



LARRY PHILLIPS
Metropolitan King County Council
District Four

January 26, 2007

To Whom It May Concern:

I am excited to support the creation of Ballard's newest park, Ballard Corners Park, on two lots located on the west side of 17th Avenue NW between NW 62nd and 63rd streets.

Outside of downtown Seattle, the Ballard neighborhood has the smallest amount of open and green space in Seattle. Population density is increasing in Ballard, with large numbers of condominiums and townhouses replacing single family homes. Currently, no neighborhood park exists in the arterial quadrant bounded by NW Market and 65th Streets and 15th and 20th Avenues NW. Ballard Corners Park is a rare opportunity to create a vibrant community gathering space where children can play, native plants can grow, and people of all ages can contemplate and enjoy nature.

The conceptual plan for Ballard Corners Park includes a demonstration project for improving the water quality in Puget Sound by filtering stormwater in a "rain garden," and replenishing groundwater. A children's climbing structure will be part of the park, as well as public art that will reflect the unique history of the site as a former corner grocery store. As the site is surrounded on three sides by streets and sidewalks, visibility and easy access will help keep the park clean and safe.

There is strong community support for Ballard Corners Park; four generations of Ballard residents, area renters and home owners, and local institutions support the plan. I have been pleased to support Ballard Corners Park with King County funding, and urge your contribution toward this exciting project.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Larry Phillips, Councilmember
Metropolitan King County Council, District Four

N:\D4 Staff\Erika\Drafts\letters\2007\CommGroups\ballardcornerspark_support.doc

516 Third Ave, Room 1200, Seattle, WA 98104-3272
(206) 296-1004 TTY/TDD (206) 296-1024 FAX (206) 296-0370
e-mail: larry.phillips@metrokc.gov