

January 2007 web-posted News

Mercer Island Headlines:

CIP Budget for 2007-2008 is Funded

On Dec 11, 2006 the MI City Council approved the CIP Budget which includes \$215,000 for improvements to the OLA at Luther Burbank Park and separate proposal for Wildwood OLA of around \$70,000.

Within the **Luther Burbank OLA** proposal this money is designated for the following items:

Everything associated with field restoration: clearing, grading, soil amendment, under drainage, irrigation, planting, etc.

New Fencing and Gating (double gated entrance)

Signage

Asphalt pathways

2 tables & 6 Benches

Dog wash area

Additional improved stairs to access the water

**Shoreline restoration is not included in this budget, it will come from a different budget, in which \$1,000,000 was approved for the entire park.

**Shoreline restoration efforts at the park are proceeding with additional funding obtained through grants which will be used to supplement the \$1,000,000 amount.

**Restoration planting (native plants) was eliminated from the OLA proposal.

A different CIP proposal allotting \$70,000 for the **Wildwood OLA** is designated for fencing and signage.

POLR hopes to consolidate dog owners behind a single concept for addressing the fencing, field and shoreline restoration that will help make the best use of this funding. There is flexibility in how the funds are spent, but items specifically cut from the budget, like "covered shelter" can't be added back in using the funds for "fencing".

Update Bellevue:

Staus of the Boeing Eastgate Field

The end of construction on the road should occur in mid summer. At that time, The construction company is expected to request an extension for permission to use the Park area for staging equipment. The extension will most likely be granted, but will require that the construction firm relinquish some of the area they have overtaken. Overall, this end of the field could be tied up in construction staging for quite some time. The city of Bellevue does require that the land be restored to its previous condition.

Although the new road may be finished by mid-summer, the area will still be a construction zone and the new road will not be open to the public. We can expect that a temporary fence will be placed along the length of this road to prevent trespassing into the construction site.

***Masterplanning for this new park property is slated to begin this year !!!**

POLR plans to hold several open meetings to hear dog owners thoughts on the future of this property so that we may accurately represent your interests. POLR has opened a dialog with the Parks Planning Department regarding the need for more access to off-leash recreation in Bellevue, and hopes to assist the department by providing information on off-leash solutions practiced around the area and the nation.