

King County Executive Horse Council

March 2, 2004

County Parks Director 201 S. Jackson St., Ste. 700 Seattle, WA 98104

The King County Executive Horse Council respectfully requests that the horse park currently under construction north of the Trilogy development be named the Kathryn Taylor Equestrian Park.

We feel that this is appropriate for several reasons. Since the founding of the King County Executive Horse Council in 1988, until her death in July of 2001, Kathryn had been an inexhaustible force for the equestrian cause. She spoke to County Council members, city officials, and staff. The phrase "equestrian cause" became synonymous with Kathryn's name, and although elected officials might not have trembled in their boots when they saw her coming, they for sure sat up and took notice.

Although the Horse Council surely was not only the effort of one person, I think we would all agree that to a large extent it was Kathryn's leadership, vision, and persistence which finally led to the realization of both the county and several cities, that the needs of equestrians should rightly be addressed. As a result, we have trails language in both county and city plans. We have recognized Equestrian Communities with protections aimed toward our stated goal "The Ability to Keep and Ride" our horses.

As for the proposed equestrian park, in large part its very existence is due to Kathryn. She was the one who initially proposed the idea and lobbied with the developers to include it in their proposal. She pitched the idea to council members and spoke in support of the park at meetings.

There are so many places where you can see Kathryn's hand, from the wooden bridge entering the Redmond Watershed to the horse zoning language in the city of SeaTac. From the public equestrian trails around Tuscany to the addition of equestrian trails language in the Public Benefit Rating System... Kathryn left a legacy for each of us.

We feel that naming this park after Kathryn will not only bestow an honor on her which she richly deserved, but it will also keep her name alive. Perhaps far in the future, people will look at the name of the park and say, "Kathryn Taylor ... she must have been quite some lady." And so she was.

Judy Willman

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