



City Council
July 22, 2026

The below items are either late material related to an item on the council agenda or written public comment. This document is published on the city website along with the council packet in the Other section. It is updated the Friday before the associated council meeting and again after 3:30pm the Tuesday before a council meeting, as this is the deadline for submitting written public comment.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. GiGi Gerlach – Ball fields

Kelly kohnken

From: gigi gerlach <gigigerlach1@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 8, 2026 10:42 AM
To: commissioners@co.skagit.wa.us; CityCouncil; JoEllen Kesti; parksrec@co.skagit.wa.us
Subject: Protect Northern State Recreation Area

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Dear Commissioers, Council Members, SW Parks & Rec and Mayor Kesti,

I am writing as a Sedro -Woolley resident, a daily trail user, and a member of a large dedicated network of community members who walk our dogs at the Northern State Recreation Area daily. Every single day, year-round, NSRA serves as a vital community hub for hikers, runners, bike riders, and dog walkers seeking peace, safety, and a connection to nature. The city's recent 5-1 vote to pursue building five baseball diamonds south of the current parking lot directly threatens the passive recreation that hundreds of residents rely on daily.

Converting this tranquil natural landscape into a high-traffic sports complex will permanently disrupt the park. It conflicts heavily with the daily use of the trails, introduces severe vehicle congestion on Helmich Road, and destroys critical habitat for declining wildlife species like the American bittern. Also all the birds, ducks etc. that migrate south of the parking lot. I have also personally witnessed the Elk herd coming down from the north end to that wooded area south of the current parking lot in September, for their mating (rut) season.

We do not have to choose between youth sports and preserving nature. The city already has a much more suitable alternative: the Winnie Houser site. Winnie Houser is centrally located, walkable for active recreation without requiring development in a sensitive ecological zone.

As citizens who use and care for NSRA daily, we urge the Skagit Commissioners to deny the interlocal agreement and protect the natural, passive intent of this treasured park.

Thank you for your time, leadership, and consideration.

Sincerely,

GiGi Gerlach
617 Ferry St
Sedro-Woolley WA
98284