From: Ellis Cohen

To: <u>Planning Commission</u>; <u>Council</u>; <u>Parks & Rec Commission</u>

**Subject:** Proposed New Parks Zone

**Date:** Monday, January 29, 2024 10:54:40 PM

I have lived on Mercer Island for 20 years and recognize that the Island's parks make a significant contribution to the excellent quality of life here.

I understand that a new Parks Zone is being developed to shape and control how park land can be used. It is very important that the existing parks be protected -- in particular, by

- disallowing parking structures in our parks
- restricting park land to recreational uses and necessary facilities -- not, e.g., for government offices
- disallowing a future re-zone of a park without a community vote

I ask that you support these steps to protect our parks on Mercer Island.

Thank you.

Ellis Cohen