

Dear Councilmember Clark and Acting Parks Superintendent Williams,

In a memo from August 4 dealing with the Cheasty issue, Superintendent Williams indicated Parks and Recreation will be developing a usage policy specifically for Seattle's natural areas and greenspaces – to be ready for a Parks Board Review in the spring of 2015. This is long overdue, and we are looking for an invitation for public input, but we have seen nothing.

Seattle Nature Alliance, a nonprofit organization actively engaged in protecting and restoring Seattle's natural areas, has closely watched the Cheasty mountain bike pilot proposal, the City Council's directives, and the formation of the Cheasty PAT. We are aware of the significant problems that team is now facing, as their direction appears to be changing once again.

The lack of a natural areas usage policy is a huge obstacle for the PAT. Some have speculated that the outcome of the Cheasty PAT will help formulate that policy. The cart has clearly been put before the horse.

We call on the City Council and Parks to dismiss or postpone the Cheasty PAT until after the permanent use policy for natural areas has been developed and approved.

Please let us know the progress Parks has made on the natural areas policy and when we can anticipate an opportunity for input.



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cc: Councilmember Jean Godden
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