



# Greenwood Community Council

April 3, 2014

Councilmember Sally Bagshaw  
Seattle City Council Committee On Parks Funding Chair  
PO Box 34025  
Seattle, WA 98124-4025

Dear Councilmember Bagshaw,

I am writing on behalf of the Greenwood Community Council, whose membership voted to support including funds in the upcoming parks ballot measure to improve the "land banked" park properties, and especially the "Greenwood-Phinney Ridge Residential Urban Village" project (the "Greenwood Library Park") located at 8102 Greenwood Avenue N. Seattle's Parks Department has purchased these properties over the past several years for future development as new neighborhood parks.



The land-banked property by the Greenwood Library has been home to active local businesses. Since the property was purchased, the tenants have chosen to relocate rather than to face an uncertain future. Soon, when the last tenant leaves, the Parks Department will raze the building leaving a vacant lot until funds become available to improve the park.

If funding is not included in this fall's parks ballot measure, this property and 13 other land-banked parks in other neighborhoods could remain vacant for the foreseeable future. In our case, a vacant and uncared-for property in such a prominent location has potential to become a liability to our neighborhood, prone to graffiti and other misuse. If the park remains undeveloped, the property will require ongoing care and maintenance from the Parks budget. I urge to you retain the land banked parks in the ballot package to finish what has been started at Greenwood Library Park and similar properties in other neighborhoods that may otherwise sit vacant indefinitely.

Sincerely,

Rob Fellows  
President, Greenwood Community Council

Cc: City Councilmembers  
Greenwood Community Council Board of Directors