

Public Hearing on the Arboretum Park

October 3rd

1973

7:30 P.M. Municipal Building

If you want to see the Arboretum remain as it is -- free and open to the people of Seattle and free from University buildings, **COME TO THE HEARING.** The University of Washington will win the right to fence the people out of their own city park land and to construct an administrative complex on city park land, and will win the legal control to do much more if it so chooses unless we speak out against this lease

Come early to the hearing.

Sign up to speak.

Arboretum Park Coalition



The University of Washington is changing its skyline almost as fast as Downtown Seattle. Who would be stupid enough to give them building and expansion rights on public park land? The Mayor and our City Council.

The Big Steal.

The City of Seattle and the University of Washington are rushing into a lease agreement that will effectively give away a city park ... the Arboretum ... the vital core of Washington Park. The signing of this plan is imminent.

Now is the time for people to awake to what is happening to precious city park lands and to speak out against this lease. It's still not quite too late.

1. The Arboretum has long been a precious resource for the City of Seattle. Its beauty was no accident. Designed by the famous park planners the Olmstead brothers and planted largely through WPA projects in the thirties, this piece of city park land is unique for its blend of open green spaces, lush dense planting, secluded trails, and flowering shrubs. The above may soon be history.

2. Until a year ago almost everyone thought the Arboretum belonged to the University of Washington. After all, the signs do say "University of Washington Arboretum."

What most people did not know and still do not understand is that the area known as the Arboretum is city park land. It is the heart of Washington Park.

The University of Washington has been permitted to operate an arboretum in Washington Park since 1934 so long as the operation does not conflict with the public park purposes of that land.

3. What is now threatening to change the Arboretum? Money, power and the University of Washington.

Capitalizing on its 40 year name association with the park and its contribution of legislated state funds to the maintenance of the Arboretum, the University has negotiated from a position of power for full legal control of this parcel of city park land -

A Summary of an Unprecedented New Lease Agreement for the Arboretum Park

If this lease is signed the City of Seattle gives to the University of Washington THE RIGHT TO:

- 1) Full legal control of Washington Park/Arboretum -- a city park
- 2) Construct buildings and expand on city park land
- 3) Outline the boundaries of its new 120 acre city park land acquisition with a CHAIN LINK FENCE
- 4) Consider closure of Arboretum Drive and Lake Washington Blvd. to vehicular traffic
- 5) Close the park 16 HOURS A DAY
- 6) Prohibit certain recreational park uses in the area such as picnicking, kite-flying, sledding
- 7) Remove all parking areas from within the leased Arboretum premises to the surrounding park land and neighborhoods
- 8) Withdraw from the lease agreement with two years prior notice if any of its future demands are frustrated (the City, by contrast, must honor the agreement for 30 years)

the boundaries of the control to be dramatically defined by a chain link fence.

4. No one liked the idea at first. Mayor Uhlman said there were already too many walls between the University and the community. Councilman Bruce Chapman promised that he would do everything he could to prevent a fence from being built.

But the University is evidently persuasive. Take a look at the lease.

And not only did our elected city officials relinquish our right to precious park space; they are now acting like lobbyists for the University of Washington position. Secret negotiating meetings with the University, inappropriately timed public hearings, canceled impact studies, distorted newspaper reports on crime in the Arboretum are becoming regular tactics to diffuse any opposition to the plan.

5. There is one more very important thing to consider. The donors who gave to the City the large tract of land that is now Washington Park and the Arboretum stipulated in the deed that if the city intended anything other than public park purposes for their gift the land would revert automatically to the heirs of the donors. The donors were owners of the Puget Mill Company; their heirs are now land developers.

If the City signs a lease that is in conflict with the public park purposes of that

deed, the City risks losing Washington Park and the Arboretum to the heirs of the Puget Mill Company.

6. What can you do? Write letters or make phone calls to the Mayor and the City Council and the Park Department and the newspapers telling them you oppose the lease. Attend our rally for support in the Arboretum on Sunday September 16th at 2 pm. Support the Good Guys (Tim Hill, George Cooley, and Bill Harrington) who had the courage to speak out against the University's demands.

7. Find out: Why there was no serious consideration given to studies on finding alternative sources of funding for the Arboretum. Why public meetings and hearings on the impact study were denied. Why the Police Department study on crime and fences was called off by the Mayor's office. Why the Broadmoor residents are so supportive of University management. How the plan might relate to the reappearance of the R.H. Thompson Freeway on transportation planning maps.

Why Friends of the Earth, the Sierra Club, Save Woodland Park, and fifteen community clubs support our stand.

IT'S STILL NOT TOO LATE

Arboretum Crisis Coalition
Phone [REDACTED]