

**From:** [Sue Stewart](#)  
**To:** [Council](#); [Parks & Rec Commission](#); [Planning Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Parks Zone comment  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 31, 2024 5:53:11 PM

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Dear Commissioners and City Council members,

First, congratulations for removing residential zoning from our parks! I doubt many islanders realize most island parks are zoned for housing!

The **Park Zone** discussions with Parks and Planning Commissions were important to understand since the park uses seem outlined to be broad based and can create concern for some park activists.

In last week's **Mercer Island Reporter** Mayor Nice stated he wants a new town hall to be in the city center. With the expansive amount of land available and utilized at the current Town Hall location – it is difficult to imagine where a new Town Hall in the town center could be built to satisfy all needs. During the Planning Commission meeting CPD Director, Jeff Thomas said it would likely not be on Mercerdale Park.

**A couple points:**

The Town Center is known to be vulnerable to earthquake damage due to soils composition there.

Citizens have been sensitive to building on parkland – so if parks are being altered a vote of the public should be required.

When housing was considered for Upper Luther Burbank Park the city realized any non-park use of this former county park property would require new land of equal value and park use on Mercer Island. The city at that time thought new park land could be identified off island in King County – but that is not the case.

Sincerely,  
Sue Stewart