

**NO CHANGE TO PARK**



**ONE BLADE OF GRASS  
OVERTURNED IS TOO MUCH**

**WHAT PART OF NO  
DESIGN DO YOU NOT  
UNDERSTAND?**

Grass was the number one request in surveys and community meetings when designing the Lafayette Playground (just 3 blocks from California Place Park). The Lafayette Playground Committee spent over \$300,000 dollars on the first phase of the project that was completed last year and a large portion of the money went to make sure our children have grass to play on. I am six-year member of the Lafayette Playground committee and have lived in the North Admiral community for 14 years. I have two children and live one block from California Place Park. I support "NO CHANGE TO CALIFORNIA PLACE PARK" for many reasons.

1. **SAFETY** – California Place Park is on a busy street. Is this a safe place to encourage small children to play?

2. **NEED** – Do we really need this change? There are several play areas within 3 blocks of the California Place Park location. West Seattle also has the greatest play area of all. Alki Beach. (My kids, 8 and 11 years old, still love to play there)

3. **COMMUNITY** – Will this serve the community? As a member of Lafayette's Playground committee I understand how much money these projects cost and I feel the money would better serve the community if it were used for street lights, curbs with proper drainage and sidewalks. There are blocks that need more light and many basements flood every year because the water from Ferry Ave SW (one block from the proposed site) has no place to go but down driveways and into basements. Is there a better way to serve the community?

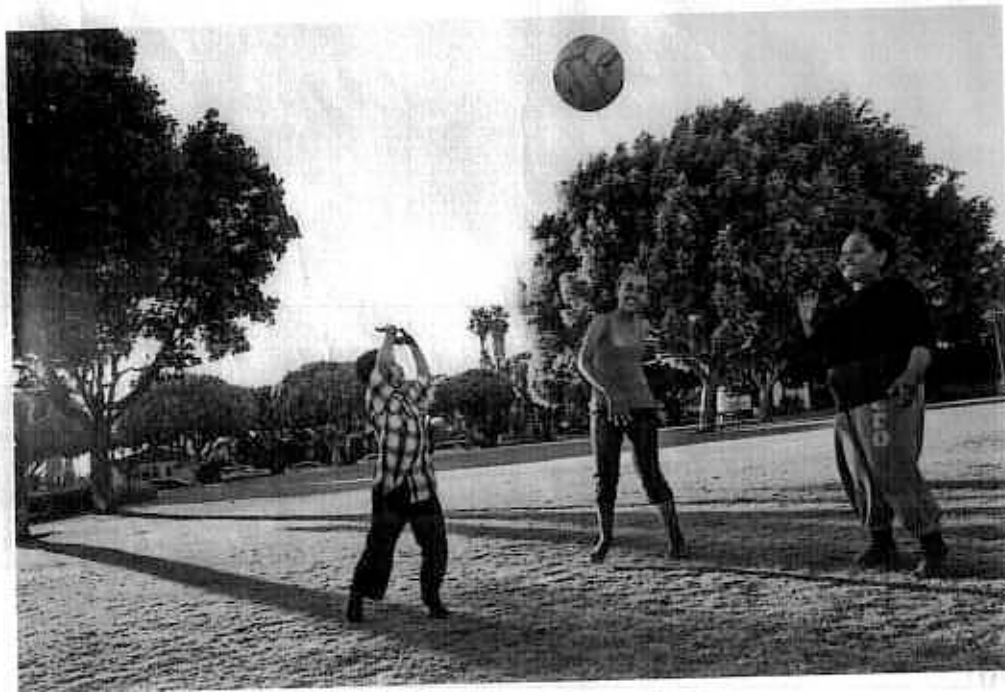
4. **ENVIRONMENT** – The more green spaces we keep in the city the better.

Please "NO CHANGE TO PARK". Keep the beautiful green space as is. There are many safe play areas for children within walking distance and there are many ways that money could better serve the North Admiral community.



# Slender in the Grass

Parks are for more than play. A new study links green spaces to healthier bodies—and minds



### GREENER MEANS LEANER

*Verdant spaces like this former asphalt lot in Santa Monica, Calif., have health benefits regardless of your age*  
**For kids** Safe places to play mean less weight gain and even a decrease in ADHD symptoms  
**For adults** Green space has been linked to longer life for seniors, lower body mass and reduced stress

hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). In one study, simply reading outside in a green setting improved kids' symptoms.

Exposure to grassy areas has also been linked to less stress and a lower body mass index among adults. And an analysis of 3,000 Tokyo residents associated walkable green spaces with greater longevity among senior citizens.

Glass cautions that most studies don't necessarily prove a causal link between greenness and health, but they're nonetheless helping spur action. In September the U.S. House of Representatives approved the delightfully named No Child Left Inside Act to encourage public initiatives aimed at exposing kids to the outdoors.

Finding green space is, of course, not always easy, and you may have to work a bit to get your family a little grass and trees. If you live in a suburb or a city with good parks, take advantage of what's there. Your children in particular will love it—and their bodies and minds will thank you. —WITH REPORTING BY SHAHREEN ABEDIN



Sanjay Gupta's **Fit Nation** series airs on **House Call** on CNN, Saturdays and Sundays at 8:30 a.m. E.T.

THERE'S ONE PLACE MY YOUNG daughters love so much that we have to spell out the word in their presence, lest they go berserk: the *p-a-r-k*. We regularly use a trip to the park as a bribe, and while that may not be the best parenting technique, in this case it comes with incredible rewards.

A new study found that inner-city kids living in neighborhoods with more green space gained about 13% less weight over a two-year period than kids living amid more concrete and fewer trees. Such findings tell a powerful story. The obesity epidemic began in the 1980s, and many people attribute it to increased portion sizes and inactivity, but that can't be everything. Big Macs and TVs have been with us for a long time. "Most experts agree that the changes were

related to something in the environment," says social epidemiologist Thomas Glass of the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. That something could be a shrinking of the green.

The new research, published in the *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, isn't the first to associate greenery with better health, but it does get us closer to identifying what works and why. At its most straightforward, a green neighborhood simply means more places for kids to play—which is vital since time spent outdoors is one of the strongest correlates of children's activity levels. But green space is good for the mind too; research by environmental psychologists has shown that it has cognitive benefits for children with attention-deficit/

To: West Seattle Herald Op-ed, Re: CALIFORNIA PLACE PARK att. Ken Robinson

### How Many WRONGS does it take to Make A RIGHT?

#### WRONG #1 Department Mottos

From Mayor Nickels "This Project will build a Stronger Community and Healthy Families, one of Mayor Nickels' highest priorities for Seattle."

From the Department of Neighborhoods "Connecting People, Communities and Government"

From Seattle Parks and Recreation "Creating Community through People, Parks and Programs."

Despite these claims of building cohesiveness. The California Place Park project and process has divided our community.

#### WRONG#2 Errors in application process

a) Erroneous claims of sufficient community outreach-most neighbors of the park project were unaware of any proposal

b) Unfounded references of community support.

Friends and Neighbors of North Admiral used the Admiral Congregational United Church of Christ as a reference on their application form for matching funds, stating they had the full support of the church. In fact the Church was always neutral on the subject.

c) Seattle Parks and Recreation's internal review process contradicted itself in describing the project as "The Renovation of a Play Field" when California Place Park has never been a play field. Another contradiction of internal review states Seattle Parks & Recreation may reject project due to small size. As shown at the public meeting (Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>) that only 1900 sq. ft. was usable for development. The Park Dept allowed Friends and Neighbors of North Admiral to continue to bring designs to the table that use the entire 10,500 sq.ft. for development.

#### WRONG#3 Dept. of Neighborhoods Process

The Dept of Neighborhoods awarded Friends and Neighbors of North Admiral the contract to hire a landscape architect 2 weeks prior to the special meeting called on Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> to hear public opinion on the subject. Many playground supporters came from outside the area. As per:

[http://westseattleherald.com/articles/2008/12/22/interact./letters\\_to\\_the\\_editor/letters02.txt](http://westseattleherald.com/articles/2008/12/22/interact./letters_to_the_editor/letters02.txt)

Since this information was delivered certified to the Head of the Dept. Of Neighborhoods Stella Chao, no response was ever given to the 400+ signed opponents to this project. In other words they have been completely ignored.

Had any of these WRONGS been addressed and dealt with this project would never had come to the table and tax dollars would have been saved. Had the city employees done their homework they would have seen that there was very little support from the community to change our beloved historical park.

Thus the formation and support given to the\*\* NO CHANGE TO PARK\*\* campaign which now has over 550 signatures on it's petition.

Dennis Ross [dennir@myway.com](mailto:dennir@myway.com) 206 935-6159

**NO CHANGE TO PARK**

RECEIVED

OCT 14 2008

October 13, 2008

Sally Clark  
Tom Rasmussen  
Stella Chao ✓  
Stan Lock  
Tim Gallagher

CITY OF SEATTLE  
DEPT. OF NEIGHBORHOODS

The "NO CHANGE TO THE PARK" campaign was born out of community need. Upon reading in the West Seattle Blog about Manuela Slye's dream of a playground in North Admiral. Her formation of the FANNA group and application for Matching Funds for California Place Park. See Attach #1 I went into the neighborhood to ask them if they knew anything about this. NONE DID!! I took my 1<sup>st</sup> signature on the back of an envelope. Thus the 371 signatures for "NO CHANGE TO THE PARK" see Attach. #2

After much research it was found that A) Manuela Slye has a pre-school in her home( See Attach # 3) less than 1 block from the California Place Park. Her home business is a conflict of interest. B) Of the 13 pledges to the Matching funds 5 come from the Slye Family. Manuela pledging twice. See attach #4. Viveros is Manuela maiden name. Thus Iris Viveros pledge is family. see attach #5. C) FANNA stated in their application for Matching Funds that they had the full support of the Admiral Congregational United Church of Christ. See Attach # 6. This was not the case and only after FANNA was awarded the \$15,000. was this error brought to the attention of the church and city officials. see attach #7.

This group, FANNA was not forthcoming with this neighborhood. Even after I told Pam Kliment she said well "what is your address and we will let FANNA know so they can get the word out". See Attach #8 FANNA never came to the building. Then there is the discrepancy as to whether the Parks Department supports the project or not. See Attach # 9. There are also boundary issues with the park. Are all 10,500 sq. ft. useable?. This is a small special interest group whose support is not widespread throughout this community. Did anyone check their references? ie the Church etc. How can the Admiral Neighborhood Association be FANNA's Fiscal sponsor and still support the whole community when there is a split on this project? The Book written by the Admiral Neighborhood children. These are Manuela's own children! Look at the book cover! See Attach #10.

I believe that the signature campaign will show that there is more support for **NO CHANGE TO THE PARK**. For whatever reason, be it, too close to a busy street, love for the old growth trees, need for open green space, not a good use of tax dollars. Whatever the reasons these people(Attach #2) must not be ignored.

Thank You,  
Jan Bailey  
Dennis Ross

*Jan Bailey*

**From:** Lee Kramer <leendavid@qwest.net>  
**To:** nailsbyjan@comcast.net  
**CC:** Pat Shaver <officemgr@admiralchurch.org>  
**Subject:** [Fwd: North Admiral Park Proposal]  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 30, 2008 1:53:24 PM

Our office manager, Pat Shaver, requested that I forward this email to you.

Lee Kramer

**Attached Message**

**From:** Lee Kramer <leendavid@qwest.net> [ [Save Address](#) ]  
**To:** stella.chao@seattle.gov  
**Cc:** Ann Eidson <pastor@admiralchurch.org>, Pat Shaver <officemgr@admiralchurch.org>  
**Subject:** North Admiral Park Proposal  
**Date:** Thu, 18 Sep 2008 11:25:11 -0700

I have been informed by a member of our congregation that an application form from the group that is supporting changes to a park next to our church at the corner of California Ave SW and SW Hill in West Seattle contains some mis-information. Our congregation is not supporting either side in this controversy, for the simple fact that we have members on both sides of the issue. Please remove any language from either support documentation or opposing documentation that would indicate otherwise. If you need to speak to me, I can be reached at home at 206 932-8662, or through the church at 206 932-2928. Thanks you.

Lee Kramer, Moderator (president) of the Congregation  
Admiral Congregational United Church of Christ  
4320 SW Hill St  
Seattle WA 98116

# The Seattle Times

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## NewHolly community gains a place for its 2,500 children to play

By Stuart Eskenazi  
Seattle Times staff reporter

Celine Glavan displayed all the patience of a 2-year-old.

"I wanna go play on the playground," the wee one told her mom Friday, as a couple of hundred volunteers were midway through building an entire playground at her neighborhood park — all in a single day.

Work that began at 9 a.m. ended six hours later with a ribbon cutting, signifying another step in the evolution of the NewHolly community in Southeast Seattle.

The basis of the playground design came from about 50 NewHolly children, who offered fanciful ideas in August, their suggestions ranging from chocolate fountains and swimming pools (nix on those) to spiral slides and monkey bars (got 'em).

"Whenever I would see a tree in the park with a bent limb, I'd think about how nice it would be to have a playground with monkey bars so that kids could hang on something other than a tree," said Sam Cheng, who lives in view of the park and is the father of a 2-year-old and 6-month-old.

Formerly the Holly Park public-housing project, the 1,400-home Seattle Housing Authority redevelopment, completed in 2006, is an experiment in urban living that mixes people of diverse socioeconomic and cultural backgrounds in a high-density setting.

NewHolly also is a neighborhood with a lot of children — about 2,500 in all. Yet its largest park — a rectangular strip of green — lacked places for younger kids to play.

One end of the park gets a lot of use as an impromptu soccer field and also has basketball hoops. But the other end, designed as a ~~naturescape of grass and boulders, was underused~~, said Joy Bryngleson, who works for the housing authority as NewHolly's community builder.

"An idea behind NewHolly was for this to be an evolving community where the people living here would get to choose what they wanted their neighborhood to be," she said.

Several parents requested a playground, so Bryngleson contacted KaBOOM!, a national nonprofit that works with communities and corporate partners to build places for kids to play.

KaBOOM! teamed with Bank of America, which donated \$62,000 for the equipment and provided the majority of the volunteers Friday who did everything from assembling the play equipment to constructing wood benches where adults will be able to sit and watch their children play.