

**Online Comment by User: Gigi**

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Comment Category: Comments on Environmental Effects

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**Comment:**

The DEIS fails to describe the historical, recreational, and cultural importance of the Washington Park Arboretum to Seattle and the region, and fails to consider alternatives or mitigation measures that would ensure there would be no reduction in the public benefit the Park now provides. The Arboretum is important not only because of its nationally renowned botanical collections, but also because of its original design by the Olmstead brothers, the refuge it provides from urban development, traffic congestion, and noise, the habitat it provides for fish and wildlife habitat, and the educational opportunities it provides to young and old. The Arboretum is an emerald jewel that cannot be replaced, and no amount of mitigation will likely replace the public benefits that would be impacted by the roads, pavement, view obstruction, and noise of the six lane alternative and Pacific Street interchange. The Interchange should not go forward, due to its unmitigable impacts on wetlands, Marsh and Foster Islands--there are other alternatives that will not forever destroy the Arboretum and the impacts to salmon spawning and migration, birds, and other wildlife that cannot easily be replaced through creation of new habitat. While creation of new habitat as part of mitigation will likely be needed under any alternative, mitigation for Arboretum impacts should occur onsite, at the Arboretum, not in other locations.

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**Comment Summary:**

Section 4(f)

**Response:**

See Section 21 of the 2006 Draft EIS Comment Response Report.