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**Date:** Friday, January 30, 2026 at 3:45 PM

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**Subject:** Does GEAR support total removal of the "pedestrian appurtenances" at Gas Works Park?

Dear Dr. Reed and Dr. Suderman,

I am contacting you on behalf of The Cultural Landscape Foundation, a Washington, D.C.-based education and advocacy non-profit and founding member of the Gas Works Park Alliance, concerning the proposal by Seattle Parks and Recreation (SPR) to remove all the pedestrian appurtenances from several towers at Gas Works Park.

In advance of the January 21, 2026, meeting of the Seattle Landmarks Preservation Board (LPB), SPR submitted a [Gas Works Park Cracking Towers – Pedestrian Appurtenance Removal Certificate of Approval Application](#), which included a copy of a 34-page "Gas Works Park Project, GEAR Project No. 20250371," signed by you both and submitted on December 17, 2025, to Liza Anderson, Assistant City Attorney for the City of Seattle.

Page twenty of the GEAR report includes a section—"VIII: Evaluation of Remedial Actions"—with a list of potential remedial actions to prevent the illegal access and climbing of the towers, including "Removal of all Pedestrian Appurtenances" (page 22). Before addressing each action there is a three-sentence preface: "Below we evaluate several hypothetical remedial measures to deter and/or limit climbing opportunities. GEAR is not providing a structural analysis regarding the removal of pedestrian appurtenances and protruding structures. **Nor is GEAR providing recommendations for any of the remedial measures discussed below.**" [emphasis added]

During the January 21, 2026, LPB Meeting—here is a link to a [video recording of the meeting](#) (password: YkFYBv9u), and a link to the [written transcript of the meeting](#)—Andy Sheffer, SPR's Deputy Superintendent of Operations, made the following statements in response to questions from LPB members (time stamps from the [written transcript](#) noted below indicate where Mr. Sheffer's responses begin):

1. In response to a question from LPB Chair Ian MacLeod about why SPR has moved from recommending partial to complete removal [time stamp 2:18:35]: "The pedestrian appurtenances attract usage. They're designed for human beings and if we leave them in partially we're not getting rid of the attraction. I mean the idea is to get rid of the attraction for, and the challenge and when **we presented this to the consultants both structural and the human faculties experts.** You know, we wanted to hear all, hear all, you know, whatever they had to offer, whatever solutions **and the resounding input was to remove the pedestrian appurtenances.**" [emphasis added]
2. In answer to a question from LPB Chair Ian MacLeod "were any alternatives to complete removal proposed to these consultants?" [time stamp 2:23:07]: "**We definitely posed the**

**question between partial removal and total removal and they supported total removal of the pedestrian appurtenances.” [emphasis added]**

3. In answer to a question from LPB Member Matthew Zinski [time stamp 3:10:16]: "Yeah, I, I guess I'd just like to point out we, you know, we examined a lot of alternatives during our discussions with our consultants which and **resulted in one alternative to remove all the pedestrian appurtenances and [the] ... consultants supported that decision on the basis of their reports.” [emphasis added]**

Has GEAR endorsed the removal of all the pedestrian appurtenances, as Mr. Sheffer appears to suggest, or did GEAR provide no recommendations about remedial actions, including removal of all the pedestrian appurtenances, as stated on page twenty of the GEAR report?

We seek your clarification.

Sincerely,

Nord Wennerstrom

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