

From: [Reg Renner](#)
To: [Regular Council Meetings](#)
Subject: Concern regarding the Nicomekl River Neighborhood Plan
Date: June 16, 2021 9:53:03 PM
Attachments: [Langley City Council letter June 16th.pdf](#)

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Please see the attached letter that voices some of our concerns regarding the proposed, elevated southern sidewalk connecting 200th Street with Hi-Knoll Park. My wife and I attended the planning presentation prior to Covid-19 and believe that our concerns are shared by many of our long-time neighbors and now next-door friends. Feel free to contact me directly if you have any questions or find there is a need to clarify the current planning proposal.

Sincerely, Reg and Sherry Renner

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June 16, 2021

Dear Councillors:

My name is Reg Renner, and my wife and I have had the privilege of living at 22 (1)-51st Avenue since 2006. Prior to that we lived across the street in the same cul-de-sac at 22 (1)-51st Ave beginning in 1994. When the house across the street became available, we jumped at the chance to live on the edge of this beautiful and undisturbed wildlife sanctuary that stretched to Brydon Pond.

The idea of having an 80 acre bird sanctuary out our back door was and continues to be the main reason that we choose this location to raise our family and share with our friends and neighbours. So, you can understand our concern with the proposed plan to build an elevated pathway on the south side of the Nicomekl River, linking 200th Street to Hi-Knoll Park.

After 27 years, we have come to recognize this area between 192nd Street and 200th Street as one of the last unspoiled areas of wilderness in the midst of a growing city. We have spoken to many of our neighbors and not one of them is in favor of adding an elevated pathway on the south side of the river, when there are plenty of access points and pathways on the north side of the river. If the goal of this proposed Nicomekl River Neighbourhood Plan is to increase housing density, then so be it, but do not sacrifice this last piece of wilderness in the city to this desire to increase access to the floodplain.

While many of my neighbors are concerned about home security and project costs, we want to speak on behalf of the birds and wildlife that make this sanctuary their home. Where else can you see adult deer, yearlings, and fawns on a regular basis in this Langley City floodplain. Last year, my wife and I saw a herd of six deer traversing the neighborhood as they travelled from the floodplain to the upper woods of Brookwood. We strongly believe that an elevated walkway on the south side of the river would impede their journey to the Nicomekl River where there is fresh water, forage, and protective cover. Besides, deer we have seen coyotes, raccoons, beaver, otter, and even a mountain lion using the undisturbed meadow as ideal wildlife habitat. As for birds and fish, this area is perfect for bald-headed eagles, herons, red-tail hawks, ducks, geese, and the numerous songbirds that frequent backyard birdfeeders.

When we purchased our current home in 2006, we understood that that this greenspace to the north of us was designated as a bird sanctuary and would remain so for the foreseeable future. We agree with our neighbors and their current concerns, but we suggest that preserving urban greenspace should be your primary concern as the multitude of migratory and nesting birds will be forever impacted by this proposed plan to build an elevated pathway on the south side of the Nicomekl River.

In closing, we thank you for your attention to our concerns and suggest that there is adequate access to this wildlife sanctuary on the north side of the Nicomekl. Hundreds of people walk those inter-connected trails on a daily basis and prove that 200th Street is already connected to Hi-Knoll Park. We have accessed these various trails from our south side location, and we would encourage you to focus your attention on improving the existing north side trails that are often paved and connected as far as 208th Street.

Sincerely,

Reg and Sherry Renner