, an off-leash dog area is planned for Squalicum Creek Park. Thank you for taking the time to provide your input.</p>
8	09/24/09	Off-Leash Dogs	Kelly Pederson	<p>Greetings, Gina: I'd like for you to register my request to include off-leash space in the new park's final plan. We've been working on this for several years and really look forward to a fun, dry space on this end of town. I believe that off-leash parks lead to better communities because people with a common interest gather and connect. This leads to dog space work parties, the encouragement of responsible dog ownership/guardianship, business connections, consumer sharing and generally healthier communities because of the connections made by individuals. Thank you for your consideration and the work that you do, Kelly Pederson</p>	<p>Response by Gina Austin via email on 09/24/09: Thank you for taking the time to send this comment. I will add this to the public comment sheet. Public comments are posted to the website as well. The web address is: http://www.cob.org/government/departments/parks/projects/little-squalicum-park-master-plan.aspx I thought I would take this opportunity to pass this additional information onto you: There is a fenced dog off-leash area planned for Squalicum Creek Park (former Pacific Concrete site, along Squalicum Way).</p>
9	09/28/09	Off-Leash Dogs	Jennifer Brighton	<p>Dear Gina, I am a former backyard habitat mentor and have volunteered on Greenways planting projects and invasive plant and weed removal in many areas around town. I am now an active participant, poop pickup volunteer and member in the Grateful Dogs Off Leash Association. I would like to encourage the city to include an off-leash area for dogs at Little Squalicum Park/Beach. I am a firm believer that well-balanced, mannered dogs need a place to run and play and especially in and around water. I am a Bellingham native and over the past 10-15 years have seen many restrictions put on dogs. It saddens me. Two or three years ago, while I was walking on Squalicum Beach with my dog, I encountered a woman with a dog who had lived in the Eldridge neighborhood for 20+ years. She was dismayed at the new leash rules that had been put in place when the Port and the</p>	<p>Response by Gina Austin via email on 09/28/09: Thank you for the email, Jennifer. I will include your comment on the Little Squalicum Website and forward to our Director and Design Development Manager. The Port of Bellingham owns and manages the beach. The City Municipal Code (Ordinance 9044) authorizes the Director of Parks and Recreation to designate off-leash dog areas. Currently, Little Squalicum Park Trails are off-leash. There is also an off-leash dog park planned for Squalicum Creek Park on Squalicum Way (old Pacific Concrete site). The final public meeting for the Little Squalicum Park Master Plan is on November 12 at 7pm at 625 Halleck Street.</p>

				<p>City were discussing ownership of the beach areas. She said she and many of her neighbors who own dogs and use the beach daily, year-round, were the ones who most often picked up garbage, monitored beach activities, reported out-of-hand parties and vagrants. She had recently received a 2nd citation and a hefty fine for having her dog off leash. She was very resentful that as a good steward of the beach area and the neighborhood in general, she was being punished. Especially since she was a long-time Eldridge resident. I share this story as an illustration that there are many of us who are very responsible dog owners that are hurt by more and more restrictions on local off-leash use with our dogs. We seem to be losing ground, although the dog population increases as the human population increases. I believe that the more legal off-leash areas there are, the less dog owners will feel the need to buck the rules and let their dogs run off-leash otherwise.</p> <p>I realize there are some that feel dogs do not belong on shorelines. However, from my experience at Little Squalicum Beach and the beach off Locust Avenue, humans have much more of an impact. I have come across broken bottles, food and garbage, burned driftwood/rocks, smoldering fires, discarded clothing, and worst of all – human waste. Over the summer I and sometimes a friend have picked up and lugged out pounds of garbage from both these beaches.</p> <p>As a Grateful Dogs member, I strive to educate other dog owners to be respectful of non-dog owners. It would be much appreciated if the city could reciprocate and show us it supports our stewardship efforts by setting aside a place for our canine friends to frolic freely in Little Squalicum Park.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration. Jennifer Brighton 108 Crestline Drive Bellingham, WA 98229 360-647-2896</p>	
10	9/28/09	Off-Leash Dogs	Christine Kendall	<p>Gina, Thank you for sending this schedule of meetings, I have not been able to attend any so far because of conflicts with my schedule, but hope to attend in the future. I am concerned that consideration is being given to eliminating the Squalicum Beach trail as an off leash area. I have lived near this trail since 1994 and regularly have walked my dogs and found other dog</p>	<p>Response by Gina Austin via email on 09/29/09: Christine, I will include your comment on the Little Squalicum Website and forward to our Director and Design Development Manager. The City Municipal Code (Ordinance 9044) authorizes the Director of Parks and Recreation to designate off-leash dog areas.</p>

				owners to be considerate, and considering high usage by those who enjoy walking with their dogs the majority are responsible about cleaning up after their pets. Whom should I contact to encourage maintaining this as one of the few places on the north end of town where we can walk our pets off-leash? Christine Kendall	You may forward comments to me or contact our Park Director. You may also want to provide comments at the public meeting, Park Board meeting, or City Council.
11	9/30/09	General	Stacey Williams	Received on a public comment card from the Birchwood Neighborhood meeting: I'm so glad to have this Park!! 1. Loop trail is essential 2. Leave trees on the beach 3. Restrooms to be located on Mt. Baker Plywood site 4. I would like to see the old cement plant dock as part of the Park. I envision something like the Taylor Street Dock. 5. Perhaps an off-leash area in Mt. Baker Plywood entrance. 6. I like the natural plan for the Park.	
12	10/02/09	Off-Leash Dogs	Amy Armitage	Please include an off leash area for dogs in the Little Squalicum Final Park Plan. Thanks. Sincerely, Amy Armitage, Member of Grateful Dogs	
13	10/09/09	Off-Leash Dogs	Dorothy Gonsalves and IMAN	Please include a DOLA for Little Squalicum Beach Park in your current plans. It is much needed in that part of the city of Bellingham! It will be very difficult to include a DOLA at a later date. It needs to be included in the plan NOW! Thank you from me and my dog!	
14	10/09/09	Off-Leash Dogs	Sheila Nickerson	Please include a dog off-leash area for Little Squalicum Beach Park. We have need for many more such areas as the population (of dogs and people) grows, particularly as a number of such existing areas have been curtailed. Please include the designation NOW and avoid a drawn-out struggle to meet the needs of people with canine companions. Sheila Nickerson 242 Bayside Rd. Bellingham, WA 98225 sheilanickerson@yahoo.com	
15	10/10/09	Off-Leash Dogs	Tracey Williams Bisconer	Dear Ms. Austin, I am writing to request a "dog off-leash area" be designed in the Little Squalicum Park project planning. Yours truly, Tracey Williams Bisconer 2566 Aldergrove Road Ferndale, WA 98248	

				360-380-1551	
16	10/10/09	Off-Leash Dogs	Amy Armitage	Bellingham NEEDS as much Dog Off Leash Area as it can get. Please see that a DOLA is included in the Little Squalicum Beach Park Plan. Thanks, Amy Armitage	
17	10/11/09	Off-Leash Dogs	Cindy Campen	<p>Hello,</p> <p>My name is Cindy Campen and I live in Bellingham on Elizabeth Street two blocks north of Illinois Street.</p> <p>I am writing to voice my support for the inclusion of a substantial area for dog off leash activity at the new Little Squalicum Park. I have a dog named Cooper who is now four years old. He is a wonderful friendly dog who behaves really well with people of all ages and with other dogs. I attribute much of his good temperament to the wonderful off leash parks available for us to enjoy here in Bellingham. Through interaction with other dogs off leash, and with people of all ages walking, jogging, biking, playing, my dog Cooper has become a very well socialized canine.</p> <p>The other great benefit to the dog off leash areas are the exercise opportunities they provide to both dogs and people.</p> <p>One more great benefit dog off leash areas provide to the community are opportunities for people with disabilities to exercise their dogs. Off leash areas give folks with limited mobility spaces to let their dogs romp around and socialize without having to be constricted by a leash.</p> <p>I love living in Bellingham and one of the reasons I love it so much is because there are beautiful places for my dog and I to walk and hike and socialize with others in the community. It's healthy for us and for others and makes Bellingham the very special place it is.</p> <p>I strongly support an off leash area at the new Little Squalicum Park.</p> <p>Thank you for considering this.</p> <p>Cindy Campen 3014 Elizabeth Street Bellingham, WA 98225</p>	
18	10/14/09	Off-Leash Dogs	Helen Rondestvedt	Dear Gina and Paul, Please make sure that there will be a designated Dog Off Leash Area (DOLA) in the final plan for little Squalicum Beach Park. We need to have some written language in the final Proposal to assure this--not just a verbal promise. Our Grateful Dogs group really does appreciate your recognizing our needs. Good people and their good dogs, acting	

				responsibly, represent wholesome family values which will enhance the reputation of the park. Thanks for listening to us. Sincerely, Helen Rondestvedt goldensnitch2@comcast.net	
19	10/14/09	Off-Leash Dogs	Chris Sutton & Bill Hanes	<p>Gina & Paul: I wanted to email you to make my plea for leaving Little Squalicum at an DOLA (dog off leash area) and especially for getting language in the final planning document that commits to this area remaining an off leash area. This park has been off leash for many years (the 18 years I've lived in the neighborhood); is the only park that is off leash on this end of town; is heavily used by the neighborhood and community. I appreciate the efforts to improve this park but please don't have "improve" mean change the culture in the park. It has always been a wooded area where people can take a nice walk with their dogs, friends, children. It is meant to continue to be a wooded area within the city - please don't change it too much - and please leave it an off leash area. Chris Sutton & Bill Hanes 3112 Laurelwood Bellingham, WA 98225</p>	
20	10/18/09	Off-Leash Dogs	Mike Kimmich	<p>Hi Gina; I would like to strongly endorse the development of a large off leash dog area in little Squalicum Park. Inclusion of a off leash dog park area, in the new park plan, is a good idea because it will spread out the ever increasing dog population to another area, there by lessening the impact on all existing dog parks. All one has to do is look at existing dog parks with the high level of use, and resultant degradation of the parks to realize that there is not enough dog parks to take care of current use, let alone the projected increase of dog owners. Just for the record, I currently do not own any dogs, and will probably not take on the responsibility of dog ownership in the foreseeable future. I do feel that it is extremely important to provide areas for dogs to become properly socialized, with both other dogs and non owner humans. This socialization allows dogs and their owners to become better citizens and neighbors. Mike Kimmich 2326 Henry St. Bellingham, Wa. 98225 Ph 360-734-5347</p>	