



## Community Conversation: Comments about Dugouts

**Boards Posted: May 2 - May 15, 2019**

**Located at Harper Park and at Audrey's Espresso**

The Harper community conversation boards asked community members to write their ideas and recommendations about issues of interest. The boards were at Audrey's Espresso, at Harper Park, and online for nearly two weeks.

The topic this time is about the Harper Park dugouts. The responses came from the boards –in the park, at the espresso shop, and online – and at a community meeting (held on March 21, 2019). More community conversation boards on other topics associated with the future of Harper Park and the estuary will be available in the coming weeks.

*Thanks to all who participated!*

A flyer for Harper Community Conversations. It features the same logo as the banner at the top. The main heading is "Harper Community Conversations" in a bold, blue font. Below this, the text reads: "Kitsap County has heard feedback from the community about the future of Harper Park. We heard that the dugouts in the ballfield are possibly unsafe and unnecessary. What do you recommend?" This is followed by: "We want to hear from you. Please add your thoughts on the board or online at:" and the URL "www.cognitofirms.com/KitsapCounty1/HarperCommunityConversationsDugouts". A green italicized line says "Thank you for your interest and involvement!". At the bottom, there are two photographs: one showing a dugout area with a fence and trees, and another showing a baseball field with a dugout. The footer contains contact information: "PROJECT CONTACT: CHRISTINA KERER, KITSAP COUNTY 360.337.3777 CKERER@CO.KITSAP.WA.US" and "PROJECT WEBSITE: HTTP://WWW.ESTUARINEWATERWAYS.ORG".

**Harper Community Conversations**

Kitsap County has heard feedback from the community about the future of Harper Park. We heard that the dugouts in the ballfield are possibly unsafe and unnecessary. What do you recommend?

We want to hear from you. Please add your thoughts on the board or online at:  
[www.cognitofirms.com/KitsapCounty1/HarperCommunityConversationsDugouts](http://www.cognitofirms.com/KitsapCounty1/HarperCommunityConversationsDugouts)

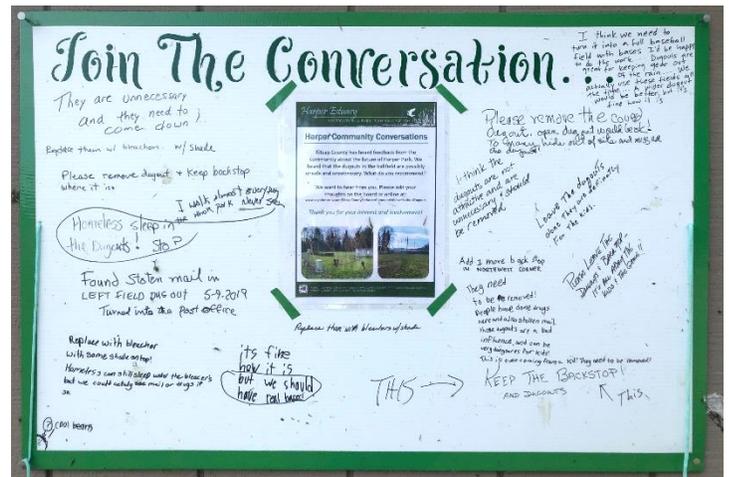
*Thank you for your interest and involvement!*

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*Image of the flyer posted on the boards for the May 2019 conversation topic.*

## Summary of Community Comments from Boards: Harper Park Dugouts

- They are unnecessary and they need to come down!
- I think the dugouts are not attractive, are unnecessary, and should be removed.
- They need to be removed! People have done drugs here and also stolen mail. These dugouts are a bad influence and can be very dangerous for kids! This is even coming from a kid! They need to be removed!
- Homeless can still sleep under the bleachers but we could actually see mail or drugs if so.
- Homeless sleep in the dugouts! Stop
- I walk almost every day in the whole park, never seen
- Found stolen mail in left field dugout, 5-9-2019, and turned it into the post office
- Please remove dugout and keep backstop where it is.
- Replace them w/bleachers w/shade.
- Replace them with bleachers with shade.
- Replace with bleacher with some shade on top!
- It's fine how it is but we should have real bases!
- Please remove the covered dugout, open dugout would be best! Too many hide out of site and misuse the dugout!
- Add one more backstop in northwest corner.
- I think we need to turn it into a full baseball field with bases. I'd be happy to do the work... Dugouts are great for keeping gear out of the rain... We actually use these fields all the time... A wider dugout would be better but its fine how it is.
- Leave the dugouts alone, they are definitely for the kids.
- Keep the backstop! And dugouts. This [arrow]. This [arrow].
- Cool beans



Pictures of the conversation boards for May 2019.

### Ballfield Input received from March 21, 2019 Harper Community Meeting

- *What about the possibility of extending the ballfield to the south?* [Staff responded that the land south of the ballfield includes a stream, steep lands, and a floodplain. Other participants were concerned about balls landing in the stream area.]
- *A t-ball practice occurred over the weekend. Also, people were playing catch in the ballfield.*
- *Are there other ballfields that people use?* [People pointed out the following: South Kitsap Regional Park, South Colby Elementary, John Sedgwick Middle School, and South Kitsap Eastern Little League.]
- *People are sleeping in the dugouts.*
- *If people are not using the field for formal baseball, there is no need for the dugouts.*
- *Do not want to lose the t-ball field.*
- *The portable backstop could serve the baseball need. This could be a great solution. I support multi-use of the field since this allows for more activities.*
- *Why not allow soccer in the field? Baseball was the most popular sport in the 1960s when the ballfield was built and now it is no longer the top sport.*
- *Make the field conducive to multi-purpose use.*
- *I support the portable backstop idea.*
- *I like the portable back stop.*
- *I prefer the portable back stop.*



*Pictures of the dugouts and backstop at Harper Park.*