



NEWS

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Visit our website at:

www.hollywoodhillassoc.org

Buried deep in the green trails of Hollywood Hill is a tiny second growth pocket forest that we happily share with sundry urban wild animals and birds. Easily found on your smart phone's map, Gold Creek Park has a network of earthen trails that are used by local runners and walkers and riders from the Hollywood Hill Saddle Club. Thanks to a legacy gift by the pet food magnate William Tyrrell in the 1960's and enlightened management by King County Parks the environment has been kept as natural as one might find 50 miles back in the Cascades.

This 40 acre breath of fresh air was hit hard during our recent snow storm. Weighed down with heavy snow 9 trees began crashing down across the trails eventually making the park nearly impassible.

Before long the sound of chain saws were echoing through the park, the Bear Creek heavies from King County Parks were ON it. A week later the trees were cut back and not long after crews of volunteers appeared with hoes and shovels wearing colorful Washington Trails Association (WTA) helmets. They were hard at work, old trails were being shored up, detours were being dug around problem sections and 600 feet of new trails will be eventually added.

Many thanks to King County Parks for their direction and the WTA work crews for their extraordinary work on the trails. You too can join the WTA as a volunteer <https://www.wta.org/get-involved/volunteer/about-trail-work/trail-work-guide/trail-work-guide> or just go hiking with the help of their comprehensive website covering all things hiking in the North West: <https://www.wta.org>

Lincoln Potter

Proposed County Action Threaten Our Neighborhood and Valley Farmlands.

Allure of wineries a smokescreen for speculative development interests.

Decades of citizen involvement and resultant zoning policies have brought us the lovely character of our neighborhood and the green open spaces of the Sammamish Valley. In turn, these elements provide a foundation of the existence and unique success of the Woodinville wine country experience.

However, a handful of rogue operators and speculative development interests are pushing to change all of that.

A decade of nearly non-existent code enforcement by King County opened the door for a handful of illegal retail operations to persist outside of the city, on Hollywood Hill along the Redmond-Woodinville Road. As pressure has grown for the county to start doing its job to protect our residential and agricultural zonings, the County's response has been to delay code enforcement action and "study" the situation. (see: Elephant in the Room)

After years of delay, the County finally acted on its study by proposing what is commonly referred to as the "winery ordinance". Presented last spring, this was to have been an update to the 2-decade-old zoning codes that have allowed wineries to be located in the Rural areas of King County.

Unfortunately, hopes for positive progress were dashed when our careful review

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Gold Creek Park Trail Upgrades



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YOUR ASSOCIATION

The Hollywood Hill Association is a private, state nonprofit corporation, formally chartered in 1976. We are an all volunteer, community based organization, dedicated to the preservation of our community character.

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Website	www.hollywoodhillassoc.org

The HHA is managed by a 9-member Board of Directors. Elections are held by mail each autumn at the time of the HHA annual membership meeting. The existing Board selects candidates from those volunteers who have demonstrated a willingness to actively contribute to the HHA and who support its goals. Board meeting are scheduled on an as-needed basis at the homes of Board members. The Board welcomes HHA members who wish to attend these meetings as long as prior arrangement has been made. Because these are business meetings, space availability and legal issues may require closed meetings from time to time. Contact any Board member if you are interested in attending.

DUES & CONTRIBUTIONS

HHA dues and contributions come mostly in response to these newsletters. It has been 3 years since the last newsletter, so income has been nil yet expenses, such as insurances, 10 Acre Woods property tax, state registration fees, etc, have continued. Also, the HHA is supporting efforts to address policy decisions involving the "winery ordinance". Please consider an extra contribution this year. The HHA is a Washington State non-profit corporation. Contributions are not tax-deductible for federal tax purposes.

www.HollywoodHillAssoc.org

President's letter

How fortunate we are to have and share this wonderful place to live.

If you, like me, care to see it continue, it will be crucial for us to come together these next few months to defend our homes and community. Powerful interests have gained the ears of our policymakers and their version of what we call the "winery ordinance" is perilously close to passing into law.

The seriousness of the situation facing our community is hard to overstate. Both our lovely residential neighborhood and the greater Woodinville community are facing King County policy decisions that will have profound effects on our quality of life in the very near future and for generations to come. And the effects will extend across Rural King County, from Duvall to Enumclaw to Vashon Island.

There have always been challenges to the policies that have set the stage for our community to blossom. But at no time since at least the establishment of the city boundaries of Woodinville, over a quarter century ago, has any issue been as important to our neighborhood's future character than are the issues involved in the "winery ordinance".

It is easy to take for granted the unique mix of urban and rural that sets the stage for our community. This did not come about by chance, but rather due to half a century of citizen activism that has informed our policy makers. For over 40 of those years, the HHA has provided a consistent and effective voice for our community in support of protecting and enhancing the rural character of our neighborhood and the valley farmlands.

We can succeed if we put our voices together to defend our homes and community.

But if the "winery ordinance" passes in its current form, speculators and short-term profiteers will have their way with our neighborhood and the Valley. We can stop this by standing up, as has successfully been done in the past. Many of us have already stepped forward, but we need everyone who cares to get involved. Big money is at work and, if it gets its way, most of what we know of our community character will soon be just fond memories.



Elephant In the Room

There is a human tendency to treat symptoms while ignoring the cause of a problem. And so it is with the “winery ordinance”.

When the issue of the winery ordinance comes up, you might remind people that we really should be talking first about fixing what caused the problems, which is the County's broken code enforcement policies and culture. Unfortunately, that is not how the county is handling the problem.

The fundamental problem that has led to the winery ordinance lies not with the existing zoning codes, but rather with the lack of enforcement of those codes by King County. If the laws had been upheld years ago, when the violations were first noted, the offenders would long ago have come into compliance.

It should come as no surprise that passing a new ordinance without fixing the County's unwillingness to enforce those laws will have little material effect on dealing with the problem of the violators.

The current ineffectiveness of the County's code enforcement division has two components.

One stems from efforts dating from the mid-2000's to make permitting and code enforcement more user friendly. But this noble goal was overshot when policies were enacted that severely hamstringing the County from enacting timely enforcement actions on even the most egregious violations.

Another component stems from a code enforcement culture that has evolved to where violators are treated as “customers” and law-abiding citizens as “complainers.” This is the literal terminology used by King County's code enforcement division. This attitude has led the department to voluntarily abandon some available tools commonly used by municipalities to pro-actively address problems, such as “red-tagging” un-permitted building activity.

We have heard that the county is (finally) starting to seriously look at what can be done to reform their broken code enforcement. Stay tuned as these efforts unfold over the coming year.

- Q&A -

“Winery Ordinance” Issues Made Simple(er)

The issues involved with the “winery ordinance” can be confusing. We have developed a Q&A that goes through many of the elements point-by-point and answers many of the most common questions people ask. You can find it on our website: www.HollywoodHillAssoc.org. A link to it is the first item on the home page. If you have any additional question, please contact an HHA board member.

Hollywood Hill Clean-up

It's that time of year again! Take a break in your busy spring clean-up duties and help tidy up our wonderful hill.

Saturday May 4th - 9 to 11AM, Hollywood Hill Elementary (exit area)

Just bring friends, yourself and a pair of work gloves. Garbage bags and safety vests provided to all volunteers for use. You can clean your chosen area at your leisure and add your findings to the pick-up pile within a few days. Any and all efforts are greatly appreciated!

Public Hearing on "Wine Ordinance"

Schedule June 12th

The official public comment period for this ordinance should be open by mid-May and run until the public hearing date. The council could vote any time after that. Please get your comments in during this time. If you have already sent in comments, please send them again during this period to make sure they are part of the official record.

Join Your Neighbors-Speak Up for Our Community

Your voice will make a difference!

Here are several ways you can get involved to help defend our homes and community.

1. **Become informed** by visiting the Hollywood Hill Association's website for an overview of the issues:

www.HollywoodHillAssoc.org

For a more in-depth look, visit the Friends of Sammamish Valley's (FoSV) website:

www.FriendsofSammamishValley.org

2. **Join your neighbors** by adding your name to our list of FoSV supporters and to get email updates. Showing such support to our policy makers has a tremendous impact! It's easy to do right on FoSV's home page. The growing list is over 600 businesses, organizations and citizens.

3. **Contact your King County policy makers.** FoSV's website makes this easy. On the home page, select "Get Involved", then "Take Action" and add your name to the website's sample letter. The text is amendable, so you can make even more impact by adding your own thoughts. Then select "Submit" and your letter will go to 14 King County policy makers.

4. **Talk this up!** It's hard to overstate the importance of this issue to the future of our community and to Rural King County in general. Help friends and neighbors to become aware. Once people understand what's going on, most want to make their voices heard.

5. **Attend or host an informational party.** This can be a small or larger gathering. Contact FoSV and we'll see that one or two people can be there to present the issues, answer questions and take feedback.

6. **Support FoSV with a contribution.** Even though FoSV is an all-volunteer organization, there are significant expenses. Our efforts to date have been to steer our County policy-makers toward a good ordinance. But others are exerting pressure to go ahead with a poorly-conceived ordinance. If this occurs, legal action will be required to stand up for our community. This would require significant resources, both in time and money. But the cost of inaction would ultimately be much more expensive. As many hands make for light work, the same goes for fund-raising.

Proposed County Action

of the county's proposal revealed that it went far beyond just an update. Instead, significant loopholes were added that would open residential neighborhoods, including Hollywood Hill, and farmlands across Rural unincorporated King County to urban development. Furthermore, it would reward zoning violators for their illegal operations by legalizing their activities. The handful of speculators and zoning violators lobbying in favor of these loopholes and provisions could reap windfall profits at the expense of our Rural neighborhoods and farmlands if the ordinance is adopted in its current form.

Alarmed by the ramifications of the proposed ordinance, a coalition of concerned community members was formed in Spring of 2018 and named Friends of Sammamish Valley (FoSV). The Hollywood Hill Association was integral to FoSV's founding and continues to work closely with its efforts. Months of intense activity have ensued, including public outreach, development of an alternative ordinance (FoSV's alternative), coordinating direct public testimony to King County policymakers and presentation of FoSV's alternative ordinance to the County.

FoSV's primary success to date includes delaying passage of the county's flawed proposal, which would otherwise have been passed into law in 2018. Also, hundreds of citizens, businesses and organizations have publicly endorsed FoSV's position - and the list grows.

The issue is far from settled. The latest version of the county's proposed ordinance was passed out of committee with loopholes intact. Our latest information is that it will be considered by the full King County Council in June.

Policymakers are increasingly impatient for resolution, so this is a crucial time for us to speak and act if we want to continue enjoying our wonderful community as we know it.

Neighborhood Roots

We have just heard that The Root Connection still has memberships available. Here is an opportunity to support community-based agriculture, enjoy delightfully fresh organic produce, keep healthy and save money while doing the right thing! What's to lose? Check out their farm store for amazing garden plants while you're there.

Find the friendly folks at Root Connection at 13607 Woodinville Redmond Road. As you are traveling south from the Hollywood Schoolhouse they are about two miles down the road on the right. For more information, click: www.rootconnection.com.

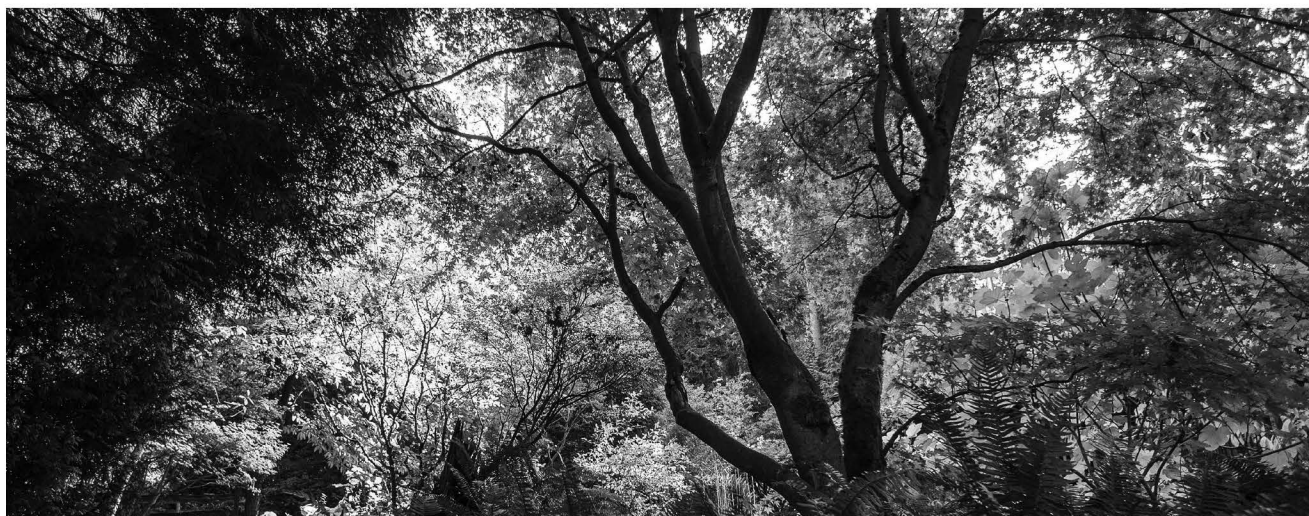
Get Latest HHA Updates by Email

Old timers on the Hill might recall when the HHA sent out 4 hard copy newsletters each year. That is certainly no longer the case for reasons ranging from cost and effort to timeliness of breaking information. Now, we generally rely on email. We don't send many out and we do not share it, so if you'd like to be kept in the loop, send your email address to: johnsnow@hollywoodhillassoc.org

This is an important tool for us to relay time-sensitive information to our community, especially now as we adjust to dealing with the county's the shifting sands under the "winery ordinance"!



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Fall Colors in Black and White. --Photo by Lincoln Potter