

## Amy Johnson

---

**From:** Dylan McDowell <dylan.d.mcdowell@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 24, 2020 12:37 PM  
**To:** CityRecorder  
**Cc:** Toni Whitler; Patricia Farrell  
**Subject:** Testimony regarding Battle Creek Park Master Plan  
**Attachments:** McDowell Testimony Supporting Battle Creek Master Plan .pdf

Good afternoon,

I am writing with written testimony in support of the Battle Creek Park Master Plan adoption at the upcoming meeting. See attached.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,  
Dylan

--

Dylan McDowell  
541.961.7755  
[dylan.d.mcdowell@gmail.com](mailto:dylan.d.mcdowell@gmail.com)

April 24, 2020

### **Testimony in Support of the Battle Creek Park Master Plan**

Dear Members of the Salem City Council,

My name is Dylan McDowell and I am writing in support of the Battle Creek Park Master Plan. I serve as Chair of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board where we heard from community members and discussed the Master Plan in February. The Board unanimously voted to recommend approval of the Master Plan.

Battle Creek is classified as an Urban Park, meaning it is intended to serve the entire community. I am incredibly impressed with the extensive outreach City staff has done to ensure community voices are heard through three in-person meetings, two online surveys with over 800 people responding to each, and numerous responses to individual requests. Battle Creek is a large park at 56 acres, and the Master Plan balances a number of active and passive recreational opportunities that will allow users of all ages and abilities to enjoy the area.

The Park is especially important for its stormwater benefits. Both City staff and project consultants are working hard to ensure stormwater and park development plans are closely aligned. This topic was heavily discussed during the SPRAB meeting, and I was encouraged by the knowledge of the consultants incorporating planning from both projects.

Approving the Master Plan is an important first step in a long process of park development. A decision to not approve the plan would lead to extensive delays and risk missing out on both fundraising opportunities and immediate benefits. I believe the City has worked hard to balance community input, stormwater management, and the park layout to create a Master Plan that will be an incredible asset for everyone in our City.

Sincerely,  
Dylan McDowell

## Amy Johnson

---

**From:** daltfam@comcast.net  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 25, 2020 2:36 PM  
**To:** citycouncil  
**Cc:** Patricia Farrell  
**Subject:** TESTIMOY REGARDING BATTLECREEK PARK  
**Attachments:** BATTLECREEK PARK Testimony to City Council 4-27-20 meeting.docx

Dear City Council and Mayor Bennett.

I am attaching some perspectives and recommendations regarding the Plan for the new Battlecreek Park.

I have been involved from the early days of the public input process – as a South Salem resident, member of the South Gateway Neighborhood Association, and a Park ‘neighbor’ (at Battlecreek Commons, along the south Park boundary). I am an enthusiastic supporter of the Park as a neighborhood and City resource. By considering and addressing- ahead of time-- the complex issues associated with our planning and development, we can well-maximize that positive potential .

Thank you for considering this input.

Sincerely,

*William Dalton*  
6619 Huntington Circle SE  
Salem 97306  
(503) 371-4174

To: Salem City Council  
From: William Dalton -- 6619 Huntington Circle SE Salem 97306 (503) 371-4174  
Re: **Final Plan for Battlecreek Park**  
Date: Public Hearing – April 27, 2020

Dear City Council.

My comments and requests are directed at the Final Plan for Battlecreek Park:

.. The **Planning Process**, led by Park Planning Manager Patricia Farrell, has been excellent and sensitive. She and her staff have provided numerous opportunities for residents to express preferences and offer suggestions. Most importantly, it is obvious that the final Plan reflects much of that input (e.g., a ‘moderate’ – vs. ‘intense’- level of development; emphasis on heavier utilization in areas north of Battlecreek; moving high-use portions of the park away from residences) = Much Appreciated!

.. The Park Plan reflects efforts to be sensitive to the highest priority need for this land, that is -- **water retention and control**. Those of us who have lived in the area - especially during the flooding events of the 1990’s and early 2000’s – are deeply concerned with any land improvements and development as they affect water flow/levels. The implementation of final Park plans must fully consider concurrent water issues (water table studies, effectiveness of proposed water-retention ponds) and the impact of high-level of current & future development in the South Salem water basin.

.. **Park Boundaries** are creating concern and anxiety for residents in the Park area. Fully three sides of the Park abut current homes, most of which have no buffer whatsoever between their property and the Park: The Park flows seamlessly into the backyards of the homes on Doral; the ‘legal’ south boundary of the Park is visually inseparable from the “commons” land and sidewalk of Battlecreek Commons (BCC). NOTE: Despite signage, BCC is already experiencing an increase in both vehicles & pedestrians accessing and utilizing the Park – even before the proposed improvements. This issue is further complicated by current planning, which includes a major public parking area only on the north side.

### **REQUEST/RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Process:** As the Park is developed (likely in phases...) continue to be flexible – i.e., responsive to additional data and actual experience, such as the impacts of increased Park utilization and flooding. This is especially important with respect to the essential issue of **Water Retention/Control**, with Park planning dependent only on our best judgments concerning the complex interaction of the water table, weather events (e.g., heavy rains...), and continued development in the South Salem water basin area.

**Boundaries:** For both *sensitivity-to-livability* and *legal protections*, it is absolutely essential that planning for the park specifically include provisions for appropriate (e.g., non-fencing) boundary’ing. 1) All proposals for developed recreation (paths, disc golf, ...) should include substantial setback from existent private property. 2) The Park should utilize and enhance existent ‘natural’ features as visual and physical borders between private residences and the Park – e.g., allowing vegetation to grow along such borders; and, re. BCC and the private east-side/Fairway condos, planting low maintenance shrubs/bushes long the tops of the berms. 3) Immediately begin addressing the issue of limited parking. Battlecreek is being proposed as a City-wide/Regional Park – Proposed use would dictate the necessity of including well-signed public parking, away from private property and already-overcrowded streets.

THANK YOU for your consideration. I look forward to continuing to be a part of the sensitive planning and development of this positive addition to our City’s resources.

W.B. Dalton 4/24/20

