

From: docrobinson@comcast.net
To: [Planning Commission](#)
Cc: [Jessi Bon](#)
Subject: Parks Zone
Date: Monday, January 29, 2024 5:32:09 PM
Attachments: [Planning Commissioners.docx](#)

Dear Planning Commissioners

I write to advocate for the essential preservation and mindful development of Mercer Island's parks, which are crucial for preserving and enhancing our community's quality of life. Recognizing the pivotal role our parks play, both in enriching our environment and in sustaining our quality of life, I propose the following key measures to protect and sustain these areas:

- 1. Recreational Use of Parkland:** Our parks must be dedicated solely to recreation, not repurposed for governmental offices.
- 2. Limit Building Heights:** We must urgently review and reduce the proposed height limits for structures within park areas while grandfathering existing non-conforming structures.
- 3. No Increase in Impervious Surfaces:** To maintain ecological integrity, we should ensure no net increase in impervious surfaces in our parks.
- 4. Strategic Transit Stop Placement:** Transit stops must be restricted to designated right-of-ways to minimize parkland impact.
- 5. Ban Parking Structures:** The construction of any parking facilities, above or below ground, within parks should be strictly prohibited.
- 6. Community-Driven Re-zoning Decisions:** Proposals to re-zone park areas must be subject to a community vote, ensuring public involvement in these significant decisions.

Implementing a dedicated park zone is a proactive approach to preserve the unique character of Mercer Island life and continue our high-quality lifestyle. This initiative should prevent non-recreational development and increase the social capital of our community.

Your consideration of these suggestions is highly appreciated. I eagerly anticipate our community's progressive steps towards responsible park stewardship, ensuring our parks remain a source of pride and joy for all Mercer Islanders.

Sincerely,

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Gary D. Robinson

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