

## SAVE CHEASTY GREENSPACE

Cheasty Greenspace is a 43-acre preserved forest, located on the east side of Beacon Hill. In 2014, the Seattle Department of Parks & Recreation (Parks Dept.) proposed building a mountain bike park in the greenspace.

Following the proposal, a contentious public battle ensued, followed by the approval by City Council, for the development of a 'pilot' mountain bike course in the space. In 2015, Friends of Cheasty (FOC) raised funds to take the Parks Dept and their environmental review process to court. In January 2016, they successfully overturned the Determination of Non Significance (DNS) in its environmental review for a mountain bicycle & pedestrian trail system in the greenspace. FOC's attorney remarked the ruling as notable because 'it is extremely rare for a citizen's group to prevail in an appeal of this kind because the burden of proof is so high.' The ruling energized FOC & nature supporters across the city. Although it is likely that the pilot project will move forward in some form, you can be assured that FOC and supporters will be watching the Parks Department to see that the wildlife habitat and wetlands of Cheasty Greenspace are protected. If this project proceeds and is approved, it will set a dangerous precedent for all Seattle undeveloped greenspaces and natural areas.

Learn more at: <http://www.savecheastygreenspace.org/>

### **The Seattle Nature Alliance would like to see all natural areas/greenspaces preserved for 'passive use' only.**

From our open letter about the Cheasty Greenspace:

'Only 16% of Seattle park land remains as natural. The other 84% has been developed for active recreation and sports or designed as landscaped areas (2). We should keep this 16% reserved for the broadest and most inclusive demographic: passive use. All people need and deserve access to quiet nature. Specially designated Natural Areas should remain as safe and welcoming places for everyone. They should not be divvied up to specialized user groups.

Seattle has a world class reputation as a city with abundant nature, but we have these areas today because they were preserved for us. We should do the same for future generations. As we move toward a more densely populated future, Seattleites will need natural spaces even more than today. Management of these spaces should continue in the wise tradition of reserving a core area of nature for passive use only. This is the same principle that built our national system of Wilderness Areas, and the same idea applies on a municipal level for urban wild places.

Multi Use - allowing specialized user groups equal access to all spaces - will not work for urban natural areas, which are distinctly different from recreation areas in rural areas or in urban recreation parks such as Green Lake. Shared pedestrian/biker use in heavily wooded areas like Cheasty, with limited sight lines, presents a significant safety hazard for cyclist pedestrian collisions. Seattle's relatively small parcels of natural area do not have the carrying capacity to absorb intense, heavy use. In places where population is dense, Multiuse results in user conflict, over use, safety concerns, and ultimately in ecological degradation. Use of natural areas should remain in reserve for the general population passive use only. It is fair, equitable, wise and sustainable.'

Read SNA blog post: <https://goo.gl/CEw60t>

#### **Contact**

##### **Save Cheasty Greenspace**

<http://www.savecheastygreenspace.org/>

Find out about the status of this project, how to donate, and ways you can help volunteer and support the effort to save Cheasty Greenspace.

#### **Seattle Nature Alliance**

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