

RECEIVED

DEC 08 2010

December 6, 2010

CITY OF BURIEN

Dear City Council members,

I am addressing Criteria D, item 3 in the designation criteria for a Low Density Residential Neighborhood relating to the Lake Burien request: 2010-2.

I am Sandy Gledhill-Young and my family lives at 15705 13th Avenue S.W. Burien, Washington. We are long time residents of the Lake Burien Neighborhood. After all of the work on the Shoreline Master Plan, most all of us who live in this neighborhood assumed that the City of Burien recognized the Lake Burien area to be a Critical Area. It is clearly displayed on the Critical Areas Map as such.

In order to be a Low Density Neighborhood, the neighborhood must have critical areas. We meet that criteria.

Now the city staff has brought forth an argument that we do not have significant amounts of critical areas based on a numbers games. So what qualifies as significant? How do you define and calculate that concept? After our repeated requests for public information from the city staff, we have not been provided with this information. However, we maintain that the Lake Burien Neighborhood appeared on Critical Areas Maps as a Critical Area long before incorporation therefore by definition it is significant and must be protected by Low Residential Neighborhood Land Use Designation.

As an effort to resolve this, we contacted a wetland scientist on how this issue of what is a significant amount of critical area and how would it be determined. He makes it clear that this cannot be done from just looking at a GIS map.

I will read the methodology that Kris Lepine, Wetland Scientist, states needs to be followed to determine wetlands and their degree of significance.

"... the City should more closely examine the extent of wetlands surrounding Lake Burien supported by field visits by a qualified wetland scientist. If resources allow, the City should consider conducting a jurisdictional wetland delineation surrounding the lake. Short of conducting a jurisdictional delineation, the City should consider all areas of potential wetland when considering significance including areas extending to a mean annual depth of 6.6 feet and areas on the landward side of the lake that either support hydrophytic vegetation or would appear to support this vegetation under normal circumstances. In addition, the City should utilize the *Washington State Wetland Rating System for Western Washington-Revised* (Ecology 1997) when considering the significance of wetlands." \*

If the city has not followed this methodology, they have not used the Best Available Science to determine significance for the Lake Burien Neighborhood and their model or calculations do not correctly represent the Critical Areas in this neighborhood.

CFTR: 12/13/10

The Lake Burien Neighborhood has critical areas and they need to be protected at Low Density Residential Development. This is the intent of the Comprehensive Plan text. The Land Use Map needs to be corrected to be consistent with the text.

*Sandy Gledhill-Young*

Sandy Gledhill-Young

\* Hydrophyte: Any plant that lives either in very wet soil or completely or partially submerge in water. Structural modifications of hydrophytes include the reduction of mechanical and supporting tissues and vascular tissue, the absence or reduction of a root system, and specialized leaves that may be either floating or finely divided, with little or no cuticle. Examples of hydrophytes are waterlilies and certain pondweeds. Concise Science Dictionary Oxford University Press 1991