

## March 18, 2024 – April 9, 2024 – Bridle Trails

I wholeheartedly support this project and the necessary Land Reclassification to enable the EEC to move forward.

Bridle Trails Park has become a vibrant, popular park in the middle of the most densely populated county in our state. Equestrians and walkers, young and old, use the trails and facilities in this oasis throughout the year. Thanks to the dedicated work of members of the BTPF, with support from the park rangers, ecological tours and classes have been conducted for folks of all ages - youth - seniors - several times each year. To have an indoor facility to continue and even expand this educational work will be an asset to WA State Parks and the community.

My wife led the original effort to keep Bridle Trails State Park open. As a lifelong equestrian and passionate advocate for Bridle Trails State Park, I know she would also endorse this project. She dedicated the last 20 years of her life to supporting this park, building the financial foundation to sustain the park's operation, and worked tirelessly to educate all users of Bridle Trails how to share the park safely - equestrian and walkers alike.

The Bridle Trails Park Foundation and WA State Parks forged a partnership in 2002 to "protect, maintain, and enhance" the park - a partnership built on trust and a common vision of what this park can add to the enjoyment and education of all Washingtonians. This partnership continues to be a resounding success for everyone.

I urge the Commission to once again have the foresight and support for this project.<sup>1</sup>

I reviewed the proposed project and think it is an excellent idea.<sup>2</sup>

This sounds like a great project, as a horse owner I'm all in favor of it. It would be nice if there was a park style restroom.<sup>3</sup>

I reviewed the information online regarding the proposed classroom and ranger office at the Bridle Trails Park. I would recommend there is some additional study and resources put towards creating a safe parking/driving situation. Often times there are cars parked in the road on 116th, on both sides and in the ditches. This creates an unsafe situation for pedestrians, horses and drivers. Secondly, the cars that park in the ditches are causing issues for the surrounding land as they were not intended for parking. I'm assuming that adding classroom area will require buses to transport students, there needs to be a safe area for busses to be able to turn left into and out of the park. As well there should be consideration for how emergency vehicles (fire and aid) could reach this new classroom area in case of emergency.<sup>4</sup>

We have lived in this neighborhood for over 35 years, and the establishment of the Bridle Trails Foundation has been one of the best things to happen for activating the neighborhood for artistic and educational purposes (mushroom walks, plant I.D.) and community building with barbecues and bluegrass and egg hunts. Not everyone has a horse.

We think the development of a multi-use building and ranger office would be an excellent addition to the park function, and to the Ranger's ability to be available to visitors, and maybe even a deterrent to bad behavior around the park. Thank you for considering the plan; I know there has been a lot of thought put into it, and to us, the size and the inclusion of restrooms seems right.<sup>5</sup>

As one of the founding members of the BTPF, I wholeheartedly support this project and the necessary Land Reclassification to enable the EEC to move forward.

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My husband and I do not agree with this plan to change the park's land classification to a recreation area. The park was designed solely for equestrian use and for people to enjoy the natural state of the park. We and many others feel that the proposed change will adversely impact what this park was originally designed for now and for generations to come. We are concerned that by making these proposed changes will in turn create a chain reaction that will continue to expand the development of more related facilities such as indoor fitness or swimming pools, etc. We do not need another mixed use park like MaryMoor. If this proposed change is approved then the results will last forever. Therefore ,we adamantly disagree with this proposal.Let's keep the park the way it was originally designed for.<sup>7</sup>

A terrific idea and a plan that seems just right. How will it be payed for, maybe some more donations??<sup>8</sup>

I strongly support development of classroom in the Bridle Trails park. I believe it will allow residents and neighboring schools to take advantage of this beautiful setting and offer outdoors activities / educational opportunities. <sup>9</sup>

As a long time owner of property bordering the park boundry and former avid horseman, I 1001% want to see this happen.<sup>10</sup>