

9/9/20

To: Chris Beale, Senior Planner
City of Puyallup

From: Jade Trevere
Party of Record

Re: Proposed Andrej's Estates

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the proposed subdivision for Andrej's Estates at 2617 9th Street SW, Puyallup. I live directly across 9th Street SW from the proposed subdivision. I am the owner and Open Space manager for my long-established, 5-acre green space.

Please note: While our Puyallup Public Library is closed in accordance with COVID-19 pandemic guidelines, my internet access/emails are not available to me. Please contact me by phone 253 840-3944 or by mail at 2604 9th St SW, Puyallup 98373.

My comments will focus on three aspects impacted by the proposed subdivision:

Nature Benefits
Patterns of Wildlife Movement
Safety

• Nature Benefits

Recent research reveals the environmental benefits provided by urban nature, such as improved air and water quality, energy savings and reduced urban heat island effects. More than 40 years of social science research provides additional evidence of benefits: the experience of nature and wildlife is profoundly important to human functioning, health, and well-being.

Planning for nature (both green corridors and wildlife movement) can be integrated with built systems (such as transportation and housing) to help our city neighborhoods to be healthy, vibrant and safe.^{2,3}

• Patterns of Wildlife Movement

Observations and study of wildlife travel patterns for nearly 50 years on my home acreage and throughout our neighborhood indicates a consistent pattern and an evolution of adaptive behaviors (both human and wildlife.) As our city becomes developed for housing and human enterprise, it is important to plan wisely for retention of natural corridors for wildlife movement.

• Patterns of Wildlife Movement, continued

Decades of observation and habitat steward management informs an understanding that my acreage is strategically located for wildlife movement because it links Silver Creek (and therefore a network of streams, creeks and ponds throughout the city of Puyallup) with upland areas used by diverse wildlife seeking water, food, shelter and safe places to rear their young. For example, deer customarily cross 9th Street SW to travel their traditional routes, through my acreage and beyond.

The proposed Andrey's Estates land is linked with my acreage by generations of deer and their intrinsic sense of territory. As such Andrey Estates can play an important role to support wildlife stability in our city. Wise planning for Andrey Estates would include maintaining mature trees (example: the row of French willow trees along the frontage at 9th St. SW) and adding hedgerow corridors within the site plan to retain wildlife passage to green routes to the east of the proposed Andrey Estates. Such design planning would help to acknowledge and accommodate customary patterns of wildlife movement in our neighborhood.

• Safety

Planning strategies for the proposed Andrey Estates subdivision impacts street safety in our neighborhood.

By acknowledging wildlife territory movement habits and by planning safe street crossings and corridors, wildlife/vehicle traffic collisions and injuries to both people and wildlife can be minimized.

Safety measure considerations include:

Maintaining strategic vegetation to encourage consistent road-crossing habits for wildlife.

Refrain from introducing barriers to customary wildlife travel routes to reduce confusion or panic at street crossing areas.

Consider reduced speed limits for vehicle traffic through our neighborhood.

Closing

I thank the City of Puyallup and Audrey's Estates for your patience to mindfully consider my comments. They are informed by research evidence references listed below as well as by my years of experience living in the neighborhood. Nature Benefits, Patterns of Wildlife Movement, and Safety have an important place for growing our neighborhood wisely.

References

¹ Green Cities: Good Health

A website providing the scientific evidence of human health and well-being benefits of urban forestry and urban greening.
Dr. Kathleen Wolf, UofW social science researcher and project director of the 25 year study.

² Wildlife Reserves and Corridors in the Urban Environment: A Guide to Ecological Landscape Planning and Resource Conservation Lowell Adams and Louise Dove National Institute of Urban Wildlife / Urban Wildlife Resources

References, continued

³ Conservation Design for Subdivisions: A Practical Guide to Creating Open Space Networks

Randall Arendt

National Institute of Urban Wildlife / Urban Wildlife Resources

⁴ National Wildlife Federation / Habitat Steward Training Program
A 4-week classroom, independent study and field trip program preparing individuals and organization leaders to engage the public in habitat stewardship